



### **D56 Homicide or Suicide? Unusual Death of Man Suspected of Sexual Harassment in Family Context**

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The goal of this presentation is to describe the shame and the social stigma related with pedophilia and how it led a man to suicide by fire.

This presentation will describe a particular case of a carbonized corpse, found in his burnt-out car in an isolated Palermo's west suburban zone.

The external examination revealed burns of IV degree, "pugilistic attitude", "partly-cooked" muscle, brittle greyish-white splinters bone, loss of skeletal structures, and the absence of hands, limbs and feet. The radiological findings, made before the dissection, excluded the presence in the body of bullets or metallic splinters. Autopsy findings showed the presence of soot in trachea mucus, partial cooked viscera, the presence of fluid blood in the cardiac chambers, of urine in urinary bladder and the absence of marks of cranial and neck trauma.

Biological samples were used for toxicological analyses that showed high level of carboxyhemoglobin.

The DNA analysis on blood spot samples, compared with daughter's blood sample, showed that the body was a 64-year-old Caucasian male, gone away, alone and spontaneously, eight hours before his finding after a quarrel in which he was accused of not verified sexual harassments in family context. Circumstantial data evidenced that he expressed the will to commit suicide.

According to the autopsy finding, toxicological results, and circumstantial data, suicide was presumed as the cause of death for this man, without pre-existent psychiatric pathologies, in which shame and the social stigma related with pedophilia led him to suicide by fire self-burning.

**Suicide, Self-Burning, Sexual Harassment**