

A review of the video:

Romania irecuperabila

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Prepared by

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I am a consultant in learning disability and professor of learning disability with a specific expertise in the health care of adults with an intellectual disability and in epilepsy.

This video is largely in Romanian with some English Dialogue. The following issues are of grave concern:

- 1.0 Pictures are shown of an adult who has had major weight loss, as shown in the change from a holiday photograph. This very considerable weight loss is not to be expected in an individual with intellectual disability and is most likely to be caused by one of the following: malnutrition, severe underlying medical problem such as severe reflux esophagitis, psychiatric disorder related to stress/depression or a major difficulty with swallowing. Such an individual needs urgent assessment.
- 2.0 A young adult is shown in a cot side with his/her right hand tied to the corner of the cot by some straps. The adult is clearly agitated and resisting the strap by pulling on the strap. This is not acceptable practice in any environment.
- 3.0 A further (though may be the same) individual is filmed face down with several ligatures restraining the individual to the cot. This is again unacceptable practice; there can be no validation for such a practice. It is extremely distressing.
- 4.0 All the individuals with a disability seen on camera appear to be seriously, most probably dangerously, underweight. Such a degree of underweight needs urgent assessment as it is associated with a very high mortality. As all the individuals show such underweight there must be serious concerns that the cause is systemic. That is related to dietary practices or environmental stress.

In conclusion the video shows a constellation of two issues that cause great concern: physical restraint and severe underweight. These are in direct violation of individuals' with disabilities rights to health: "persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability"

Thus there is a concern that their Human Rights are being violated. In my opinion to address these concerns the individuals need:

- a. Immediate open access to individuals able to provide:
- b. Urgent assessment by a speech and language professional to assess dysphagia

- c. Urgent assessment by a dietician
- d. Urgent assessment by a qualified psychologist/psychiatrist to provide plans to ameliorate the agitation shown on the video
- e. An assessment of the environment to ensure it is not negatively impacting on the individual's health

Such an approach would best be provided by those with appropriate skill from outside the current care team. Such an approach would be within the spirit of the convention on the rights of persons with a disability allowing extra adjustment and support to enable individuals to attain a good state of health. Current care providers should ensure an open door approach to such support. In fact refusal of entry to such assessors would simply increase the gravity of my concern.