

Offenses motivated by erotic jealousy committed by mentally healthy people

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Summary

Most often jealousy is treated as a complex mental phenomenon, which consists of changes in emotional state, in cognitive and behavioral spheres, caused by erotic infidelity of a partner or a feeling of insecurity caused by a rival. It is estimated that factors contributing to this are a combination of dynamic affiliative factors, personality traits as well as environmental and social factors. Jealousy can take a reactive, anxious or possessive forms. This paper aims to present multifactorial genesis of jealousy, which leads to aggressive behaviors, usually in a form of domestic violence, but also resulting in homicides. Factors contributing to the occurrence of aggressive behaviors include specific personality traits of perpetrators as well as external variables, often constant and growing conflicts with the environment, usually multiplied by strong negative emotions directly preceding aggressive attacks. Acts motivated by jealousy often cause juridical difficulties in forensic psychiatry, both in the scope of diagnosis, determination of sanity related to the accusation, as well as in validity of the use of security measures. Identification of the nature of different types of jealousy, their dimensions and various conditioning can contribute to apt judicial-psychiatric assessments.

Key words: erotic jealousy, domestic violence, judicial-psychiatric assessment

Introduction

The motifs of romance, unfaithfulness, adultery, infidelity, jealousy and mistrust towards a partner are some of most common topics occurring in mythologies of various cultures and are associated not only with sexuality, but also with the desire of power, significance, strength, wealth and revenge. [1]. Smith et al. [2] determined jealousy as a combination of emotions, ideas and behaviors caused by a fear of potential, actual or imagined relationship of a loved one with a third person. Jealousy can be also defined as a desire of possessing real or imagined assets, ascribed to a rival, especially these which give him priority in the love of the object. Jealousy resulting from Oedipus arrangement is based on a desire for an inclusive relation with the primary object which

can be directed towards other objects in later life. In this case, its aim is love, not solely the satisfaction of needs or gaining attention [3].

Sings of other people being interested in a partner, unconstrained behavior of a partner towards other people, suggestive acts involving the partner, comparing the partner with previous ones, maintenance of contact with previous partners are considered to be some of signals which cause jealousy in a partner [4]. Usually these signals are demonstrated in order to incite other person's interest in the relationship, to maintain its stability and from this perspective the induction of jealousy should be considered as "preventive", protective of the relationship. Women are more prone to arouse jealousy in their male partners than men in their female partners. Excessive arousal of jealousy brings a reciprocal effect, leading to interpersonal conflicts, aggressive behaviors and even breakup of a relationship [5].

Different faces of jealousy

Jealousy is not a homogenous phenomenon because it also encompasses cognitive, emotional and behavioral spheres of the psychic life. It accompanies mental disorders or can be its nucleus. It occurs in various circumstances, to different people and in a broad scope of intensity – it enriches erotic relationship, however, more often it destroys it. Muzinić et al. [6] suggest considering jealousy on three levels: as a normal mental experience, as abnormal jealousy and psychotic jealousy.

People without serious mental disorders can experience jealousy in one of its three forms: reactive, anxious and possessive. The first one is related to an emotional reaction which can be a response to emotional or sexual unfaithfulness of a partner. The second one is characterized by a strong cognitive aspect which features deliberation on the possibility of partner's unfaithfulness. Possessive jealousy (preventive) involves a strong behavioral component which can be expressed by monitoring other person's actions in order to prevent the relationship from termination, even while having only very weak signals of other people's interest in the partner. Fundamentally, only reactive jealousy occurs as emotional response to an actual threat of infidelity, while the other two can occur without a real danger of infidelity. Emotional aspect is present to the greatest extent in reactive jealousy, while it is the cognitive factor that occurs mostly in anxious jealousy and behavioral factor in possessive type of jealousy [5, 7, 8].

Personality and jealousy

There is a noticeable relation between the development of a personality and later inclination towards expressing erotic jealousy. A relationship with parents which does not guarantee the feeling of safety can cause a person to shorten a distance with a potential erotic partner, as well as to search for excessive intimacy, and a person who does not receive these elements can react with anger, increased control over a partner aiming at securing a relationship and its maintenance. These individuals expect something which from obvious reasons they cannot receive, and this causes them to

interpret neutral situations negatively, interpreting them as a confirmation of partner's lack of dedication, culminating in partner's infidelity [9]. Marazziti et al. [10] analyzed relationships between different styles of attachment and dimensions of jealousy experienced by mentally stable people and came at conclusion that people with abnormal styles of attachment (avoiding, rejecting) are characterized by an excessive fear of losing a partner, often resulting in obsessive thinking about and controlling him/her. They determined five dimensions of jealousy: depressive, paranoid, obsessive, one related to anxiety and excessive interpersonal sensitivity. People presenting a secure style of attachment have ability to tolerate negative emotions and build intimacy in a relationship upon that. Immature people recompense the need of providing security to themselves by excessive identification with a partner whom they attempt to control. The feeling of lack of security in a relationship results in frustration and demotivation and every attempt to stabilize the relationship with the means of control increases the feeling of loss of dignity and low self-esteem [11].

People exceedingly dependent on a partner become subordinate, have a narrowed self-sufficiency range which makes them potentially prone to fear of rejection [12]. Research on personality traits reveals that jealous people show high levels of neuroticism, hostility and social anxiety which relates to the of anxious-ambivalent attachment style [13]. Among specific personality disorders with predispositions to excessive jealousy, there are paranoiac, dependent and borderline personalities, as well as accompanying mental disorders [14].

Mechanism of jealousy

As the most important elements in a partnership, Dąbrowska lists accurate communication, meeting each other's needs, accurate system of household power based on personal authority, strong emotional, sexual and intellectual bonds, which strengthen friendship and maintain mutual attraction of both partners (common value system, lifestyle and participation in culture, agreement or complementarity in the perception of values and life goals) as well as economic stability [15]. In case when excessive jealousy occurs, these values become endangered, while developed behavioral schemes turn out to be ineffective, hitherto important values considered to be a binding agent for a partnership are considered to be false, while authorities appear to be unsteady and worthless.

Distressing emotions which are contained in jealousy do not solely concern a particular erotic partner, but they are based on jealous person's internal fear of distorting "the image of self". In this sense, discomfort accompanying jealousy is not only a fear of losing a partner, but rather an expression of insecurity concerning own self-esteem. Zaleski, citing Fredmann, notices that in the past the appearance of a rival of a lower rank (e.g., in terms of social status) did not constitute a reason for jealousy, but rather contempt and anger. Nowadays, the appearance of this type of a rival constitutes even more painful experience and intensifies the feeling of jealousy. The intensity of jealousy is dependent on various factors, including the level of engagement in winning of a partner and maintenance of a relationship. On the other hand, the more intense

engagement in an extramarital relationship, the less intense jealousy about a partner who usually was not present to a great extent in the whole of the jealous person's life [16].

People with high self-esteem more often react to infidelity not necessarily with jealousy, but feelings of regret that they wasted their time, energy and possibly material means in order to build a relationship with a person who was not worth it. On the contrary, feelings of people with low self-esteem would be dominated not by regret but by jealousy [7]. Jealous people tend to have a desire to compare themselves with rivals in terms of various characteristics: physical attractiveness, personality, similarity to the partner, occupation, readiness for a long-term relationship [17]. Negative picture resulting from these comparisons instills depressive state which as a consequence results in negative feelings, later released in other people and situations [18].

Factors triggering jealousy can include situations in which self-esteem can be endangered, such as professional failures or loss of a job, severe illness or disability, postnatal period, loss of a loved person who was a support. At that time, the need of increased contact with a partner occurs, and if this partner does not present himself as loyal and faithful, the jealous person reacts with mistrust, disappointment and anger [19].

Zaleski [16] (as cited in: White and Mullen) differentiates between two phases of jealousy. The first one encapsulates autonomic reaction to stress, evoked by a noticed threat (possibility of terminating current relationship). Sometimes it is accompanied by sexual arousal, which can be explained by the fact that at the beginning fear and anger are followed by arousal associated with sexual signals. In the second phase, there is usually a complex analysis of the situation, attempts to handle increasing jealousy, an effort to abandon current situation. When this attempt is fulfilled, the feeling of relief appears, however, if it is not fulfilled, states of dejection and depression follow. Authors list six components of jealousy: anger, fear, sadness, envy, sexual arousal, remorse.

Mandal et al. [5], alleging to Guerrero, Andersen, Jorgensen, Spitzberg, and Eloy, differentiate between two ways of dealing with the feeling of jealousy. The interactive type specifies direct contact with a partner and involves six specific behaviors: an expression of negative emotions, communication oriented on solving of a problem, aggressive communication, active distancing, negation, and intimidation. The behavioral type does not require direct contact and involves: monitoring, violence, attempts on manipulation and rebuilding of a relationship.

Triggering jealousy (to a certain extent) is a mechanism favorable of keeping a partner. The intensity of experienced jealousy can signalize the degree of commitment in a relationship, while the expression of jealousy can induce a greater commitment, allows to consolidate own position, regain a lost position or increase its worthiness [5]. Only reactive jealousy correlates positively with the quality of a relationship. Two other types of jealousy (without an actual threat of terminating the relationship) negatively influence quality of relationship between the partners [8].

The importance of jealousy is expressed by the fact it is a signal that a partner is a precious person for the jealous partner. From the perspective of social psychology, the ability to react with jealousy is passed on through generations and is evolutionary modified on the neuroanatomical and physiological levels. According to Zaleski, "the

cultural heritage defined our cognitive, emotional and behavioral processes, creating schemes of reacting with jealousy” [16, p. 110]. “Culturally passed norms and prohibitions teach which sexual and asexual behaviors of a partner with people of a different sex are permitted and which constitute a violation of the relationship’s integrity, causing a threat” [16, p. 110]. In most societies men determine conditions of life and roles of respective sexes, which can result in an increased level of violence towards women. It has been noticed that in societies in which there is sex segregation (e.g., women work only with other women), the monogamy is more common as well as jealousy is reduced and the level of violence is lower. According to social psychologists this results from men’s greater confidence in paternity which is followed by a greater engagement in parental matters and family life [20].

Basing on research conducted among women and men in multiple countries, Buss [21] determined that for the majority of women the emotional infidelity is more difficult while for men the perspective of sexual infidelity is more painful. In primordial societies women were afraid of losing the partner’s commitment to family in favor of another woman, for men sexual infidelity was followed by a loss in terms of reproduction. In this sense jealousy is a way of adjusting, worked out way of dealing with the problems of survival and reproduction. Thus, it can be treated as “emotional wisdom, not articulated consciously, handed over the generations by our ancestors” [21, p. 20], which allows to push the rival away, increase the alertness towards the partner or fuelling the love.

More often women are afraid of emotional infidelity, however, this type of infidelity is more difficult to detect which results in the fact that women more frequently and chronically have increased alertness towards their partners. Men are more absorbed by sexual infidelity which is easier to detect, however, simultaneously carries a greater emotional charge [7].

Research conducted by Zaleski and Hupka [22] concluded that in comparison to other western nations, Poles are more jealous in terms of relationship’s exclusiveness, aversion towards the autonomy of a partner, dependency, self-humiliation–envy. To a certain extent, the explanation of these behaviors can be found in diametric changes in motivations of entering marriages (probably concerning also casual relationships). The economic motivation vanishes, while the needs of emotional proximity and love come in its place [15]. Emotional state between the partners constitutes the basis of building a relationship, however, it is more difficult to maintain, more exposed to infidelity, disloyalty or dishonesty. It engages partners not only in love, but also in actions providing the durability of emotional relationship, including the basis for jealousy and rivalry in regard to the loved person.

Jealousy and aggressive behaviors

Natural predispositions, traumatic nature of particular male–female relationships as well as types of relationship between men and women in particular societies contribute to display of violence by men. Aggression towards women related to their sexual “delinquency” is more common if the alliances between women are weaker,

when the woman's family does not support her, when men have strong and especially important relationships, or when the contacts between men become more egalitarian and consequently men's control over the resources increases. Sometimes jealousy can turn into passion which is drastic, destructive, or tragic in consequences, leading to termination of a relationship, various forms of aggression and violence [23].

In marriages or casual relationships, the perpetrator undertakes action which aims at achieving a certain goal, while the victim shows specific signs, unconsciously creating a situation which allows the perpetrator to achieve his/her goals. The perpetrator's aim is to put the victim into the state of submissiveness and passively allow him/her to control the situation. Repetitive acts of violence, lack of ability to deal with this situation, lack of support, as well as blaming a victim for the situation culminate in the development of inadequate defense mechanisms (learned helplessness, effect of a psychological trap, Stockholm syndrome). Kowalczyk [24] differentiates between three levels of victimization: destruction of fixed behaviors, secondary harm and taking on the victim's personality.

In domestic violence, Łosińska [25] (as cited in Dutton) recognizes a different scheme of behaviors characterizing relationship between a perpetrator and a victim (initial phase, intimidation phase, phase of "breaking down" the partner, period of latency, phase of losing the control, and phase of external intervention). She identifies one of the elements enhancing the psychological tension in the perpetrator being intrusive, obsessive thinking about the partner's infidelity. Accusations, satirizing in front of the environment and minimizing the feeling of sexual attractiveness are accompanied by forcing the partner to sexual acts, humiliating, infidelity, physical and psychological aggression. Accusations concerning infidelity not only derive from commitment to the relationship and the fear of losing a partner, but also are incorporated into a whole system of the perpetrator's manipulative actions. Their essence is not confirmation or exclusion of infidelity, but maintenance of constant atmosphere of tension, uncertainty and suspicion which fosters downgrading or embarrassing the partner (is also aimed at not unveiling the household situation).

Holtzworth-Munroe and Jacobson [26] divide violent relationships into two types. In the first one there are convictions strengthening the relationship between a perpetrator and a victim, because negative behaviors of the perpetrator are justified by external factors on which he/she had no influence, which were independent of him/her. The second type of a relationship is based on the so-called disruption conservation, namely a situation in which negative behaviors of a partner are justified by his/her personality traits and fixed characteristics which cause the victim to consider them as intentional and purposeful. Partners in relationships in which violence occurs more often use the style of disruption conservation, leading to confrontation and escalation of conflicts.

In relationships in which problems of jealousy occur, a person on whom it is directed treats jealousy of the partner as a permanent trait of his/her personality and neglects own behaviors which can provoke jealous responses. On the other hand, the jealous person assigns specific traits fostering infidelity to a partner, and does not recognize own suspiciousness, distrust or hostility towards the environment. Moreover, if there are significant differences in the level of power, having its basis in education,

income, professional achievements, the possibility of violence in a family increases and it concerns both sexes [20]. These factors, often described as stable elements of intrafamily violence risk, alone are not sufficient to contribute to a high probability of violence in a relationship. Only when they cooperate with personality factors such as low self-esteem, low level of self-worthiness, loss of control over own life or family, and secondary jealousy, the possibility of aggression increases [16, 27]. An aggressive attack is an expression of an effort to maintain own position and developing jealousy could lead to increased violence. Furthermore, in order to maintain high self-esteem, a jealous person searches for confirmation of own worthiness by a partner who, by means of attachment, adoration and compliments, is supposed to build the jealous person's worthiness. In a confrontational situation with a rival, it results in feelings of anger and a desire for a revenge [28].

Women are more prone to revenge on a rival or themselves, while men are more prone to revenge on a partner. Aggression directed by women on themselves is an expression of anger and a feeling of loss to a rival, as well as inability to take the aggression out on a rival [16]. Men's physical aggression towards women can have an instrumental basis – it appears when a wife is considered as an obstacle to realization of an aim, or when her attitude affects the self-esteem of a partner as a man [15]. Herzberger considers men's jealousy as a factor contributing to verbal and physical aggression as well as a murder in extreme cases [20].

In 2010, there were around 680 murder court cases in Poland, of which 29% murders were motivated by family misunderstanding, 30% had another motivation (including jealousy) [29]. Majchrzyk [30] categorized murders motivated by jealousy as sexually motivated and assigned them motifs of rejection and associated feelings of injustice. There is another point of view saying that murders with erotic motivations, including these motivated by jealousy, are not considered to be sexually motivated murders, the main motif of which is to satisfy sexual desires [31].

Basing on his analysis of files (341 trials) between 1976 and 1985, Pikulski [32] suggested that while committing a murder motivated by jealousy, the perpetrators were motivated by the following factors: revenge taken for infidelity (63%), a will to eliminate a person preventing them from realizing their erotic or sexual intentions (17%), revenge for abandonment (23%), revenge for a marriage proposal refusal or refusal to enter a relationship (5%), revenge for unreciprocated feelings (20%), revenge for sexual refusal (9%). In these trials, there were multiple motifs and the acts "were characterized by especially vivid and multi-layered motivational structure" [32, p. 162].

Gierowski [33, 34] similarly classified murderers motivated by jealousy. He included them in a group of murderers motivated by revenge which usually regarded erotic spheres. These were people with mostly asocial personality traits and low internalization of norms. Despite extremely unfavorable educational conditions, they did not develop proclivities towards direct and open attacks. However, it was noted that these people have a high level of susceptibility and willingness to express hostility towards environment. In the cases of murders committed by this group of perpetrators, the most crucial factors included external and situational variables, having a character of constant and increasing conflict with the environment; while personality traits

were of secondary importance. Circumstances directly preceding a murder often took on an image of a painful situation or constituted an emotional conflict. An increased level of fear, hyperarousal and emotional lability of the perpetrators in contact with a provocation or rejection transformed into serious disturbance of cognitive processes (narrowed field of consciousness, strong psychomotor arousal, intensive experiencing of negative emotions) [33, 34].

A direct factor which initiates a murder of a female sexual partner most often listed by authors [21, 30, 32, 33] is a refusal of sexual intercourse and intention of leaving the perpetrator. Jealousy, accompanying envy and a desire for revenge are a triad of factors for which a person can kill or commit other crimes, such as property damage, injuring or harassing other people. Not being able to control negative emotions, a perpetrator undertakes actions against the law [35]. A lowered ability to constructive assessment is accompanied by irrational fantasies, contradictory wishes and ambivalent attitudes towards partners [36]. While on the one hand there is an effort to create a symbiotic relationship with a partner, demand for support, fear of losing control over the partner, on the other there is also a feeling of loneliness, feelings of emotional isolation and loss [37]. Aggression can take on an instrumental, reactive form or aim at securing a position in a family; it can be also associated with suspicions about spouse's infidelity. The more "rigid" the personality of a perpetrator is, the stronger the compulsive and impulsive reactions are [37].

Using the MMPI, Biro et al. [38] examined 93 murderers and made a distinction between four groups: psychotic people, oversensitive-aggressive, psychopathic ones and those without deviations in the study. It turned out that even if an aggressive behavior was caused by reactive factors, it was still incorporated within personality structures of the perpetrators.

Muzinić et al. [6] conducted an analysis of demographical, criminological (type of a crime, victimology-related aspects), psychiatric variables as well as security measures. The research encompassed 200 people which either committed murder motivated by jealousy or attempted at committing it (each 50%). Every fourth perpetrator had been penalized for a crime motivated by jealousy in their past. Three out of four perpetrators did not show psychotic jealousy, however, were addicted to alcohol and presented personality disorders (asocial type, paranoid personality, other specific personality disorders). Only few patients were mentally retarded. The greatest number of crimes was committed by middle-aged people. The perpetrators were physical workers, grew up in difficult social and family conditions, were aggressive and showed developmental disorders in their childhood or adolescence, and had learning difficulties. In the case of people with personality disorders, the criminogenic situation was of great contribution, and it included conflicts between perpetrators and victims and provocative behaviors of victims: revealed infidelity or acts of infidelity heard about from other people and other manifestations of the victim's disloyalty. In addition, the conflict was compounded by growing jealousy of the perpetrator and lack of respect for the partner and himself/herself, low self-esteem, as well as a previous experience of infidelity. The most common site of the crime was a shared property (more than a half of all the cases). The vast majority of victims of the offenses were spouses or

partners of the perpetrator. In a majority of all instances perpetrators received reduced criminal responsibility, only in five instances it was agreed that these perpetrators were fully responsible for the committed crimes. The risk of repeating a crime in this group was assessed as low and only every fourth perpetrator was advised substance abuse treatment [6].

This assessment to a great extent relates to analyses made by Pikulski [32]. The author determined that the perpetrators were usually men between the age of 25 and 35, living in a city, coming from working families, having basic education, working physically, married, having children, who had never been convicted before. The offensive acts were mostly committed in closed spaces (78% of murders), including apartments they lived in (59% of cases). Every fourth perpetrator had been treated psychiatrically before, almost half of them experienced alcohol abuse. Psychiatric and psychological assessments revealed that 6% of the examined perpetrators were in a state of insanity, 28% of them were in a state of partial sanity, while 42% of the perpetrators presented only minor insanity. The perpetrators were characterized by hyperarousal (nearly a half of the examined perpetrators) as well as low self-esteem [32].

In the case of murders motivated by jealousy, the perpetrators tend to concentrate on specific injuries made to a victim. Usually there are multiple injuries without a typical murder weapon. The primary goal of the perpetrator is to unload accumulated emotions and not to kill a victim. The corpse is usually found in the crime scene, often in the victim's apartment. Research by Przybyłek et al. [39] discovered that in some cases the perpetrators covered eyes of their victims, which might suggest remorse, a personal attitude of the perpetrator towards the victim and emotional motivation of the murder. No variables suggesting manipulation of the corpse were noted (attempts at hiding it, moving), which might as well suggest that the murder was not supposed to have any other purpose (economic or sexual) and the perpetrator did nothing to hide the crime. Radojević et al. [40] analyzed over 700 murders taking into consideration the outcome of autopsies and only in a few instances mutilations of genitalia were found (e.g., penis removal, nipple removal, vaginal tears, shot in a penis). All murders were related to an erotic motif and in all cases the victim knew the perpetrator.

Basing on Pikulski's criminological and forensic analyses [32, 41], it was established that a murder or an attempt at it were usually committed by gashes, stabs and laceration (51%), one fourth of the perpetrators committed the act using a blunt instrument, while every sixth perpetrator strangled the victim. The offenses most often took place in summer period (between June and September) and also in December. According to the author, this phenomenon was related to the more intensive social life during this period. Encounters foster flirting, mistrust towards a partner and infidelity. Most often the offenses were committed at weekends, between 2 and 10 pm (when the perpetrator and the victim spent most time together).

It was determined that the time between first signs of jealousy and the actual crime is the longest in the cases of personality disorders of the perpetrator (the shortest in the case of psychotic disorders). Exogenous situations provoke committing a crime motivated by jealousy and a serious alcohol intoxication has a great influence in this type of crimes [6, 32].

Erotic jealousy is often listed as one of factors contributing to the presence of a state of a strong arousal, justified by the circumstances of the act [42]. Almost one third of murders motivated by jealousy is committed by perpetrators while being in this state (three times more than in murders motivated by different factors). A stressful situation generating a physiological effect is usually unexpected and sudden. Perpetrator's behavior is characterized by impetuosity, strongly expressed aggression (a large amount of hits) as well as gaps in memory [32].

The reasons for a strong arousal should not be solely looked for in the exterior situation (e.g., circumstances of activating reactive jealousy), but also in the perpetrators' intrapsychic processes, without which they would not experience any emotional reaction. Then, the mental processes are disturbed which constitutes a reaction to a perpetrator being in a tough situation (frustration, difficulty, conflict), which decreases his/her abilities to self-control. According to Gierowski [43], in the case when a perpetrator is acting in a state of a strong arousal, the forensic assessment has to take into consideration the following factors: the perpetrator's perception of the traumatic situation, the primary and secondary assessment of stress, styles and strategies activated in order to deal with the stress, the type of regulation of emotions generated by stress, and the level of self-control. It is necessary to consider the personality variables, which tend to modify reactions to stress and direct effect of mental processes on the analyzed behavior.

Classification of "dyadic death" motifs are based on the nature of relationship between the perpetrator and his/her victim and include elements such as a feeling of pity towards the victim, altruism, stress-related factors in a family, social or financial problems, however, the most important one being the motivation of erotic or emotional disappointment nature, resulting in hatred and desire for revenge [35, 44–46].

Recapitulation

Jealousy as a complex mental phenomenon is present during the entire lifespan of humans and is incorporated not only in an emotional relationship with another person, but also is dependent of environmental and social factors. It takes on various forms, intensities and fulfils different aims. Apart from the social psychological function of maintenance of relationship's durability and increase in mutual attractiveness of partners [21] it is a destructive element which can contribute to problems in obeying the law.

Sometimes jealousy can become an expression of a passion, drastic, destructive, having tragic consequences like conflicts between the partners, termination of a relationship, various forms of aggression and violence – which require psychiatric and psychological analyses and which could be used by judicial authorities. Occasionally men use violence towards women in order to gain control over them and prevent them from leaving, however, to make their threats realistic, they use actual violence, most often in a form of abuse, sometimes of murder [23]. For this reason, jealousy had been present in forensic psychiatry's area of interest for a long time. Criminal cases with motifs of erotic jealousy usually cause many problems and confusions in terms of

an assessment, starting from the assessment of clinical state, through the assessment of sanity and the assessment of the legitimacy of using security measures.

Knowing nature of different types of jealousy and their various dimensions can facilitate forensic psychiatric expertise, as well as contribute to a deeper apprehension of significance of jealousy in particular cases. It is crucial to take into consideration the attitudes of the victims of crimes motivated by jealousy, who more or less consciously try to evoke the jealousy in a partner and later are not capable of controlling it in the perpetrator who, being alarmed by his/her suspicions and false observations, fear and anger, commits a criminal offence [5].

It is problematic to determine to what extent this was the nature of a perpetrator or external factors interfering his/her ability to behavioral control, which eventually lead to a criminal act. For people without serious mental disorders, personality elements such as self-esteem, self-assessment and a tendency to rigidity/flexibility of attitudes and judgments have the greatest impact [9, 12, 13], while for people with personality disorders – their specific image and predispositions [14].

Depending on the type of jealousy manifested by the perpetrator, the forensic psychiatric assessments can vary. It seems that while in the case of reactive jealousy the situational factors are of primary importance, in the case of anxious and possessive jealousy the personality and complex nature of the partnership are of dominant importance [5, 7, 8, 43]. It also seems necessary to take into consideration those situations which usually have no connections with jealousy, but which could depreciate the perpetrator, lower his/her position within the partnership and generate a need of control over the partner and the relationship [19].

Polymotivational actions of the perpetrators result from various personal dispositions, determined efficiency of cognitive and emotional processes as well as the influence of external factors which include chronic conflict situations between a victim and a perpetrator as well as conflicts directly preceding criminal offenses [30, 32]. The state of strong arousal justified by circumstances of an act, which often occurs more often in the case of murders motivated by jealousy than caused by any other motifs, requires a distinct treatment by court-appointed psychiatrists and psychologists [32, 43].

Murders motivated by jealousy are usually committed by people without serious mental disorders in situations of emotional overload, leading to excessive and violent aggressive reactions. Family and cultural conditionings are of great importance and family and marriage constitute a priority which needs protection [47]. A threat of termination of a partnership because of a spouse's infidelity becomes a factor influencing a high-regarded value, at the same time exposes the cheated person to a social critique. The fear of humiliation and social stigmatization increases the need to control and influence a partner towards whom the feelings of jealousy are directed. Therefore, forensic psychiatric and psychological assessments should take into account a very broad motivational scope, they cannot be restricted to examination of a perpetrator and elude situational and social context in which the crime was committed.

In recent years it has become possible to use more security measures towards groups of perpetrators which might include people jealous in a non-pathological way. In their cases the key element of a therapy is to the assessment of the nucleus of jealousy and

accompanying mental disorders which in next phases should mobilize perpetrators to use psychotherapeutic means [12]. With reference to various types and forms of jealousy, therapeutic programs should be adjusted to individual needs of perpetrators and the risk level they represent [27, 48] which unfortunately requires further research on the forensic psychiatric aspect of jealousy.

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