

Sexual homicide attempt: A case report and a short review of the literature

Maria – Valeria Karakasi ^{1,2}, Maria Markopoulou ³, Eirini Giovannopoulou ¹, Maria Alexandri ¹, Polychronis Voultsos ⁴, Athanasios Douzenis ⁵, Pavlos Pavlidis ¹

¹ Laboratory of Forensic Sciences, Democritus University of Thrace, School of Medicine, Dragana, Alexandroupolis, Greece.

² Adult Psychiatry, Psychiatric Department, George Papanikolaou General Hospital of Thessaloniki, Exochi, Asvestochorion, Thessaloniki, Greece.

³ Department of Forensic Psychiatry, Psychiatric Hospital of Thessaloniki, Stavroupolis, Thessaloniki, Greece.

⁴ Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Faculty of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece.

⁵ Second Psychiatry Department, Attikon University Hospital, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Chaidari, Greece.

SUMMARY

The broad spectrum of sexual crime and violence includes several entities, including rape and sexual homicide, despite being legally conceived as distinct, non-correlated crimes. In some cases, rape and sexual murder are conceptualized as a continuum of violence, being sexualized and escalated due to situational and personal factors in the crime scene. The authors describe a case of sexual assault and attempted murder by a male offender against an adult female victim. The authors intend to shape the offender's psychological profile, behavioral strategies, key motivations and diagnoses. Relevant literature is reviewed briefly so that the incident be studied and discussed in correlation to the existing knowledge on the issue.

Keywords: Forensic Science – Forensic Psychiatry – Legal Medicine – Sexual Violence

Pokus o sexuální motivovanou vraždu: Popis případu a přehled literatury

SOUHRN

Sexuální násilí je předmětem nepřetržitého výzkumu v oblasti forenzních i právních věd při určování profilů pachatelů a obětí a rozpoznávání okolností, které v daném okamžiku částečně odpovídají za vyjádření základních pobitek a podnětů.

Široká škála sexuálních zločinů a násilí se týká například sexuálního útoku, znásilnění a sexuálního zabití, které sice sdílejí některé podobné rysy, ale z právních důvodů jsou považovány za samostatné trestné činy. Znásilnění a sexuální zabití jsou některými odborníky vnímány jako různé úrovně sexuálního násilí. Příspěvek popisuje případ sexuálního napadení a pokusu o vraždu mužského pachatele spáchaný na dospělé ženě. Ačkoliv psychiatrická anamnéza pachatele byla zčásti známa, psychiatrická diagnostika byla komplikovaná, protože existovalo mnoho náznaků přítomnosti různé psychopatologie (schizofreniformní porucha, porucha osobnosti, alkoholismus), v osobní anamnéze figurovala hospitalizace s paranoidními bludy následovaná dlouhými obdobími relativně vysoké funkčnosti bez medikace, koordinovaného jednání navzdory konzumaci alkoholu i zhoršeného sebeovládání, ale s náznaky částečné promyšlenosti. Tento příspěvek by měl pomoci k lepšímu pochopení sexuálních zločinů a pachatelů.

Klíčová slova: soudní věda – forenzní psychiatrie – právní lékařství – sexuální násilí

Soud Lek 2019; 64(2): 14–19

Sexual violence has been diachronically a major issue for investigation in the field of forensic psychiatry, in terms of shaping the offenders' and victims' profiles and enlightening the specific circumstances leading to the criminal outcome. Through the extensive discussion and review, broadly accepted terms and definitions are still being shaped in the international literature.

Rape is defined in most jurisdictions as sexual intercourse, or other forms of sexual penetration, committed by a perpetrator against a victim without their consent. The definition of rape has varied historically and culturally.

The definition of sexual homicide has been evolving during the last decades (1). Previously, the involvement of sexual as-

sault during the action of killing was not a prerequisite to define a murder as "sexual homicide," given the fact that an underlying sexual conflict, sadism or activity were identified as part of the killing. However, the latest re-defined terms, exclude from the classification of sexual homicide any instances that do not include evidence of sexual assault. Based on recent literature definitions, sexual assault on genital areas associated with the sequence of events leading to murder constitutes the key element of sexual homicide. The lack of solid classification criteria and their evolution has led to significant discrepancies between different studies over the years, and thus accurate epidemiologic data are difficult to obtain. Over the years, classifications have been created with increasingly credible methodological data and more specificities at sample selection, examined parameters and classification criteria.

The broad spectrum of sexual crime and violence includes several entities, including rape and sexual homicide, which despite being conceived as distinct, non-correlated crimes, especially due to limitations posed by law and its enforcement, do share similarities (2). Many investigators attribute the divergence between rape and murder to the existing variations of individual

✉ Correspondence address:

Pavlos Pavlidis MD PhD, Assistant Professor Forensic Medicine School of Medicine, Democritus University of Thrace Dragana, 68100, Alexandroupolis, Evros Prefecture, Greece.
tel.: +30 25513 53822
fax: +30 25513 53824
e-mail: pavlidi@med.duth.gr