

Hand stained with blood and feces of a beneficiary from the "Casa Cora" center in Voluntari. Image obtained by the Center for Media Investigations

# **Cristina's Concentration Camps**

Written by Ovidiu Vanghele Feb 08, 2023 Published in **Investiations** 

## (Caution! Information and images with emotional impact.)

On the morning of July 5, 2018, a man around 60 years old enters the gate of the house at 96 Eroilor Boulevard, Voluntari, and is registered as a beneficiary of the care center for dependent persons operating there.

On his first night spent there, the man goes out to the balcony on the second floor of the house and jumps off, crashing onto the stone tiles in the courtyard.

He dies instantly.

"I wasn't on duty then; it was my other colleague. According to my colleague, he went to the first floor, looked down and said 'No, it's too close!', then he went to the second floor, leaned over and said 'Eh, maybe this will do...', sighs one of the employees from that period at the center. Let's call her Gina.

"It happened at night, when my colleague was somewhere around... you know, she also has a little room where she stays, and probably that's when (it happened). He was admitted in the morning and in the evening, he jumped over the balcony," Gina recounts.

She doesn't know why the man made this gesture. "Maybe he was in some depression, or maybe he was upset that whoever brought him there, brought him there," adds Gina, a simple woman, approaching old age, without much education.

Monday, April 20, 2022, Eroilor Boulevard, Voluntari. Just after 9:00 AM, a Logan car stops in front of the two-story house at number 96. Several people hurriedly get out of the car, and the sidewalk in front of the house comes to life. Shortly after, an ambulance arrives, followed by a bus from the Voluntari City Hall, then more cars and ambulances.

Among carpets, furniture, and potted plants, which are quickly loaded into several cargo vans, ambulances, and the city hall bus, visibly suffering people are embarked. With canes, walkers, in wheelchairs, or on stretchers, dozens of individuals are taken out of the house one by one to be moved a few streets away.

The operation lasts until about 5:00 PM and was filmed by surveillance cameras at the house on Eroilor 96, known locally as the "Gerbera" villa/boarding house/hotel.



"These are the images that show exactly how she scammed me and ran away, but she had other things to hide, I think money was the least of her problems," says Marius Sârbu, the owner of the house where, until April 20, operated a mix between a nursing home and a care and assistance center for adults with mental disabilities, run by a certain Cristina Maria Dumitra (formerly Văduva, born Mareş).

## The Anatomy of a Scam

Exactly one week earlier, on April 13, after several months of not paying either the utility bills or the rent, Dumitra sent the owner a terse email announcing that she could no longer pay the rent, thus she was terminating the contract starting May 15.

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Hello April 13 2022 15:47 VIP Cristina-Maria Mares

Hello,

I inform you that as of 15.05.2022 I can no longer pay the rent, as a result the rental contract in both locations will cease by law. The present debts related to the two locations are subtracted and calculated from the initially paid guarantee. Have a good day!

When she writes "the two locations," entrepreneur Dumitra refers to both the Gerbera villa and another house rented by Dumitra from Sârbu, located on Violetelor Street in Ștefăneștii de Jos, where another identical center operated.

The day after receiving the email, on April 14, the owner goes to the house in Ştefăneștii de Jos, where he discovers the disaster: elderly sick people kept naked, dirty, and uncared for, in beds with feces stains.

On the same day, Sârbu reports to the Ilfov Public Health Directorate and the Ministry of Labor, complaining about the degrading treatments of the beneficiaries at the Ştefăneşti center.

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#### Hello,

I, the undersigned Sirbu Marius from Voluntari city, Ilfov County, owner of the property in the Commune of Ștefăneștii de Jos, Str. Violetelor no 14 B, Ilfov County, rented to SC Casa Bunicii Anastasia SRL through Mrs. Dumitra Cristina-Maria from Ștefănăștii de Jos, str Bisericii 3, Ilfov, following my visit to the mentioned property, have found that the lady keeps the patients in very miserable conditions, unwashed for months and infested with bedbugs.

Please take action as soon as possible to save these patients who are being mocked by Mrs. Dumitra Cristina-Maria.

I attach a few pictures that I managed to take.

I also mention that I own another building in Ors. Voluntari, Eroilor Boulevard 96, Ilfov County, also rented to Casa Bunicii Anastasia, where I was about to check but did not enter after hearing that there, the elderly have scabies wounds.

In his complaints to the authorities, he speaks of similar occurrences at Gerbera, but states that he refused to go and check there as well, after being warned by one of the employees that the beneficiaries have scabies and the house is infested with bedbugs.

Although the complaints were filed, nothing was happening, so a few days later, on April 19, Sârbu reported the incidents in his houses - transformed by Cristina Maria Dumitra into centers for vulnerable people - to the Voluntari Police.

The next day, on April 20, entrepreneur Cristina Maria Dumitra hurriedly moves the beneficiaries and belongings from the Gerbera villa, as well as from the other center in Ștefănești, consolidating both businesses into what would become the "Residential Care and Assistance Center for Dependent Persons - Casa Cora." A new and large house located a few minutes' walk from Gerbera, in Voluntari, on Camil Petrescu Street number 5.

It is at this moment that the owner Sârbu enters the Gerbera house and realizes the extent of the disaster.

## CAUTION! Images with a strong emotional impact!



#### **Beyond the Pictures**

Another former employee of Cristina Maria Dumitra told reporters from the Center for Media Investigations (CIM) and Buletin de București how the "clients" of the centers would deteriorate from human to barely human within a few months after crossing their threshold.

Let's call her Elena. She worked both at the Gerbera center and later at Casa Cora, the place where Dumitra consolidated her businesses.

"Nothing there is alright, believe me. Everyone was bitten by bedbugs, they ended up having worms in their intimate areas, deep bedsores down to the bone, you can't imagine! Every day – belive me every day! - there wasn't a day without two or three major, really bad irregularities. You simply can't manage with just two nurses in that entire home; they simply couldn't cope," Elena shares her experience as an employee of the "social services" provided by Cristina Maria Dumitra.

"The bedbugs were crawling on them... God forbid! At Gerbera, yes. Under the bed, if you lifted the mattress, at least in the evening, when it was dark... I even learned their psychology, seriously! So, in the evening, if you lifted the mattress, they all ran in all directions, it was... I was truly shocked!" the woman continues her story.

Where Does All This Filth Come From?

"Well here, at Casa Cora, where we moved from Gerbera, there was only one bathroom per floor. On the first floor, one bathroom for 27 people," the woman replies.

She remembers a horrifying situation: one day she found an elderly beneficiary who had just soiled herself in bed.



"Nobody wanted to touch her because it was disgusting, I took her with the sheet. I lifted her into the tub, because there is a tub there, in that communal bathroom for 27 people...", Elena describes the context of the photo made in Casa Cora, in the space where the two centers that operated in Mr. Sârbu's houses in Voluntari and Ștefănești had just been consolidated.

Similar things were happening even before leaving the Gerbera house.

"They had a room at Gerbera, somewhere down, in the basement. When I first got there, I heard 'oh, you're going to those from the Pit?' I was thinking 'what do you mean, the pit?'. And when I got there and saw what it was... I couldn't believe it... There was feces on the floor, you would slip on feces, excuse my language but that's how it was! Nobody went to enter their room, there was a smell... Those women there were mostly kept locked up," Elena recalls bitterly.

#### "Did they have medical assistance?", we ask.

"Not at all! We called the ambulance. I would tell them: 'this man has had a fever for three days, right? We need to administer something; we need a doctor'. 'Call the ambulance!', they would tell me. 'Why are you calling me with a fever of 38 on this man?', the ambulance service would tell me, and they refused to take him. And then the man died of septicemia. His name was Toma Ion. At our nursing home there, at Camil Petrescu. In the last three months, the man died of septicemia because I kept barking that he needed medication, to give us antibiotics... I couldn't take it anymore, I was buying them from the pharmacy...", the woman recounts one of the horror episodes experienced.

We persist and ask about the center's contracts with specialist doctors.

"They had them. They had like this: the cardiologist, who came once a month, every three weeks, and would ask about each one in turn, with the notebook in front, 'and how is this one?'. He wouldn't see them, because he was disgusted! He never saw them. Indeed, the psychologist would come. She would go into each room, the poor woman, she was the only one who went into each room. There was also the internist, who would come and sit at the table and write papers and that was about it. And the psychiatrist, yes, who would sit in the warmth, didn't do anything for them," the woman recounts.

## And there was plenty for the specialist doctors to see. For example, beaten beneficiaries.

"I found this lady like this, she had probably been beaten before I came, I can't tell. The irony is that they would say that all of them, damn it, had bumped into something! This old grandma always caressed me because I brought her food and I always gave her two portions, I always tried to give her two portions because I saw she would eat more, and one day I found her like this," Elena narrates.



The same woman, on another day, is photographed with new bruises.



"There was another one who would come down from upstairs, out of hunger. He'd go to the kitchen to steal food; they'd catch him and beat him. Another lady, with severe psychological issues, would urinate wherever she saw tiles. And she laughed, because she had a thing with laughing, and one day I went and found her with a bruise around her eye. So, her eye was bruised. I asked what happened and my colleagues told me 'We told her to get off the bed and she hit her eye on the edge of the bed'. Damn it... Or the other one, who 'fell out of bed'. Of course, they beat her, you realize. The irony is that they, the sick ones, did not beat each other. The nurses beat them!", Elena continues.

"It was clear which ones were beaten, damn it... Another lady... I found her the same, with a bruise around her eye and on her forehead. They told me 'she fell out of bed', but the woman was paralyzed. To change her, you had to turn her, but I'll tell you what they did: they turned her the way they did, 'come on, go to hell' and when they picked her up, they slammed her against the nightstand", the woman further narrates.



"Were these incidents happening at Gerbera or where they are now, at Casa Cora?" we ask, barely concealing our astonishment.

"Both at Gerbera and here, at Cora," Elena immediately responds.

## About the food? Nothing, just broth

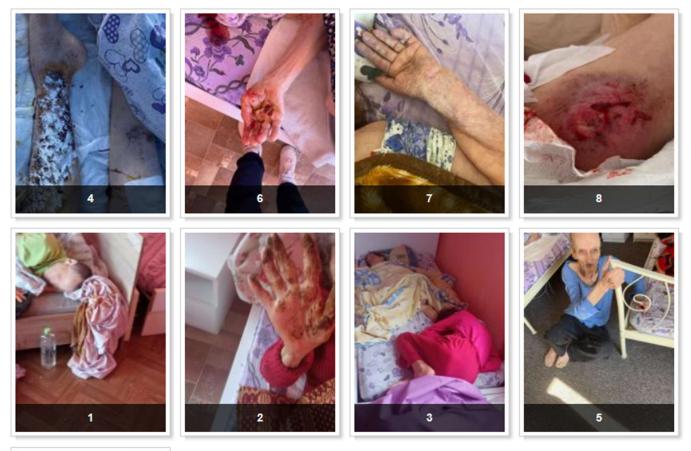
"Broth meaning broth in the sense of just broth, and that brought by the nurses from their homes. Plain broth, some potato food, mixtures with pasta. Whatever is available. They don't have snacks, they don't have a piece of fruit... That's it," the woman tells us.

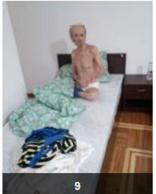
"At around 8:30 in the morning, they were given - at least when I was there - the cheapest salami, the ARO salami, ARO margarine. Marmalade, meaning not even a preserve, a jam like people have... Many

of them didn't want to eat because, well, they had been accustomed to different. So... For lunch, that plain soup, with equally plain second course. They would make things like... bean pods, always bean pods, beans, and even those were made tasteless. I would tell them 'don't give them beans anymore because it makes them defecate, it upsets their stomach, because we only put old stuff, only crap in it, at least don't make them beans!" Elena narrates.

"For those to whom we had to feed directly with a spoon or the very elderly, they wouldn't put meat at all, they only put it for those who began to scream, to cause a fuss. They were made something from bones, from offcuts, backs, with rumps and throats. So, they never actually saw real meat, like that. What's more... all of them were undernourished. I mean, if you see the pictures of how they came and how they left...", Elena further shocks us.

## CAUTION! Images with a strong emotional impact!





## Deaths

I asked Elena how many beneficiaries died while she worked for Dumitra, both at Gerbera and after "the union" of people from Gerbera with those from Ştefăneşti, aside from the man who jumped from the balcony.

She couldn't say exactly. Throughout our long conversation with her, on several occasions, she paused, sighed, and told us about many of those mentioned in our dialogue with her, "hoping they are still alive!"

"I wasn't working there when that man committed suicide, I just heard the story. But I've seen enough... One lady, I held her hand all day until she died. Because she refused to eat for three weeks. Another lady (died) three days after she arrived because she had generalized edema. In her case, we expected her to die. Now you know what's happening? In a nursing home, it's normal for people to die, but not like this. It's normal to die of old age, but not to... every day they were worse!" the woman is outraged.

## The Evidence

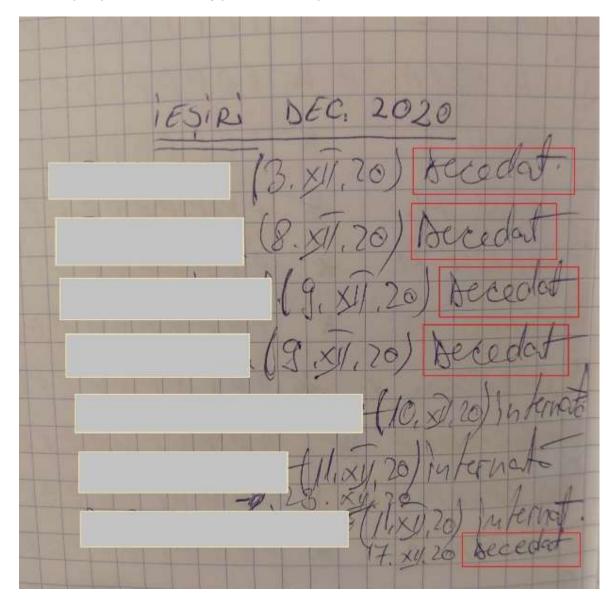
Gina's and Elena's former boss, Cristina Maria Dumitra, has been doing business with dependent people for 11 years. Throughout this time, according to the Official Gazette, she had at least six companies operating in at least as many houses.

In one of them, reporters from the Center for Media Investigations (CIM) and Buletin de București found a clearer answer to the question about deaths, as well as other undeniable evidence in support of Elena's claims.

In a pile of trash left behind by Cristina Dumitra's people, we found a notebook. Under the chic green cover, it reads "Attendance Book."



Left behind by the people of Cristina Maria Dumitra, the notebook is revealing for the horrors that occurred in the Gerbera house, as it covers that period. We find, for example, that just in December 2020, out of a total of 34 beneficiaries, five died. Another two, who were hospitalized in December 2020, died in the early days of the following year, in January 2021.



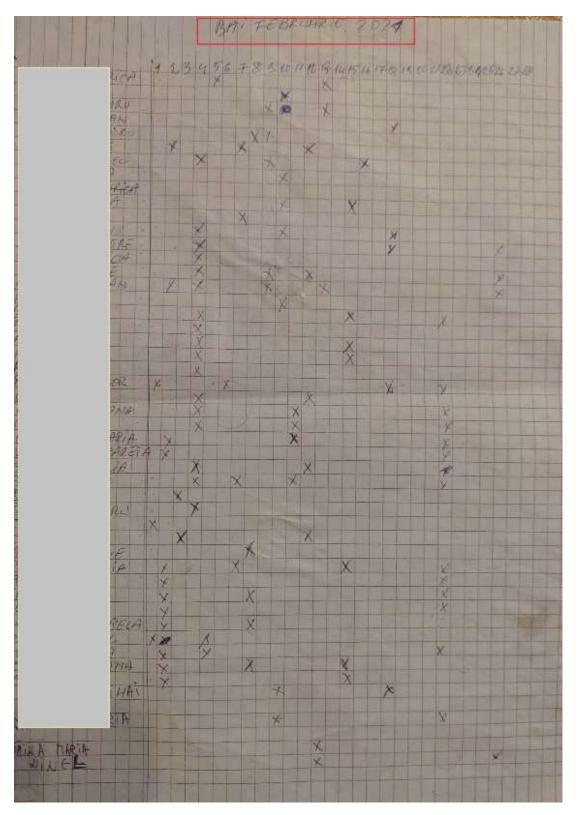
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Although December is the month with the most "check-outs," as the deaths (or hospitalizations) are referred to, the other months recorded in the notebook also show a non-trivial number of deaths. We counted, in the period from February 2020 to March 2021, thus a year and two months, a total of 21 deaths.

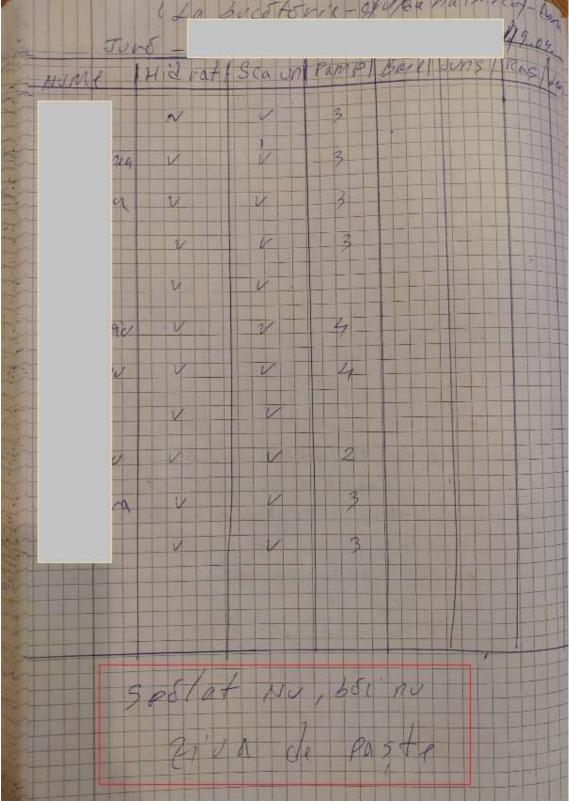
In another file, titled deceased, two more people are mentioned, although it is not clear when they died.

Necesti Aclanatic CP 121

In the same pile of papers left behind by entrepreneur Dumitra (formerly Mareş, formerly Văduva), we also find a "statistic" made by her employees. From it, we understand how it was possible for people to live in such misery: many of the beneficiaries bathed only once a month.



On Easter day of the year 2020, for example, a report regarding some of the beneficiaries, likely one floor, shows that none of the people bathed that day.



In another document, someone who appears to be the head nurse notes, agitatedly, that on the morning of February 8, 2020, when she arrived at work, she found the beneficiaries dirty, with unchanged diapers, and their clothes were soiled with urine and feces.

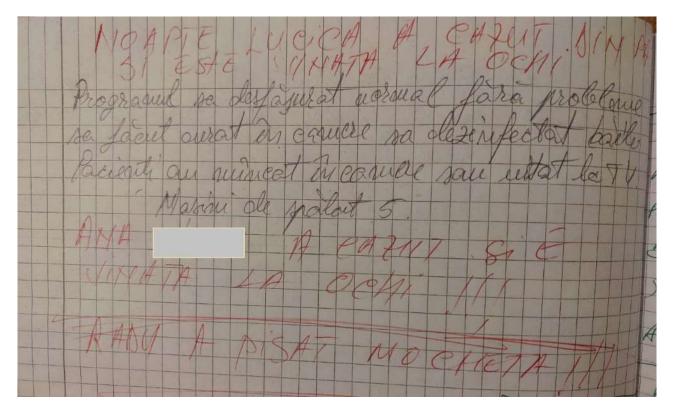
#### 08.02.2020

When I came to the nursing home, I found filth everywhere in the bathrooms, in the rooms, and many patients with unchanged diapers, already full by 7:40 AM. The toilets were very dirty, sinks with sponges filthy with feces in them, trash not taken out from the evening remained, not swept on the stairs. That's why we didn't have time to bathe and shave them. Changed the linens and clothes on them because they were wet from pee and poop, the rooms smelled. In Nea Nicu's room, behind the curtain, a used diaper with feces in it was found, shame. We don't want this to happen again. Mrs. Geta, please leave it clean as you surely found it.

Thank you COCA (Daniela)

(I don't admit anything that is written above)

Multiple end-of-day reports confirm Elena's statements regarding the beatings received by beneficiaries in Cristina Maria Dumitra's center. The documents show how the beneficiaries "bumped into things" and had black eyes. In a single day, for example, two women "were careless." Interestingly, the report seems to be made in two stages: in the first phase, everything had gone normally that day, but someone comes back, with a red pen and in capital letters, and adds the details.



During the night, Lucica fell off the bed and has a bruise around the eye

The schedule is carried out as usual, without any problems. We cleaned the rooms, we disinfected the bathrooms. The patients took breakfast in their rooms and watched TV.

ANA FELL AND HAS A BRUISE AROUND THE EYE!!

RADU PISSED ON THE CARPET!

Regarding the food, the pile of papers clarifies the situation as well: we find an old invoice from Metro. From the 2017 document, it is confirmed that, apart from vegetables, absolutely everything purchased for the beneficiaries' food, at least in the year 2017, was the cheapest product option available.

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## "I should have realized!"

Marius Sârbu says he could never have imagined that the situation had become so tragic in his house.

He then recalls that, before she fled, with people and full of debts, due to complaints made by employees and suppliers to whom she also owed a lot of money, Dumitra changed the previously concluded rental contracts to a new company.

"That's when I should have realized something was wrong. I made a mistake, especially since I had forgiven her once before. I overlooked the first scam she pulled on me, because she had been a tenant here before, also with a center, and had left once before without paying me. Then she went somewhere in Afumați...", Marius Sârbu tells us.

We checked Sârbu's statements in official databases. According to the Official Gazette, over the last 11 years, Dumitra Cristina has rotated six companies, either in her name, back then Mareş, or in the names of her relatives.

Her business trajectory reveals a modus operandi: Cristina Maria Dumitra accumulates debts on one company, then clears her past by starting a brand-new one. She accumulates debts again to the state and suppliers on the new one, and then starts over with another company, in another rented house, and so on.

For 11 years.

Her first business exploiting people who cannot take care of themselves started in August 2012, under the name "Casa de Odihnă Maria" (Maria Rest Home).

She was 25 years old.

Just a year later, Dumitra opened another company, Casa de Odihnă Cristina, this time with her mother, Mareș Florica. We learn from the documents at the Trade Register that this was practically a front, as her daughter, Cristina Maria Mareș (current Dumitra), was empowered to manage the companies' activities.

The first irregularities that reporters could document appeared in 2015. The Territorial Labour Inspectorate (ITM) fined Casa de Odihnă Cristina RON 30,000 for having employees working off the books, without a work contract.

However, this would prove to be a small problem compared to the disasters that were to occur in the centers of Cristina Maria Dumitra's companies.

It's not clear whether the ITM problems or other debts caught up with the young businesswoman. What we know is that she starts a new company: Centrul de Îngrijire și Asistență Casa Maria SRL (Maria Care and Assistance Center LLC).

Soon, Cristina Maria Dumitra's business encounters problems under the new company as well. The conditions in the nursing home are lacking, and debts accumulate. "The nurses are tired, lacking patience, empathy, and from fatigue, they also yell, there are girls who hit them with the wet sheet of their own urine," someone wrote in a Google review.

Scrieti o recenzie

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## CENTRUL DE INGRIJIRE SI ASISTENȚĂ CASA MARIA

Bulevardul Eroilor 96, Voluntari

4,4 \*\*\*\* 19 recenzii Recenziile nu sunt confirmate. ①

#### \*\*\*\* acum 6 luni

Nu știu dacă a mai pățit cineva o problema cu returnarea banilor care au fost dați în avans pentru o persană. Așa ne cerea mai devreme, doamna pentru care plăteam a decedat și cu 8 zile mai devreme și noi de 3 luni Doanna Cristina nu dorește să mai discutam nimic.

1

#### Gabriel Ali 2 recenzii · O fotografie

\*\*\*\* acum 2 ani

Un Cămin de rezidenți prost gestionat De o asa zisa Daniela "personal insuficient ne calificat lipsa materialelor de curățenie si a alenjeriilor de pat face ca rezidenți sa fie doar de pemparsi schimbați ne igienizati de fecale doare ce nu exista la patul fiecăruia un lighean cu burete personal sa nu spun ca infirmierele sunt obosite lipsite de răbdare empatie si de la oboseala se si tipa sunt fete care îi si lovesc cu cearsaful ud de propria lor urina. Lipsa unei asistete pt a putea sa le controleze pe infirmieră daca siau facut treaba el sunt schimbați doar de pemparsi de 2 ori pe zi la 10 dimineata si seara la 23. Medicație în organizatoare o pune infirmieră. Mâncarea e manjita pe farfuri si bânulesc că familiile rezidenților dau o căruță de bani pe chirie asta spune tot despre patronii care se îmbogățesc pe nevoile oamenilor nu as recomanda acest centru nici daca ar fi singurul din lume



## CASA MARIA CARE AND ASSISTANCE CENTER

#### 19 reviews

#### 6 months ago

"I don't know if anyone else has had a problem with getting back money that was paid in advance for a person. That's what we were asked for earlier, the lady we were paying for passed away 8 days earlier, and for 3 months now, Ms. Cristina doesn't want to discuss anything anymore."

Gabriel Ali

#### 2 years ago

A poorly managed Resident Home by someone called Daniela. The lack of sufficient, qualified staff, cleaning materials, and bed linens means that residents are only in diapers, changed unhygienically from feces because there isn't a basin with a sponge for each bed, not to mention that the nurses are tired, lacking patience, empathy, and due to fatigue, they even shout. There are girls who hit them with the bedsheet wet from their own urine. The absence of a nurse to check if the caregivers have done their job means they are only changed out of diapers twice a day, at 10 in the morning and again at 11 at night. Medication is organized by a nurse. The food is sloppily served on plates, and I suspect that the residents' families are paying a fortune in rent which says everything about the owners who are enriching themselves on the needs of people. I would not recommend this center even if it were the only one in the world.

Financially, it's a disaster. The Care and Assistance Center Casa Maria SRL ends up owing RON 400,000 to the National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF).

Dumitra solves the situation in the way she has become accustomed to: she establishes a new company, Casa Bunicii Anastasia, in her father's name.

Half a year later, on April 20, 2022, Cristina Maria scams Marius Sârbu, the owner, leaving him with unpaid bills for utilities amounting to several thousand euros, and hastily moves all the beneficiaries to what becomes "Casa Cora".

And, in what has become a classic move, with the relocation, she opens a brand-new company, after translating the name of the previous one into English: House Grandma Anastasia SRL appears. This time in the name of her newlywed husband, Ovidiu Dumitra.

#### Dumitra, Partnering with Godei, a Close Associate of the Firea-Pandele Couple

In her weaving through companies, associates, and rented houses, Cristina Maria Dumitra becomes, in 2019, for a few months, associated with Ștefan Godei, a close associate of PSD Ilfov, who would become, in turn, the owner of a nursing home and, later, president of the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association. In the association, he is joined by vice-president Ligia Gheorghe, the ever-right hand of the current minister for equal opportunities, Gabriela Firea, now her advisor at the ministry.

With Stefan Godei and Ligia Gheorghe in leadership, the association establishes two centers for people with disabilities and begins to collect significant funds from the state. We have written **here** and **here** about the centers of the association close to the Firea-Pandele couple.

Dumitra was associated with Godei in the company Senior Recovery Center SRL, which operated in the house in Afumați where Godei later opened a nursing home under the company Creative Home SRL and then, on the Saint Gabriel the Brave Association, CIA Harmony. Both companies led by Godei are still operating there, on contracts with DGASPC Ilfov.

Also in April, but in 2019, Dumitra scams Marius Sârbu for the first time. She had rented the same house from Eroilor 96, the Gerbera house, for about two years, when, one day, she loaded up the beneficiaries and moved them all to Godei, in Afumați.

Gina was working for her then. "We loaded all the patients into cars and moved to Afumați," Gina recalls.

"After the first escape, I forgave her and took her back. She owed me about ten thousand euros, rent and utilities, all added up. She gave me half of the money, then the rest in installments; I decided to give her another chance. I was wrong," Marius Sârbu recalls bitterly.

# How Did Mareş/Văduva/Dumitra Fly Under the State's Radar? An X-Ray of the Functioning of the Bureaucracy

From open data, as well as discussions with the two employees Elena and Gina, and the former owner Marius Sârbu, we understand that, with every "move" from one house to another or from one company to another, Cristina Maria Dumitra always had a new company ready, even accredited and prepared for licensing the new center in the new headquarters. "She always had her documents OK," says Elena.

Cristina Maria Dumitra effectively exploits a loophole in the law: any company can be accredited as a provider of social services simply on the basis of a declaration. Then, also "on word," it can receive a provisional license for a social service: nursing home, care and assistance center for people with disabilities, or another type of service. The problem arises when the law allows that, based on a provisional service license, the provider, be it a company or NGO, can start to take care of people, even with state funds. It is, if you will, as if you could get the right to drive a car from the day you enroll in driving school.

But beyond this legal anomaly, Cristina Maria Dumitra exploits something else: the passivity of state institutions. Here, the case of leaving, with all beneficiaries, from Gerbera becomes crucial.

Marius Sârbu, the one "scammed," reported everywhere about the poor conditions in which the beneficiaries were kept. However, he started with the complaints only after he was informed that he would no longer receive his money, and not even a week later, the business was moved. By the time the institutions he had notified reacted, it was already too late.

Thus, the Ministry of Labor and the Ilfov Public Health Directorate, the first to be notified by Sârbu on April 14, responded after a month and a week and, respectively, almost two months later.

The complaint left by Sârbu - accompanied by a few pictures, not among the harshest - at the registry of the Ministry of Labor on April 14 only reached AJPIS Ilfov on May 19, the decentralized office in Ilfov of the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (ANPIS) subordinate to the ministry. It was in vain that the AJPIS Ilfov team conducted an inspection at the new company: the house into which Cristina Maria Dumitra had just moved her business still looked good, and the conditions were fine.



MINISTERUL MUNCH SI SOLIDARITÀTII SOCIALE

Agenția Națională pentru Plăți și Inspecție Socială Agenția Județeană pentru Plăți și Inspecție Socială ILFOV

Către, D-nul Sîrbu Marius

J.P.1.S. REGISTRA INTRARE IESIFO Nr. ziun de Luma OS

Ref: e-mail

Stimate domn,

sesizării dumneavoastră, transmisă prin e-mail, redirecționată și înregistrată la Urmare Agenția Județeană pentru Plăți și Inspecție Socială ILFOV cu nr. 1187/19/05/2022, vă comunicăm următoarele:

În urma sesizări și a fotografiilor transmise de dumneavaostră, echipa de control din cadrul Agenția Județeană pentru Plăți și Inspecție Socială ILFOV, a efectuat control la sediul din str. Camil Petrescu nr.5-7 loc. Voluntari, unde s-a constatat că de puțin timp funcționează în condiții legale furnizorul de servicii sociale SC HOUSE GRADMA ANASTASIA SRL.

Centrul rezidențial dispune de o structură de personal capabil să asigure activitățile și serviciile acordate, în concordanță cu scopul/ funcțiile centrului și cu nevoile beneficiarilor. Activitățile de îngrijire și asistență se efectuează de către personalul de specialitate.

Totodată menționăm faptul că echipa de control nu a identificat elemente care să pună viața beneficiarilor în pericol.

Conform competentelor impuse de legiuitor, inspecția socială în urma deficiențelor constatate -dacă acestea există-dispune măsuri în vederea remedierii, măsuri ce vor fi monitorizate.

Cu considerație,

Nela-Alina Decusara

Director Executiv



Adresa: B-dul. Ghe. Magheru, nr.7, sect. 1, Municipiul Bucuresti, cod postal .; Tel: 021-2569784; Fax: 0371-601908; e-mail: ajos. Ilfov@mmanpis.ro; Web: Ilfov.mmanpis.ro; Operator de date cu caracter personal nr. 18033.

Conform prevedenior Regulamentului (UE) 2015/679 al Parlamentului European și al Consiliului din 27 aprilie 2016 privind protecția persoanelor fizice în ceea ce privește prelucrarea datelor cu caracter personal și privind libera circulație a acestor date și de abrogare a Directivei 95/46/CE (Regulamentul general privind protectia datelor), informațiile referitoare la datele cu caracter personal cuprinse în acest documant sunt confidențiale. Acestea sunt destinate exclusiv persoanel/persoanelor menționate ca destinatar/destinatari și altor persoane autorizate să-l primească. Dacă ați primit acest document în mod eronat, vă adresăm rugămintea de a returna documentul primit, expeditorului.

#### MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY National Agency for Social Payments and Inspection ILFOV County Agency for Social Payments and Inspection

To Mr. Sirbu Marius

Dear Sir,

Following your complaint, sent via email, redirected and registered at the Ilfov County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (AJPIS ILFOV) under no. 1187/19/05/2022, we hereby communicate the following:

Following the complaint and the photographs sent by you, the control team from the Ilfov County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection conducted an inspection at the headquarters located at Str. Camil Petrescu no.5-7, loc. Voluntari, where it was found that the social service provider SC HOUSE GRANDMAANASTASIA SRL has been operating legally for a short time.

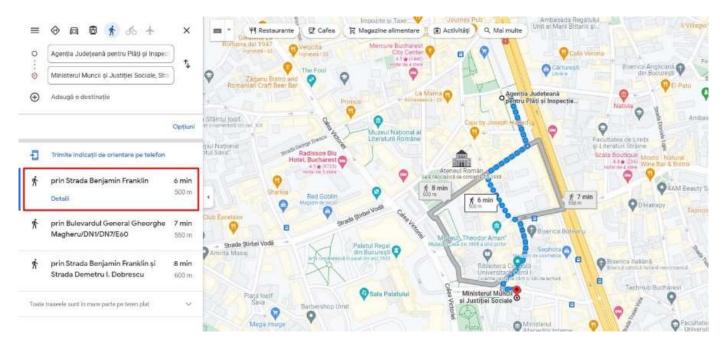
The residential center has a staff structure capable of ensuring the activities and services provided, in accordance with the purpose/functions of the center and the needs of the beneficiaries. Care and assistance activities are carried out by specialized staff.

We also mention that the control team did not identify elements that could endanger the life of the beneficiaries.

According to the competencies imposed by the legislator, the social inspection, following the deficiencies found - if any - imposes measures to remedy them, measures that will be monitored.

With consideration, Nela-Alina Decusara Executive Director

It took a month and almost a week for a complaint that required urgent intervention to travel from Dem I. Dobrescu Street, at the Ministry of Labor, to the AJPIS Ilfov office on Magheru 7. Google Maps tells us the distance is 500 meters, or a six-minute walk.



The complaint filed by Sârbu with the DSP Ilfov also on April 14<sup>th</sup> received a response from the institution on June 3rd, even though, according to him, a few days after sending the complaint by email - along

with some of the pictures, some less harsh - he also personally visited the institution, seeing that nothing was happening. He even threatened to alert the media. At that time, he filed a new petition. After a few more days, exasperated, he made another one.



- Personalul angajat poarta echipament de protectie, dar nu se poate face dovada efectuarii examinarilor medicale ale acestuia;
- Nu se face dovada efectuarii operatiunilor de dezinfectie, dezinsectie si deratizare;
- Nu au fost identificate cazuri de scabie la beneficiarii din unitate;
- Nu au fost identificate alte incalcari ale legislatiei sanitare in vigoare;
- Pentru deficientele constatate unitatea a fost sanctionata contraventional conform HG 857/2011, ART.52, LIT.A, ART.57, LIT.A si au fost stabilite masuri si termene de remediere a acestor deficiente.

Cu consideratie,

DIRECTOR EXECUTIV NEGULESCU TEODOR ABRIEL Insp. Rosca Bogdan Insp. Descultu Livia

INSPECTOR SEF DR. CRENGUTA DUMITRU

#### ROMANIA MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH ILFOV COUNTY'S DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF CONTROL IN PUBLIC HEALTH No. 4993/03.06.2022

TO, MR. SARBU MARIUS

Following your petitions registered at DSP IIfov with nos. 4993,5823,5848/2022, we communicate the following:

- At the time of the inspection at the addresses in Ștefăneștii de Jos, Str. Bisericii, Nr. 3, and Voluntari, Bd. Eroilor, Nr. 96, no elderly care activities were taking place;

- At the address in Voluntari, Str. Camil Petrescu, Nr. 5, elderly care activities are being conducted;
- At the time of the inspection, the hygienic and sanitary state was appropriate;
- The employed staff wears protective equipment, but there is no proof of their medical examinations;
- There is no proof of disinfection, pest control, and rodent control operations;
- No cases of scabies were identified among the beneficiaries in the facility;
- No other violations of the current sanitary legislation were identified;

- For the deficiencies observed, the facility was penalized according to HG 857/2011, ART.52, LIT. A, ART. 57, LIT. A, and measures and deadlines for remedying these deficiencies were established.

With consideration,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEGULESCU TEODOR GABRIEL HEAD INSPECTOR DR. CRENGUTA DUMITRU

Illegible stamp & signature

illegible signature

Insp. Rosca Bogdan, illegible signature Insp. Descultu Livia, illegible signature

The first thing communicated to Sârbu by officials from DSP IIfov nearly two months after the first urgent petition? That in the indicated houses - namely, his! - "no elderly care activities are taking place anymore."

To the Ilfov police, the deceived Marius Sârbu went later, on April 19. The county police redirected his complaint to the Voluntari Town Police, where it arrived the next day. However, the petitioner Sârbu received a response on May 16. The Ilfov police informed him in the response that they had checked the information from his complaint - it is not specified when exactly - and that nothing was confirmed.

ROMÂNIA MINISTERUL AFACERILOR INTERNE INSPECTORATUL DE POLIȚIE AL JUDEȚULUI ILFOV POLIȚIA ORAȘULUI VOLUNTARI Operator de date cu caracter personal nr.3223/2006

NESECRET București Nr. ex. redactate 2 Ex. nr.\_\_ Nr. 2300433 din 16.05.2022

Către,

Domnul Sîrbu Marius din Voluntari,

În referirea sesizării dvs. înregistrată la IPJ Ilfov sub nr. 2475353 / 19.04.2022 redirecționată Poliție Orașului Voluntari unde a fost înregistrată sub numărul 2300433 / 20.04.202 prin care reclamați faptul că la căminele persoanelor vârstnice situate la adresele din com. Ștefăneș de Jos, str. Violetelor, nr. 14B, jud. Ilfov și din orașul Voluntari, bld. Eroilor, nr. 96, jud. Ilfov, desfășoară activități neconforme cu prevederile legale în vigoare, vă comunicăm următoarele:

Organele de poliție au efectuat verificări cu privire la aspectele reclamate de dumneavoastr în urma cărora au stabilit că acestea nu se confirmă în sensul în care nu au fost obținute date sau indic ce ar fi putut susține sesizarea dvs.

Vă asigurăm în continuare de întreaga disponibilitate în soluționarea sesizări dumneavoastră, în limitele competențelor conferite prin lege subunității noastre.



Comisar șef de poliție BARABULA DUMITRU DORIN ROMANIA MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS GENERAL POLICE INSPECTORATE OF ILFOV COUNTY VOLUNTARI TOWN POLICE Personal data controller no. 3223/2006

NOT CLASSIFIED Bucharest No. of copies: 2 No. 2300433/16.05.2022

To,

Mr. Sirbu Marius, from Voluntari, Ilfov County

In reference to your complaint registered at IPJ IIfov under no. 2475353 on 19.04.2022, redirected to the Voluntari Town Police where it was registered under number 2300433 / 20.04.2022, through which you report that the nursing homes located at the addresses in com. Ştefăneștii de Jos, Str. Violetelor, Nr. 14B, IIfov County, and in the town of Voluntari, Bd. Eroilor, Nr. 96, IIfov County, are conducting activities not in compliance with the legal provisions in force, we communicate the following:

The police have conducted checks regarding the aspects you reported, following which they established that these are not confirmed in the sense that no data or indications were obtained that could support your complaint.

We assure you of our full availability in resolving your complaint, within the limits of the competencies conferred by law to our subunit.

CHIEF OF POLICE OF VOLUNTARI TOWN Chief Police Commissioner BARABULA DUMITRU DORIN

Apart from the institutions asked to intervene, which operated as they saw fit, how come nobody knew what was happening there? Who should have reported the conditions in which these people were kept?

**The employees?** From discussions with the two women, that we've called Elena and Gina, but not only with them, those who worked for Cristina Maria Dumitra ended up in conflict with her only after they were "burned" financially. Some of the employees who ended up arguing "over money" with boss Dumitra reported what they saw here, but either the institutions didn't manage to inspect before she changed her headquarters, or the information "reached" Dumitra, who prepared, and the inspection turned out fine.

Some employees tried to rectify things as much as possible, but only on their own initiative. For instance, one of the employees even tells the boss, at the time when their relationship broke down - also over money - that she prefers to donate to the center's beneficiaries the money she was still owed for her work. "(...) to buy basins and sponges, individually, for each patient," according to her.

Those who paid for the "services" received by people here? Namely, their families or the state. In recent years, the pandemic served as the perfect reason for the owner to no longer allow relatives to visit the centers.

Outsiders saw nothing, not even those who wanted to bring an elderly person to the nursing home. "People would come, come to the gate, 'look, we'd like to bring someone here.' At Gerbera, she wouldn't let anyone in! 'lf you want to bring (someone), fine, if not, fine too, you're not coming in!'. She only took those who said 'Okay, here's the patient at the door,' and we would go out to them," Elena recounts.

However, there were exceptions.

"Sometimes someone would come, but they announced in advance, 'we're coming at such and such time.' Or, for example, if they came unexpectedly and we found them at the gate, we would let them in, but we told them 'Stay five minutes here, you're not allowed to go upstairs because it's COVID,' and 'we will call you from the room, give us your number, and we go upstairs to the room and call you so you can talk to the person.' And you'd wipe the person's face a little, tidy up their hair a bit, and that was it," explains Elena.

The "scare" of Covid-19 was even invoked during inspections.

"If you go to the Voluntari City Hall and ask how many times they knocked on Gerbera's gate and nobody answered... Not even for the census, because I sometimes answered the gate. The one (with the census) said 'There are a lot of people registered here that we need to census, we have to do it!', and I called her (owner Dumitra) and told her. She said 'yes, yes, I will call them.' Now whether she called or not, I don't know, but I don't think so. The gate wasn't opened for them, it just wasn't!" continues Elena.

With proper documentation, Cristina Maria Dumitra receives beneficiaries both from families who can no longer or do not want to take care of them, and from the municipalities in Ilfov.

"The state paid, through social insurance, because she was associated with Bălăceanca. They were social cases, nobody's, from the streets. Anyway, I think she also benefited from something through the municipalities, because I don't believe she kept twenty-some people for nothing. In Ștefănești, she always took these social cases from their hospital," Gina, who worked many years for Dumitra, shares, but she seems not to understand that a state mental illness hospital cannot become "associated" with a company operating a center for people with disabilities or a nursing home.

## The Confirmation

At the beginning of September, a team from the Center for Legal Resources (CLR) arrives at "Casa Cora" for a first unexpected monitoring visit. Cristina Maria Dumitra's center is still new, people have been here for only a few months. Yet, the irregularities found are major: neither at this first visit nor at the next two, in October and November, does the new company operating the center have more than two employees as nurses. However, it has over 60 beneficiaries, well over the center's maximum capacity of 48 people.

More seriously, despite the official quality of the CLR team, recognized through protocols concluded with state authorities, CLR monitors were unable to obtain essential information from the center's head, the third employee always found there: exactly how many beneficiaries Casa Cora has and how they arrived here, through what contracts.

"We were told that we could not have access to this information, which is with 'the boss,' most likely the wife of the company's administrator, Mr. Dumitra. Neither 'the boss' nor her husband could be found to provide this essential information to understand what is actually here," reported Georgiana Pascu, program manager at CLR, to reporters.

From discussions with the center's head, CLR monitors learned that, besides those brought here by families, there is a contract concluded by the center with the Pantelimon Social Assistance Directorate and "upcoming" contracts with DGASPC Ilfov and the Social Assistance Directorate of the city of Voluntari.

Reporters requested information from the two institutions. DGASPC Ilfov officially communicated on December 28, 2022, that up to that point, it did not have a contract with Cristina Maria Dumitra's newest

company, and the people of the eternal mayor Pandele registered the request on January 5, but never responded again.

The CLR team notes, even in the absence of factual information, that the center is overcrowded, and people are rather neglected. "There is one bathroom on each of the two floors, two bathrooms for over 60 people, totally dependent individuals. A perfect context for the emergence of serious hygiene problems," continues Pascu.

"The smell of urine was present on both floors, in some areas dirty clothes or used materials were thrown on the floor: diapers, paper, rags," the CLR team writes in their visit report.

Furthermore, the beneficiaries looked bad.

"Most of the residents were thin, 'skin and bone.' The center coordinator showed the dining room and kitchen, both located in the basement of the building but specified that, during that period, food is brought by a catering company from Afumați. No contract, no menu for any of the residents, nor whether any of them have intolerances or diagnoses that would justify following a special diet," write the CLR monitors in their visit report.

Therefore, in the absence of details, it could be any other catering company from Afumați, but it might well be the same story: the nonexistent catering from SC Mititei la Tomiță SRL, in fact, the concoctions made in the kitchen of the "Harmony" Center of Ștefan Godei and Ligia Gheorghe, people close to the Firea-Pandele couple. We do not know.

From the statements of the center's manager, Casa Cora has contracts with all kinds of medical specialists, yet these were not found at any of the three CLR visits during September - November 2022. Nor could the beneficiaries with whom the CLR team spoke confirm that there is constant medical assistance for them.

Under the described conditions, dramatic situations obviously arise.

"On the second floor, a resident lives in the hallway. From the information received from her, she is retired for medical reasons, was an electrician. She doesn't know if she has any relatives or friends, nobody visits her, she doesn't know if she has any income. She doesn't have any personal items, a nightstand, or a wardrobe assigned to her. Her bed is placed behind a cupboard locked with chains. The mattress is wrapped in cellophane, and only a sheet is placed on top, I didn't see a pillow or a blanket on the bed. She has no activities all day, she would like a book. She can't move and doesn't have a wheelchair, she crawls everywhere (to the bathroom and downstairs), since she arrived at this center, she hasn't been outside in the yard," the CLR team reports in their visit report.

This beneficiary is not the only one who no longer wants to live here, under these conditions. Several people are kept here against their will. CLR activists have documented in detail the case of a woman who is the subject of a dispute between her two daughters: one, who remained in Romania, wants to take her mother's house, while the other, who emigrated to Italy, is trying to help by paying for a lawyer, to leave this place and return to her home.

"Although she had communicated to the center's employees that she no longer wished to live there, and the lawyer of the second daughter notified the center that they have no grounds to keep the resident in the center against her will, the center's representatives did not take measures to resolve the situation, maintaining a situation of deprivation of liberty without any grounds," the CLR team reports in their report.

Almost no one from the outside can see in detail, factually, the nightmarish reality inside. People are locked inside, cannot go out, even if accompanied - and there would be no one to accompany them - and visitors cannot enter.

When CIM and Buletin de București reporters first went to Casa Cora, on the morning of August 18, 2022, a notice on the gate by the company's administrator, Ovidiu Dumitra, husband of Cristina Maria Dumitra, invoked the Covid-19 pandemic to prohibit visitor access inside. Until September 30, 2022, "with the possibility of extension."



#### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Considering the current context regarding the infection with the novel coronavirus and the risk of infections as well as transmission even during the incubation period (by asymptomatic individuals), we inform you that from 15.07.2022 to 6.09.2022, with the possibility of extension, access for visitors and family members to the residential care and assistance center for dependent persons "Casa Cora" is prohibited.

Thank you for your understanding!

ADMINISTRATOR DUMITRA OVIDIU

## Epilogue

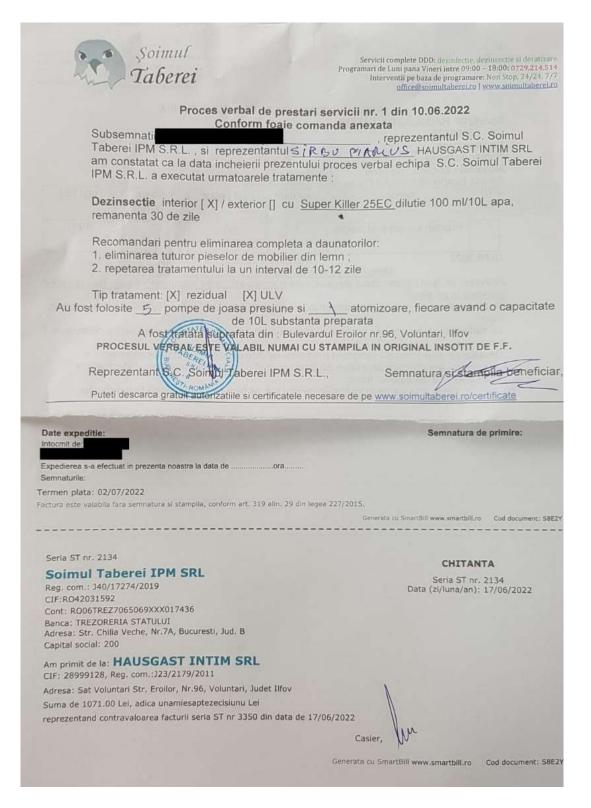
Most likely, because it operates under the same paradigm as its predecessors, "Casa Cora" will follow in the footsteps of the other spaces where Cristina Maria Dumitra's money factories have operated.

The woman found sleeping in the hallway during CLR's first visit to Casa Cora, the one immobilized in bed who crawled to the bathroom or dragged herself down the stairs to the ground floor, sleeps in the same spot, in the hallway. Only the vast hallway was "divided," until CLR's most recent visit in November, with a Thermopane plastic wall.

"It's very difficult for me, I'm telling you. I still dream at night that I'm going to the gate and seeing them in the yard," Elena concludes, the former employee of Cristina Maria Dumitra's centers, sighing heavily.

Both Elena and Gina (obviously, the names of the individuals are not real, ed.) were deceived by their boss Dumitra, with whom they parted ways in scandal.

The cheated owner Marius Sârbu had to tear everything down, to the plaster, both at Gerbera and in Ştefăneşti. He threw away all the furniture, everything in the bathrooms, even the interior doors, including the frames. He spent thousands of RON just on disinfection.



SOIMUL TABEREI DISINFECTION, DISINSECTION AND DERATIZATION SERVICES

#### SERVICE REPORT NO. 1 OF 10.06.2022

According to the attached order sheet

The undesigned\_\_\_\_\_, representative of S.C. Soimul Taberei IPM S.R.L., and the representative SIRBU MARIUS HAUSGAST INTIM SRL, we acknowledged that on the date of signing this report, the team of S.C. Soimul Taberei IPM S.R.L. carried out the following treatments:

Indoor insecticide treatment with Super Killer 25EC, dilution 100 ml/10L water, residual effect lasting 30 days. Recommendations for complete pest elimination:

1. Remove all wooden furniture pieces;

2. Repeat treatment every 10-12 days.

Treatment type: [X] residual [X] ULV

5 low-pressure pumps and 1 atomizer were used, each with a capacity of 10 L of prepared substance. The treated area is located at: 96 Eroiilor Boulevard, Voluntari, Ilfov.

THE REPORT IS VALID ONLY WITH STAMP, IN ORIGINAL, ACCOMPANIED BY FISCAL INVOICE Representative of S.C. Soimul Taberei IPM S.R.L.

Series ST no. 2134

Soimul Taberei IPM S.R.L. Trade Register: J40/17274/2019 CIF:RO42031592 Account: RO06TREZ7065069XXX017436 Bank: STATE TREASURY Address: Str. Chilia Veche, No.7A, Bucharest Share capital: 200

#### RECEIPT

#### Series ST no. 2134 Date: 17/06/2022

I received from HAUSGAST INTIM SRL CIF: 28999128, Trade Register.323/2179/2011 Address: Voluntari Village Str. Eroilor, No.96, Voluntari, Ilfov County The amount of RON 1071.00, that is, one thousand seventy-one RON Representing the countervalue of the invoice series ST no. 3350 of 17/06/2022

Today, nearly a year after Dumitra swindled him for the second time, after swallowing many thousands of euros, the Gerbera house is bright and has new tenants. Not "social service providers".

"I don't need anything for as long as I live," Sârbu mutters, with bitterness.

We found Sârbu easily: he's in legal proceedings with Dumitra to recover debts of tens of thousands of euros, as well as for compensation for the thousands and thousands of euros spent to make the houses habitable again.

He fears he won't have anything to take from her to cover his losses and is disappointed in the Romanian state. A few minutes' walk from the house he left in ruins, in the new "social service" run by Cristina Maria Mareş (formerly Văduva, now Dumitra), people wither and die.

But until they die, they bring good money to the boss and her new husband, Ovidiu Dumitra, a former criminal investigator.



They met when Ovidiu Dumitra came, on official business, alongside a prosecutor, to Villa Gerbera to photograph the body of the man who had committed suicide by jumping from the balcony and landing on the courtyard pavement.

At the end of the year, on December 22, 2022, the two spouses celebrated one of their children from previous marriages. They threw a big party, and in the background of the photo with their daughter on Facebook, an accordion player can be seen. "Happy birthday, my princess! Mommy and daddy love you very much!" Dumitra wrote on Facebook above the picture of the daughter at the party, ending the message with two emojis.



The reporters attempted to contact Cristina Maria Dumitra to ask her questions regarding her involvement in such business ventures. We called her, but she requested that we send our inquiries in writing.

We sent her several general questions about the centers she operated, but we were surprised by her response: essentially, she offered to expose the associates of Gabriela Firea who, under the umbrella of the Association "Sfântul Gabriel cel Viteaz", are her competitors in the business of caring for dependent individuals.

"Good evening, I have a lot to tell you about Mrs. Firea's centers, they should be investigated, not me, as I take in people from the streets out of pity without money. And I haven't started 6 companies in 10 years, I think you're confusing me," Dumitra responded via SMS, and then apologized for not being able to speak with them now, but only on Monday, as she is "very sick". The reporters preserved the original wording of the businesswoman's message.

We asked Cristina Dumitra to facilitate a discussion with her husband, but she said her husband was just as ill.

"My husband is on antibiotics, he is much sicker than me because I was on vacation, I really have to give so many explanations (sic!)," Dumitra transmitted to them again via SMS.

Despite our insistence on a quick phone conversation, Cristina Maria Dumitra scolded us, accusing us of "harassment". She asked us to stop with the messages and offered to provide us with her lawyer's number.

We also attempted to speak with someone named Ioana Dragomir, described as the "main person" for the Dumitra couple in the "Casa Cora" center. However, she was unable to answer any questions, promising to promptly contact Cristina Maria Dumitra's husband, the current company administrator.

No one contacted us afterward.

Reporters: Ovidiu Vanghele (Center for Media Investigations), Bianca Albu (Buletin de București) Editor: Oana Despa Video edit: Șerban Suciu Photo edit: Cosmin Pojoranu

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