



IN MEMORIAM – ZORAN KESIĆ, PHD

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Zoran Kesić was born in Ključ (Bosnia and Herzegovina). He enrolled at the Police High School in Sremska Kamenica in 1993 and graduated from it in 1997 as the best student of XXVI class (with the average mark of 5.00). For the success he achieved he was awarded the “Vuk Karadžić Diploma”. He enrolled at the Police Academy in Belgrade in 1997 and graduated from it on time as the second best student of the V class (with the average mark of 9.44). He continued his post graduate education at the master’s programme of the Police Academy which he successfully completed in 2008 with the average mark of 9.88. After he passed all the exams, Zoran defended successfully his master’s thesis titled The place and role of non-government sector in crime control – legal and criminolo-

gical aspects, by which he was granted the academic title of Master in Criminal-Investigation and Security Sciences. He confirmed his scientific orientation and focus on the criminal-investigation scientific field by applying for doctoral dissertation at the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade under the title Criminological aspects of using excessive force and misuse of police powers. The said dissertations was defended with honours in 2016 in front of the following committee: Professor Zoran Stojanović, PhD (the President), Professor Djordje Ignjatović, PhD (the Supervisor), Professor Goražd Meško, PhD, Professor Milan Škulić, PhD and Professor Biljana Simeunović-Patić (the Members).

Zoran was building his professional career first of all at the Police Academy,

where he started to work as a Teaching Assistant in 2004/2005 for the course in Criminology. In 2008 by the decision of the Teaching-Scientific Council of the Academy of Criminalistic and Police Studies, he was elected a lecturer in Criminology and re-elected in 2013. After he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, in 2017 the Teaching-Scientific Council of the Academy of Criminalistic and Police Studies elected Zoran an Assistant Professor of Criminology. He remained in this position until he died on August 27, 2019.

Zoran was the author of over 50 scientific and professional papers and four books – *Private Sector in Crime Control* (2009), *Police Corruption – Criminological Perspective* (2017), *Police Violence – Criminological Perspective of Unlawful Use of Means of Coercion* (2019) and *Police Subculture* (2019). In his 42 years of life, Zoran managed to create an impressive scientific body of work which usually requires a much longer life and work. This clearly speaks about his commitment to science, his work energy and desire for scientific work in the field of criminology as a science, particularly the criminological analysis of police profession. The immensity of dedication and energy is particularly supported by the fact that the last three years of Zoran's life were burdened with hard struggle with a serious disease. This struggle with the disease did not interrupt Zoran to be a productive writer and to leave behind the works which represent the highest scientific achievements in the field of criminological sciences. In his works Zoran integrated huge theoretical knowledge and comprehensive empirical research and thus offered to the public the works of considerable scientific importance and value. The significance and value of these works reflect also in the fact that

for the first time in Serbia the criminological science was dealing with empirical research of sensitive police topics, such as police corruption and unlawful police conduct when using the means of coercion. In that way Zoran offered pioneering works in the field of criminological research of deviancy of police profession in Serbia, becoming thus a Serbian Maurice Punch. The pioneering character of Zoran's work reflects particularly in his last book – *Police Subculture*. The phenomenon of police subculture, which is rather well-known in international scientific public, has been almost completely unexplored in Serbia. The scientific and professional public therefore meet with this phenomenon for the first time in this monograph, and the book represents a "significant innovation in Serbian scientific and expert literature which deals with police organization, opening one of so far unjustly neglected and very significant fields of research in the field of security and organizational sciences" (Z. Kešetović, an excerpt from the review). Both Zoran's books and his scientific and professional articles reflect a devoted, committed and educated researcher and scientist, who dedicated his entire work to the promotion of quality of police profession in Serbia.

We shall not remember Zoran by his scientific works only. Zoran will be remembered primarily as a great man. As one of those rare people who manage to kindle the best in other people and do that so easily. He was the man of pure and big heart, vast life force and bright spirit. To all of us who were lucky to know him Zoran gave his example that life is the value to be fought for, but also the value to be enjoyed in. This, of course, is not easy under the circumstances when a man faces the disease that torments him, breaks him and plagues him for years.



Even in these circumstances Zoran kept his bright spirit, his faith in life and despite temptations he was always willing and prepared to look at the future with fervour and hope. Thanks to that he easily managed to give his maximum in all arenas of life – as a father, as a husband, as a son, as a brother, as a co-worker, as a friend. It was not easy for Zoran to give all of him in all these fields, without any effort and with pure heart.

Zoran's death is an immeasurable loss. First of all for his family and friends, but also for all the people who knew him. This is a huge loss for scientific thought as well, for the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies that lost a distinguished lecturer and researcher. This is also a huge loss for the Ministry of Interior, which in Zoran's research and scientific works had a benevolent and competent researcher of the police profession in Serbia. On the model of international science and practice, Zoran wished his work to give the top qualita-

tive contribution to the improvement of the police profession in Serbia.

If there are any words of consolation for Zoran's death, then these are the words that he found his peace in another world where good and pure souls gather and where Zoran took his place equal to the angels. If there is something that offers comfort for the loss of Zoran, it is the belief that he is in a better place.

What is left to us is to keep him in our memories, to remain inspired by his spirit and energy, to remind us of that when we have hard times or worry about some mostly irrelevant things. They say that a man dies twice, one time when you stop breathing and then the second time in the memories of people, when people forget him. This will not happen to Zoran. Zoran has not stopped and will not stop living, because such people do not die.

