

Children – The Golden Future of lawyers Elena Bustea

- How to prepare children for “export”?
- A child eligible for adoption is sold for 20,000 USD
- Lawyer Bustea has her own links – Roxana Badrilexi, the adviser of the “honorable” Ion Diaconescu
- Police takes the part of “the export”

An enquiry regarding international adoptions, which started at the end of the last year, “disturbed the water” and determined many important people to intervene for the enquiry not to continue.

The fury with which those having their names in the enquiry started to defend themselves, the heads that have been dismissed from the Police, and the hurry in which accusations were dismantled before they were formulated, determined us to dig further. We guessed that in addition to the child left without identity, the few dubious medical certificates and a few foreign families who were fooled, something more serious was hidden.

The Bustea Network

But we never guessed what the few months of research brought into light.

It is sure that, irrespective of the political power, irrespective of which the bosses are in the Internal Affairs Ministry or in the Prosecutors Office, lawyer Elena Bustea was never brought to the court.

Perhaps only an international scandal could move things. Perhaps only an international scandal would determine the Romanian authorities to do a real research into the field of international adoptions and to clarify once and forever if we talk about networks set up to sell children or worse, as a hypothesis, if we talk about networks set up for traffic of organs or children for pedophiles.

“Evenimentul Zilei” (a national daily) and “Academia Catavencu” published last year the (at least dubious) working methods of lawyer Elena Bustea, the one who, together with her sister, Nicoleta Ecaterina Tabara, is running the adoption NGOs “Irene” and “Stuart”. We did not receive any reply from authorities. Probably the silence is ordered from above. Still, many reactions appeared in the written press. At different dates but with similar shapes and for the same purpose: to defend lawyer Bustea. We shall present, briefly, what is going on.

It is at least dubious the way in which two Romanian children were adopted by foreign families in the beginning of 1999.

They are Iulian Huhn and Elma Memet, who arrived in Brescia and respectively Israel through adoption NGOs, the adoption procedure being facilitated also by some “arranged” medical certificates. The certificates are made in order to certify that a child is sick or very thin in order to have priority “for export”. Then they go back to the initial medical certificate, that of a healthy child, for those who want to adopt him not to refuse him.

Example: in the case of Huhn Iulian, although he was living in Otopeni and he had been seen by his doctor on 12 January, he is given a different medical certificate on 13 January, by the surgery in Balotesti.

Let’s not forget about the case of three Italian families, accusing Bustea of taking 50,000 USD from them, promising in exchange to facilitate the adoption of some Romanian children. Bustea

says that she does not know the Italians and that her complaints are made by policemen who worked on her dossiers.

"Evenimentul Zilei" discussed with Mr. De Michelle, representative of the Italian Embassy in Bucharest about the complaints of the Italians. He said that the complaints were real but the Italian authorities cannot get involved in the enquiry since this is the task of the Romanian State. In fact, the Italian Consulate plays only an observatory role.

As long as the Romanian authorities will not spell out that Bustea is guilty, the Italians cannot do anything. They cannot even forbid her to deal with adoptions.

But it seems that the Romanian State is not at all preoccupied to bring light into this case. The dossiers regarding the Italians' complaints were requested by the Prosecutor ("Parchet") although investigations had not ended. We are now in the possession of new proofs, demonstrating clearly that the Italians had been into the country and they had seen the adoption file of Elena Ceganeanu, for the Italian family Antonini Egidio and Montagnoni Franca. However, the Prosecutor came with an amazing reply, addressed to an Italian family.

The Head of Anticorruption, Penal Investigation and Criminality Unit of the Parchet sent a reply to Fam. Grandassi Patrizio saying that there is no question of commitment of any penal crime. Further on, the Italians are suggested to address to the competent courts of Romania. Is there anyone left? God, perhaps.

In November of last year, Evenimentul Zilei asked lawyer Bustea if she had been involved in any penal case before. Her answer came straightforward: "No".

Now, after months of investigations, several files are coming to light where Bustea is involved. Despite the fact that the prosecutors working on them made everything possible to prevent our access to these files, we still found a few. Confidential sources have told us that Bustea is involved in over 90 cases (files). Here are only four of them: Buzau, Arad, Arges and Bucharest.

In Buzau, her driver, Badea Nicolae, paid more than 28 families in order to convince the parents to give up their children. Police found Nicolae Badea's list of 95 children who were to be bought. The case closed and Bustea started to be investigated in another file. The driver was sent to court.

In Bucharest, Bustea appears in the heavy files regarding the former director of Leagan no. 1, Ivona Mosneag. We spoke with the former technique director of the Leagan, Martin Ioan. He said that Bustea and her right hand, Cornelia Diaconescu, would often come to the Leagan, at late hours.

The files have not been given any solution because after they were returned to the Parchet, somebody buried them well. Even more, we understood that several sections from Bucharest are in charge with adoptions, the files being spread so that nobody can put them together.

In Arges, Bustea gave the child of a minor girl for adoption, without having the consent of the girl's parents.

In Arad, Bustea facilitated the adoption of at least 8 children with fake documents, according to someone working for the "Autoritatea Tutelara" (in the Town Hall), named Cornelia Dumbravean. She declared that Bustea contacted her in 1995. Bustea asked her to sign some documents which had already been filled in. the documents were fake. Even more, Bustea asked her to put fake registration numbers. Those children had never been in the register of the Romanian Adoption Committee (RCA), and the documents were meant to receive a favourable court decision in favour of adoption. The children left the country with fake documents.

It is natural that, if these children were not registered by RCA they could not be monitored in the post-adoption period. I spoke to a family which had given a girl for adoption, Raisa Peptanar. Here we had a surprise. The woman we talked to, the mother of the girl did not know exactly of which child we were talking. Still, what she told us about one child, left us speechless. One of the girls, who was sent to America when she was 15, died in a car crash in less than a year after she had left.

One of the newspapers trying to defend Elena Bustea says that it is practically impossible that there is a network which is selling children outside the country. More than that, the author of the article says that it is impossible for those children given to adoption to be sent out for organs or pedophilia. We can prove the opposite. There is a possibility that some wicked minds wishing to make money rapidly, set up such a network. Ms. Bustea has arrangements everywhere. A former judge and a former officer from the passport service are now working for her foundation. They use the same lawyers, the same doctors. From the reaction of the internal Ministry and of the Parchet, we can come to the conclusion that she has support there too. So, she's covered there, as well. We cannot say that she has a well established network. This is for authorities to establish. But we are sure that they will not do it unless the international community monitors this case.

During our investigation, we spoke with many people, trying to put an end to this subject. Although some of these people are public persons, they were afraid to have their names mentioned. Many of them told us how they had their legs broken or their cars were "accidentally" destroyed after they had a fight with lawyer Bustea.

We tried to see what are her connections to the current political power. We found out that, Roxana Badralexi, the assistant of Ion Diaconescu, recommends Bustea as her aunt wherever she goes. And who would like to upset the niece of Mr. Diaconescu?

We also saw that there was a "sincere friendship" between Bustea and Adriana Vasilescu, the wife of Adrian Vasilescu, the Prime Minister's adviser.

People say that there is such a relationship also between Bustea and the presidential counselor, Dorin Marian.

It is certain that this lawyer says wherever she goes that she can buy anybody in this country or get him changed.

Also, the support she received from the Secretary of State of the Internal Affairs Ministry, Mr. Mircea Muresan, is strange. He sent a letter to Prime Minister, Radu Vasile, which included some fake elements, incriminating the policemen that were enquiring Bustea. According to the letter, she is clean.

The first lie of the state secretary is that officers Stanciu and Barascu broke the procedure and they heard the witnesses before they made up the document about the start of the enquiry. However, the file shows clearly that the procedure started in 1 June and the witnesses were heard on 8 June. Muresan also says that the officers' recommendation to start penal investigation was not confirmed by the prosecutor. We have the report of the two officers. This report bears all the necessary approvals, including the order of the prosecutor.

The last lie, which Muresan tried to serve to the Prime Minister, is that the sister of lawyer Bustea, Nicoleta Ecaterina Tabara, was accused of faking documents and that the medical certificate of the children is not the responsibility of the members of the foundation. The former military (i.e. Muresan) can not make the distinction between "fake" and "use of fake". As the officers intended to start penal investigation against Tabara for "use of fake", which is punished in accordance with art. 292 of the Penal Code. There comes the natural question: did Muresan know that he was lying or he was misinformed?

In any case, this letter is a shame for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it proves clearly that high level pressure was put for Bustea not to be brought into court.

Someone must have the courage to bring light in the complicated story of international adoptions. There is information even if many files disappeared. They can be re-made by using the files from the Passport Service. Because every adopted child who had a passport when left the country has in his dossier from the Passport Service the court decision attached. And the other documents could be retrieved following the court decision.

It would be interesting to see who are the lawyers who facilitated adoptions to Spain between 1995 and 1996 when only 3 adoptions were made officially and 1,000 unofficially. It seems that the files, which disappeared from the Bucharest Court, are closely related to these adoptions. If a journalistic investigation brought to light such a network, it is clear that a solid enquiry made by police, in co-operation with officers from the countries where the children arrived could bring light forever in the field of international adoptions.

Otherwise, the political pressure and the huge amounts of money will kill from the very beginning any attempt to start an enquiry.

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