

CASE REPORT

Matricide by Person with Borderline Personality Disorder

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Abstract

Matricide is a very rare form of murder and comprises approximately 0.68% of all murders. This scientific paper aims to present a psychiatric evaluation of one of the most macabre murders committed in Kosovo in 2023. The accused temporarily stayed in Germany and committed the act during his stay in Kosovo for vacation. Murder has been associated with marked brutality. Until the moment of committing the act, he has not behaved aggressively towards his sibling or parents because family members have avoided confrontation by fulfilling his wishes. The murder took place in a joint house, where he first stabbed his mother and then decapitated her by placing her head in the basement. After the crime, he manifested the symptoms of acting out by standing on the stairs of the house and quietly waiting for the police. Other family members reported that he never manifested aggressive behavior towards his mother, and she was the one with whom he had the best relationship. This case shows how unpredictable are borderline personality disorders and how a lack of impulse control can lead to murders. (**International Journal of Biomedicine. 2024;14(1):193-195.**)

Keywords: matricide • forensic psychiatry • mental illness • mother–son bond

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Case Presentation

The Institute of Forensic Psychiatry of Kosovo (IFPK) received a request from the Basic Court for Serious Crimes in Peja for the psychiatric evaluation of Mr. U., born in 1991. For this purpose, the IFPK Director has formed a commission for evaluation with a constitution of three members - one psychiatrist, one forensic psychiatrist, and one clinical psychologist. The duty of members was to determine the mental state of the defendant before the crime, especially during the crime, but also after the commission of the criminal offense in question, therefore, the degree of responsibility. The court charged Mr. U. with criminal offenses: Aggravated murder from article 173, part 1, subpart 1.3 and 1.4 of the PKRK.

Personal history

Mr. U. was born on 25.11.1992. in Peja. He has a brother and a sister and is the second child. According to the information he had, his mother gave birth in a hospital, with a normal birth. He had normal psycho-physical development and was a smiling and happy child. According to Mr. U., because of the war in 1999, his family migrated to Munich, Germany, where he started first grade.

In 2000, they returned from Germany, and Mr. U. continued his studies at a school in Peja; since that time, he and his family have lived in Peja. After completing primary school, Mr. U. continued to Technical High School. During this time, Mr. U. started smoking and making small problems in school, skipping classes, and getting into fights. Since the first year of high school, at age 15, Mr. U. has started working as a butcher; he has used the income from this profession for his needs regarding smoking.

After finishing high school, Mr. U. worked various jobs in Gastronomy as a waiter, barista, assistant cook, and main cook. He “couldn’t stand the pressure from bosses in different bars and restaurants. “This is why he was changing working places

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without having trouble advancing in positions. According to Mr. U., while he worked as a cook in one of the restaurants, he had a health problem when he “swallowed” his tongue, that day, according to him, his family immediately sent him to the hospital where the doctor in charge prescribed him medication “Tegredol,” from which he had a severe allergic reaction. After that, he was sent to Skopje for further treatment. As a final result, Mr. U. had a pacemaker placed in his heart as he had irregular heartbeats and unstable heart rhythm.

In 2017, Mr. U. got married for the first time, but due to disagreements and contradictions in mentality, he separated from his first wife. In 2018, Mr. U. went to Germany with a work visa and started working there. During his stay in Germany, he worked various jobs, from a waiter at McDonald’s to a forklift driver in a paper factory. During this time, Mr. U. lived with a German girlfriend for two years, until 2020. During this time, Mr. U. had several affairs with other women.

In 2020, Mr. U. proposed to a woman from Kosovo with whom he initially had good relations. Still, later, some problems started due to her inability to adapt to the living conditions of Germany. Once, the situation escalated so much that U. was very violent towards her, and the police were notified, who sent his ex-wife to the hospital, while Mr. U. was recommended to stay at the Hotel. His ex-wife, mediately after the incident, left Germany. Mr. U. continued to stay in Germany, working at the Cardboard Factory.

Medical history

Mr. U. denies having had previous psychiatric treatment; he also denies heredity in all aspects and denies having a history of psychiatric treatment.

Socioeconomic conditions

Living conditions are average.

Extracts from siblings’ declaration

His brother declares: “U. is my younger brother. He was usually quiet, but we never upset him because he overreacted. He was a closed type, petted; before the divorce, he lived with his wife in his apartment in Germany. According to his ex-wife, he was violent, and that is the reason why he got divorced. While in Germany, he played in the Casino, and often we had to send him the money he drank away.”

His sister declares: “U. was a quiet boy, he has been living in Germany for four or five years, there he worked different jobs. His last job was in a cardboard factory; however, we often sent him money from Kosovo. U. didn’t have significant problems with our mother; it never occurred to us that U. could do something like this. U. had the best time with her.”

Mental status

Male, medium height. Conscious, oriented in time and space. Appearance corresponds to age, care for hygiene and appearance is maintained, and verbal contact is maintained easily. Mr. U. speaks with a normal tone of voice. He answers questions clearly and briefly; in some questions, he tends to give acceptable and ambiguous answers, and in some questions, he reacts impulsively, especially those he considers provocative; he has tendencies to manipulate by presenting himself as a victim.

There is a whine, frustration, and pronounced impulsiveness. Ideas of greatness, relationships, and persecution are evident in thinking. Denies disorders of the perceptive sphere. The mood is described as sitting with a superficial affective relationship. He currently denies homicidal and suicidal ideation.

Psychological evaluation report for Mr. U.

Mr. U. is not characterized by problems in the sphere of intellectual development. Interviewing and psychological exploration of the same have been accompanied by difficulties due to the rigid nature of thinking, impulsiveness, and distrustful and contradictory tendencies within the personality.

The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) was administered to measure psychopathological degrees in the sphere of personality. During the interview process, he shows resistance to answering and, in most cases, gives intermediate answers, such as “I don’t know,” “I can,” or he answers with questions to professionals. This also points to the tendency to take control of the situation. In the questions aimed at obtaining his personal information, he gets tense and reacts with arrogance and defensiveness. This also highlights the marked difficulties in respecting boundaries in relation to others or being faced with a task or responsibility. The way he generally interprets situations shows that he is characterized by an external locus of control, which means that he always sees others as the cause of his problems. Also, the same is characterized by an affective style characterized by emotional coldness and a lack of empathy for others.

Laboratory examinations

Blood tests: normal parameters.

Native computerized tomography: In the infra and supratentorial cerebral parenchyma without densitometric changes, the ventricular system and the circulation spaces of the LCS are free of pathological content, hypertrophy of the nasal concavities, DSN with a nasal ridge on the right, the paranasal spaces are with regular development and ventilation but with thickening of the mucous membranes inflammatory of the maxillary sinuses and sphenoidal sinuses - pansinusitis, the mastoid cells have regular development and aeration, the bone structures without noticeable pathological changes.

Electroencephalogram: EEG is within normal limits, without paroxysmal discharges.

Declaration of Mr. U.

For the case, Mr. U. declares: “I didn’t sleep well that night, I didn’t sleep at all that night, I didn’t sleep well, I didn’t feel well, my mother was very sad, she saw that people didn’t like me, she had a very bad time period, even during the day there at that afternoon I did it and ... what I did is very serious, I don’t know when the event happened, the aunt came, and then she said call the police, the wife of the uncle’s son seems to have called the police. It has happened, and life must go on...”

Conclusion

Matricide is an infrequent crime that has often raised the suspicion that the offender could suffer from a pathological mental status.⁽¹⁾ For Mr. U., the diagnostic criteria for “borderline

personality disorder” were used. According to the International Classification of Diseases ICD-10, this disorder is coded with code F 60.31. This disorder⁽¹⁻⁸⁾ is characterized by a multitude of symptoms such as emotional instability, pronounced tendencies towards impulsive actions without taking into account the consequences, anxiety, and uncertainty, in addition to self-reflection, internal goals and tendencies (including sexual ones) can be vague or disordered, irritability, impulsiveness, anger. Anger is part of the character of these people, the chronic feeling of emptiness that tries to be filled by creating intense emotional connections that last a little, the tendency to threaten and manipulate others: if their demands are not met, violent and aggressive reactions even in the weakest bullies, problems with adaptation, problems in human relationships, problems with the environment and with the family. In tense situations, this disorder can be accompanied by short psychotic symptoms. Psychotic symptoms may include disturbances in the perceptual sphere that are presented with auditory and visual hallucinations, while thinking disorders are presented with delusions of relationship and persecution. At the time of committing the criminal offense for which he is charged, based on the characteristics of the disorder and the marked intensity of psych symptomatology, his mental ability to understand and control his actions has been reduced to an essential degree.

Ethical Consent: The decision from the Institute of Forensic Psychiatry of Kosovo (IFPK) dated 10/30/2023 on confidentiality terms in this article.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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