



# **THE MURDER BUSINESS**

**Methodological essay**

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## 1. Introduction

The subject of my investigation, called “The Murder Business”<sup>1</sup>, if defined in one word, is corruption. On one hand this corruption depicts the vulnerability of Moldovan legal system to protect such fundamental rights (as defined by Moldovan Constitution) as private property and right to life<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, the investigation reveals a corrupted way of action those who normally would be called the victims of the situation.

In fact the investigation tells two interconnected stories. One of them is about a scam organized by a corrupt policeman who fraudulently deposed a private company of a million-dollar land using his professional position. The scam has been organized with the help of a homeless taxi-driver (who became a proxy owner of the land). The fraud failed and as a result, the policeman killed the taxi-driver in breakout region of Transnistria in order to get rid of all the evidences and tracks towards him.

Another story is about a German retailer Kaufland who indirectly announced its plans to build a hypermarket on the above-mentioned land without having any legal rights to do so. Based on the evidences that me and my colleagues succeeded to find, we demonstrated that Kaufland has been in talks to build a store there for a long time. That happened in conditions when the actual land owner has been and still is a dead taxi-driver.

The investigation is extremely relevant and actual for Moldova. Not only because Kaufland is about to land on Moldovan retail market<sup>3</sup>. And not because the scam has been totally underreporter in Moldova. This investigation shows exactly how everyone, would it be a police officer, a homeless taxi-driver or a big company coming from European Union - are using corrupted environment in Moldova for their profit.

## 2. The scope of the investigation

To show an indicative example of fraud and murder organized by the corrupted employee of Moldova’s legal system.

To underline the weakness of the Moldovan legal system to prevent the misuse of power of their own employees.

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<sup>1</sup> [THE MURDER BUSINESS](#), published by RISE Moldova on May 23, 2017

<sup>2</sup> “[Constitution of the Republic of Moldova](#)”, Title II. Fundamental rights, freedoms and duties, Chapter II. Fundamental rights and duties, [Article 24. Right to Life and Physical and Mental Integrity (Points 1 and 2); Article 46. Right to Private Property and Its Protection (Points 1, 2, 3 and 6)]

<sup>3</sup> “Kaufland Moldova” [official website](#)

To show weaknesses of the Moldovan authorities to manage and control possible economic fraud and corruption on local and national level.

To show an example of how a big business from European Union tries to enter on Moldova market using the gaps and lack of integrity of Moldovan legal system.

### **3. Hypothesis**

A corrupt policeman used his job position to change the ownership of a million-dollar land in Chisinau and killed one of the persons involved in the scam to get rid of justice. As a result, the land became a subject of two-years trial, seized and banned to be sold, loaned or used as a construction lot. Despite this fact, the German retailer Kaufland, highly interested to build a hypermarket on the same land, is undertaking doubtful actions to use this property in its interest.

### **4. Investigative research**

“The Murder Business” investigation is based on documents, data and information received from three types of sources: **a)** online databases of Moldovan state institutions; **b)** court case documents (*prosecutors’ indictment; documents received from lawyers; etc.*) and **c)** interviews. It is important to mention that this investigation has been planned as a feature (video) report from the very beginning and was designed to be published by RISE Moldova - an investigative media outlet. Thus, the research process has been undertaken accordingly.

#### **4.1. Subject choice**

The investigation wasn’t planned and started almost from nowhere. On April 16, 2017, while walking on the streets of my home city of Chisinau, Moldovan capital, I bumped in a huge building lot. It was located next to the city’s biggest mall and close to Viaduct - the road that connects the city downtown and one of the most populated districts. The construction seemed to be at the very beginning, while the whole area has been already surrounded by a fence.

I made few pictures around that lot and found out from description panel that the main beneficiary of the construction is the company called Energotehcomplet S.R.L. According to the panel, Energotehcomplet has been building a complex of apartment blocks with a big parking lot and Kaufland hypermarket next to it. I didn’t see this construction as a subject of investigation until I get back to the computer to make a routine check for the land (which I usually do when I find something which might have “big money” behind).

The obvious subject of research become clear when I found out that Energotehcomplet S.R.L. has the rights only on part of the land where the future apartment buildings were build. While the

area designed for parking and Kaufland hypermarket is owned by Zalimov Albert Boris - an unknown deceased person.

## 4.2. Background research

The background research started with access to public information and documents available on the online databases of Moldovan state institutions (Cadastru, Registru, Moldovan Justice Courts online databases, Chisinau City Hall online database etc.). But the most critical information that helped to formulate the hypothesis came from two sources: Facebook post of a Moldovan activist Oleg Brega and a public dialogue organized by a construction company Energotehcomplet.

So the first standard search was checking the land property of the area. While the apartment construction lot of the 3.123 hectares was given to Energotehcomplet, the adjacent construction lot of 4.115 hectares (designed for parking and Kaufland hypermarket, according to the project) has been owned by Albert Zalimov - a person completely unknown in Moldova.

According to cadastre document, Zalimov became an owner on February 11, 2015 (*in the picture above<sup>4</sup>*) as a result of an auction, while the previous owner, City Development S.R.L. lost its right of property as a result of Court decision.

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2.2	Bunul imobil 0100101.662	Stins
	Cota parte 1.0	
	Proprietarul Societatea cu Răspundere Limitată CITY DEVELOPMENT, (01.12.2005), Codul Personal 1005600056605	
	Domiciliul / Sediul CHIȘINĂU CENTRU, mun. Chișinău, Vlaicu Pircălab nr. 63	
	Temeiul înscrierii Act de Predare-Primire nr. f/n din 15.11.2006 (0100/06/44470)	
	Contract de vânzare/cumpărare nr. 8795 din 15.11.2006 (0100/06/44470)	
	Data înregistrării 15.11.2006	

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2.3	Bunul imobil 0100101.662	
	Cota parte 1.0	
	Proprietarul ZALIMOV ALBERT BORIS, (10.05.1961), Codul Personal 0961107420279	
	Domiciliul / Sediul	
	Temeiul înscrierii Proces verbal al licitației nr. 080-N276 din 29.12.2014 (0100/15/21944)	
	Data înregistrării 11.02.2015	

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I googled his name to find out more details on who might be the owner of a four million-dollar land. But I didn't find any detail, but a Facebook post<sup>5</sup> published by Moldovan blogger and activist Oleg Brega in April 2, 2015. In his post, Brega describes a situation in which he received

<sup>4</sup> Cadastre offprint of the 4.115 hectare land (cadastral code: 0100101.662) located at Testemitanu Str. 3, Chisinau, Moldova ([link to the cloud](#))

<sup>5</sup> Oleg Brega's Facebook page ([post on Zalimov](#))

an anonymous message with a story about a person from Chisinau named Albert Zalimov who was killed few days after he tried to sell the very same construction lot to various businessmen.

After that I went back to the cadastral register to check for Zalimov's ID number and then I checked this number on population register website<sup>6</sup> whether the person is alive or dead, which is allowed by the online service. And the information was confirmed. According to the population register Zalimov Albert Boris, the owner of this lot, was dead.

As no one could benefit from someone's property without his consent, the obvious question came up: "How Kaufland could plan and develop any construction projects on the land owned by dead person". Based on this question I draw a list of possibilities of what could happen: a) There was a fraud behind; b) There was a court case and/or decision behind; c) There was an agreement between Kaufland and Zalimov's successors. As I couldn't check the last version, I decided to check the other two.

So, I started with checking the courts' databases with the hope to find more names and connections to Albert Zalimov. After several failed tries on first level courts' databases, I found out a case which included his name on second level court website<sup>7</sup>. The case title referred to the Moldovan penal code Article 191. "Embezzlement"<sup>8</sup>. The defendant's name were Iurie Cocirla. By googling this name I found few searching results that suggests that there is/was a police officer with the same name working in Chisinau. The next court meeting in this case were planned on April 25, 2017.

Before going to the court meeting, I've made an FOI request at persecutors office and the police on the past and ongoing investigations related to both Albert Zalimov and Iurie Cocirla. I've also checked the construction project approvals on Chisinau City Hall website. On their online platform I found out that the local authority is organizing a public dialogue along with Energotehcomplet for all the people interested in the ongoing construction on April 21, 2017.

On that meeting, I heard people publicly speaking about dead landlord who tried to sell his property before his death and Kaufland planning to build the hypermarket there. The last fact has been confirmed by Energotehcomplet manager Eugen Turcan in an interview. At the same public dialogue meeting I've managed to talk to Chisinau City Council opposition member, Alexandr Odintov, who confirmed the murder story of Albert Zalimov and the fraud organized by some policeman. He was also the first one who revealed the information that land has been seized, thus the public dialog has been organized illegally.

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<sup>6</sup> State register authority "Registru" [website](#)

<sup>7</sup> Moldovan justice courts [official online database](#)

<sup>8</sup> Moldovan Penal Code, Article 191. Embezzlement ([official website link](#))

### 4.3. Forming the hypothesis

So, the hypothesis was based on the information received during the background research. In order to prove this hypothesis, I've drafted three questions that needed to be answered:

- a) Who is Albert Zalimov and how an unknown person became an owner of a multimillion-dollar land?
- b) Is a police officer involved in the story? If yes, at what level?
- c) In case if fraud/murder story is confirmed, how did Kaufland ended up to plan a hypermarket on such troubled land?

### 4.4. Identification of outlets for publication

I didn't have any dilemma related to identification of a media outlet that would wish to publish my investigation. In my case the media outlet has been identified before the subject has been chosen. It was RISE Moldova - an investigative online media outlet where I used to work since 2015. So after the investigation hypothesis has been defined - I pitched this idea to RISE Moldova.

### 4.5. Approaching editors

If speaking about editors of the story I would mention that I was working in parallel with two editors: a) David Crouch - my mentor teacher and investigative project coordinator at the university and b) editorial board at RISE Moldova: Nicolae Cuschevici and Iurie Sanduta.

Before pitching the idea to the editors I had to decide if this investigation is one of a public interest or not. There were no clear evidence of the fraud related to public money. So at first sight there were more private than public interest. In order to be sure that I'm moving in the right direction, I've addressed professional literature. In his book "A watchdog's guide to investigative reporting", South-African journalist Derek Forbes raises the question and gives the answers to such situations: *"But what does the public interest means? Public interest does not mean – whatever interests the public. It refers to serious matters about which the public has or should have a legitimate concern. [...] These include:"***If the activity is used to expose a crime or serious misdemeanour**".<sup>9</sup>

So to be as convincing as possible, I went to editors with an argument based on two facts: a) A possibility that a public person (a policeman) is involved in a crime; b) German investor is coming on Moldovan market in some non transparent conditions. In the end, the investigation has been approved by both, editors at RISE Moldova and David Crouch.

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<sup>9</sup> "A watchdog's guide to investigative reporting" by Derek Forbes [Chapter 7. "Ethical Pitfalls and the slippery slope", Pag. 55]

After it was approved for future development and decided that it will be made in video format, the editorial board of RISE Moldova assigned to the project four more persons in order to ensure that the investigation will be undertaken according to the media outlet standards: *Liuba Sevciuc - video department coordinator at RISE Moldova; Constantin Ciubara - cameraman at RISE Moldova; Inna Civirjic - fact-checker at RISE Moldova; and Alexandr Enin - video editor at RISE Moldova.*

#### 4.6. Methods

Early in the research process, one of the editors, Iurie Sanduta, put me and Liuba Sevciuc in touch with prosecutor Corneliu Bratunov, who in 2015 has been chief of the Department for Criminal Investigation on Exceptional Causes within the General Prosecution Office of Moldova. After an informal meeting with him, Bratunov put us in contact with Anatolie Pitel - a persecutor on the Iurie Cocirla case and helped us to convince Pitel to provide a full indictment of the state investigation. Pitel also agreed to give us a supporting interview on the case. Eventually, this indictment became one of the biggest piece of evidence of the investigation.



However, our proper research started with visiting the court meeting in Iurii Cocirla's (*in the picture*) case on April 25, 2017. During this court meeting we managed to talk to Cocirla and his lawyer.

We wanted to make the video interview with Cocirla as perfect as possible from the first shot (knowing that it might be also the last chance to meet Cocirla in person). My main focus was on the eye-level or high/low-angles<sup>10</sup>. In his book “The Filmmaker's Eye: Learning (and Breaking) the Rules of Cinematic Composition” American director, video editor and film school lecturer Gustavo Mercado mentions the following rules behind these angles: “*it is very common to see low angle shots used to convey confidence, power, and control, and high angle shots weakness, passiveness, and*

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<sup>10</sup> “A high angle shot places the camera above eye-level, and results in a framing that has the audience looking down on a subject. A low angle shot, on the other hand, places the camera below the eye-level, and lets the audience look up at a subject.” - a quote from the book “The Filmmaker's Eye: Learning (and Breaking) the Rules of Cinematic Composition” by Gustavo Mercado [*Principles of Composition and Technical Concepts*], Pag. 9]

*powerlessness.*” In other words, “*the height of the camera relative to a subject can be used to manipulate the audience’s relationship to that subject.*” - concludes Mercado<sup>11</sup>.

The day after we finally get an approval to access the full indictment from the prosecutor. The fact that Anatolie Pitel gave us all the investigative material was legal and, most probably, in the interest on the state prosecution<sup>12</sup> because the case had a happy ending. Thus, avoiding traditional FOI requests to the legal authorities and going directly to the persecutors was a good decision. This way of approaching legal system has been also mentioned as a good solution by Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist William C. Gaines who said in his book “Investigative Journalism: Proven Strategies For Reporting the Story” that “*there is a high level of difficulty in getting reports on crimes investigated by the police, there is even a greater level of difficulty in getting information from the police about their own problems.[...] Reporters have learned to live with such customs by getting information from the county prosecutors or from the court records.*”<sup>13</sup> The same day Anatolie Pitel gave us an interview.

#### *4.6.1. Our own field work in the Zalimov-Cocirla case*

By having the full prosecutor’s indictment on our table and interviews with both sides of the official investigation: state prosecution and defendant, we’ve made a plan of our own research on the case. It was important for our investigation to check all the information ourselves as the Cocirla case was still undergoing at the time of filming of the report. Our own investigation was based mainly on interviews, as follows (according to initial investigative plan):

- a) **Interview with people who knew Zalimov personally and could talk more about his private life.** In the end, we managed to receive an interview of his son in law - Romeo. We also tried to talk to his son - Dmitrii - who refused to talk to us.
- b) **Interview with people who was in negotiations with Zalimov to buy the land.** We managed to make a phone interview with Ion Budu, a Moldovan businessman who was close to buy the land from Zalimov.
- c) **Interview with Cocirla’s accomplices: Oleg Naboca and Serghei Cataev.** They both refused interviews. However, we managed to talk to Naboca’s neighbors and with Naboca and Cataev’s parents.

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<sup>11</sup> “The Filmmaker’s Eye: Learning (and Breaking) the Rules of Cinematic Composition” by Gustavo Mercado [*“Principles of Composition and Technical Concepts”, Pag. 9*]

<sup>12</sup> Although it is not considered an open information in Moldova, the indictment was released to us legally under the Decision No.218 took by Supreme Court of Moldova in 2015 which states that prosecutors and judges can make public any information related to investigations and court cases before the final court decision in case if that is decided as beneficial by those prosecutors or judges.

<sup>13</sup> “Investigative Journalism: Proven Strategies For Reporting the Story” by William C. Gaines [*Chapter 6. “Examining the Police and the Courts”, Pag. 134*]

- d) **Interview with victims of the scam - actual landowner City Development S.R.L.**  
We've made an undercover interview as an official interview has been refused.

Besides interviews, we've also made some "field work" related to the ongoing construction such as filming it from different angles (with both, camera and a drone) and trying to get on the construction field and talk to the workers there in order to find any useful information. Despite getting a lot of filming material we've managed to make an interview with only one person - the guardian of land owned by Zalimov - who refused to give details about his employer.

#### *4.6.2. Approaching Kaufland and actual land owner*

As Kaufland story was an important part of our investigation we've undertaken several actions to find out whether the German retailer was developing any project or not. In order to demonstrate the fact that Kaufland is breaking the law by developing a project on the land owned officially by a dead person we had to find out all the details on the future project. In order to find them we've undertaken chronologically the following actions:

- a) **FOI request to the City Hall** to access the information on the authorisations given for the construction/project development on the land owned by Zalimov.
- b) **Interview with the actual owner** - City Development S.R.L. on relationship with Kaufland
- c) **Interview with Kaufland** on all the information resulted from the previous two actions.

The City Hall replied that there are no documents or authorisations related to the land owned officially by Zalimov. At the same time, City Council member Alexandr Odintov told us in a private discussion that Zalimov's son, Dmitrii Zalimov, received \$20.000 from City Development to renounces his right of successive ownership in order to end up the arrest as fast as possible as the Moldovan company was interested to sell it in reasonable term to German retailer.

We couldn't use this information in any way as we didn't have any evidences that this fact actually happened. So we went to City Development S.R.L. to make an interview. To our surprise, City Development - an obvious victim of the situation - refused to give us an official interview. However, we've managed to make an undercover video recording while talking informally with City Development's manager Elena Balan.

In this interview, Balan confirmed that her company is in advanced talks with Kaufland and that German partner will build the hypermarket on the land owned by Zalimov. Later on, we realized that this part of the interview is the biggest evidence that Kaufland undertook concrete actions to seize the land involved in fraud scandal and owned by murdered taxi-driver.

We went for an interview to Moldovan branch of the German retail giant as well. But the person we've meet there refused us any interviews. He suggested us to write to their press representatives instead. This is what we did. In few days we've received their answers that was more ambiguous than concrete. Kaufland refused to mention any concrete land lots where they plan to build hypermarkets, mentioning only that they have huge plans for developing their business in Moldova.

#### **4.7. Hypothesis evaluation in the light of evidences**

We found much more information on the first part of the investigation related to the scam organized by policeman Iurie Cocirla. It was possible due to persecutors interest to make this case public, on one hand, and to the effort we've made to find and interview all the parties involved in this case.

At the same time, Kaufland part of the investigation wasn't fully confirmed by the evidences. However we didn't drop this segment out of the report as there was at least three proven facts that we've managed to demonstrate:

- a) Kaufland didn't deny its interest in building a new hypermarket on the land owned officially by the murdered taxi-driver
- b) Kaufland didn't undertook any legal action against Energotehcomplet S.R.L. which used Kaufland brand in their advertising for future construction project
- c) Actual owner of the land lot - City Development S.R.L. - confirmed unofficially that they are in talks with Kaufland regarding the future supermarket on the site

### **5. Production of the finished report**

The full research and filming were completed by May 6, 2017 or three weeks before the publication deadline. At that stage we reserved two more weeks for post-production (writing the text and video editing).

#### **5.1. Structure of the feature**

As the big part of our investigation was based on the indictment from the prosecutor we decided to separate ourselves from the prosecutors. We've made that in order to avoid any accusation of labeling from people for our story, on one hand, and to evidentiare results of our own research. Thus, we always quoted prosecutors where we were using information from the indictment and were using the word "we" where we presented our own research. This is a technique mentioned by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein in their book "They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing" where they state: "*if you consistently avoid the first person in your*

*writing, you will probably have trouble to make the key move - differentiating your views from those of others.*”<sup>14</sup>

During the video editing process we paid a special attention to the beginning of the story. I’ve inspired the format of the beginning or “the hook” of the story from Bruce Block’s book “The Visual Story: Creating the Visual Structure of Film, TV and Digital Media” where he says: “*the beginning of the story is called exposition. Exposition can be defined as the facts needed to begin the story. These facts include (but are not limited to) the identity of the main characters, their plot situation, location, and time period. If the audience is not given the facts they need (or think they need), they can never become involved in the story because they’re distracted with trying to fill in the missing exposition.*”<sup>15</sup>

However, one of the main questions on the structure were: “How the narrative should be organized?”, in conditions where there are two interconnected stories. Our solution was to make Zalimov-Cocirla case as the centre of the narrative, while Kaufland story should be part of both, “the hook” and the ending which would give more actuality of the story. This scheme has been also supported by the volume and quality of the evidences.

## **5.2. Use of quotes and evidences**

Not all of the quotes have been used in the final version of the feature. Some of them have been excluded because they didn’t have big connection to the story. For instance, we didn’t use an interview with the guardian from the land lot, or didn’t include the gonzo-type video interview filmed at Kaufland’s office as we received their official answer via email. We also didn’t include the material we’ve filmed during public dialogue, even though it contained a “scandalous performance” of a City Council opposition member, Alexandr Odintov.

As for the evidences, we tried to include the most relevant fact into the story as we had a lot of material behind. For example, the prosecutor’s indictment had more than 40 pages and each of them included names, phone numbers, addresses and other details. Obviously, we couldn’t include all of them.

## **5.3. Ethical dilemmas**

The biggest ethical dilemma has been the the use of the undercoverd interview made with City Development’s manager Elena Balan. We had a huge reason to include it in the feature mainly

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<sup>14</sup> “They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing” by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein [Part 5. “And Yet”, Pag. 72]

<sup>15</sup> “The Visual Story: Creating the Visual Structure of Film, TV and Digital Media” by Bruce Block [Capture 9. “Story and Visual Structure”, Pag. 222]

because of two facts: *a)* City Development - a victim of the situation - wasn't acting transparent by refusing the interview; *b)* in the interview, Balan confirmed Kaufland's interest in the land.

Another ethical concerns were related to the interviews made with neighbors and relatives of Cocirla's accomplices Oleg Naboca and Serghei Cataev. In most of these interview, people were concerned by the fact that they are actually questioned. In one of the case, for example, Cataev's mother has been caught while entering her apartment. Obviously, she was very upset by the fact that she was filmed.

All these pieces have been included in the final cut of the feature after RISE Moldova's lawyer, Vitalie Zama. He concluded that all the interviews represent journalists' efforts to show as many evidences as possible to demonstrate a subject of public interest, on one hand, and to give right of reply to all the involved parties, on the other hand.

## **6. The results of the investigation**

The investigation resulted with 70-seconds teaser story, published on May 22, 2017, aimed to produce a buzz on internet and create a newsworthy impact based on Kaufland's future investment on the troubled land. The publication continued with the full 14-minutes video report revealed in three languages on RISE Moldova's website the day after, May 23, 2017. To the date of submission of this report, more than 90.000 people read the story on the website, while the video on YouTube gained more than 41,600 views<sup>16</sup>. The story has been quoted by more than 20 media outlets on Moldova and abroad (i.e. Quoted by GIJN on Twitter<sup>17</sup>)<sup>18</sup>.

### **6.1. Limitations of the investigation**

The biggest limitation of the investigation is the fact that it didn't demonstrate if Kaufland committed any illegal actions related to its future investment in the land. We can assume that Kaufland signed a preliminary contract with City Development S.R.L. which includes the land lot officially arrested by legal authorities. At the same time we assume that Kaufland has lobbied the public dialogue on future construction, organized under the umbrella of City Hall. In case if these happened, both actions have been illegal. They are against the law not only because of the arrest of the land, but mainly because the official owner has been and still is a deceased person.

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<sup>16</sup> "THE MURDER BUSINESS" on [RISE Moldova's YouTube page](#)

<sup>17</sup> GIJN official page on Twitter ([link to the post](#))

<sup>18</sup> Hyperlinks to quotes in media: [PRO TV](#) (Moldovan branch), [Moldova.org](#), "[Adevarul](#)" newspaper (Moldovan edition), [Deschide.md](#), "[Timpul](#)" newspaper, "[Evenimentul Zilei](#)" newspaper (Moldovan edition), [Actualitati.md](#), [News.yam.md](#), [Ziar.com](#), [Pescurt.ro](#) (Romania), [ZiareLive.ro](#) (Romania), [Mold-Street.com](#), [Newsmd.md](#), [Crime Moldova](#), [Point.md](#), [Golos.md](#), [Bani.md](#), [Bloknot-Moldova.md](#), "[Argumenty i Fakty](#)" newspaper (Moldovan edition), [NMedia.ro](#) (Romania), [Ultimele-Stiri.eu](#)

## 6.2. Investigative potential of the possible follow-ups

The story has a big follow-up potential as the Cocirla's court case is still ongoing, Zalimov is still the landowner (as of September 11, 2017<sup>19</sup>) and Kaufland is still interested in this land. Any changes in one of these three facts will be newsworthy and might revitalize the public interest for the land and its background.

But from the investigative point of view, the biggest potential is behind the systemic problems raised by this investigation. One of them related to incapacity of the state to monitor its legal institutions employees to commit frauds similar to that committed by Iurie Cocirla. The fact that he succeeded to change the owner of the million-dollar land located in the capital city centre and has been minutes away to sell it shows that legal system lacks instruments to protect people and their property. An investigation on similar cases might fulfil this gap and show the problem on larger scale.

Or maybe there is a much higher corruption behind this case. During the investigation we've been told at least twice that there is a probability that Iurie Cocirla, sentenced for 23 years in prison, might be just a scapegoat and the real scammers are much more powerful people. The fact that the trial and land arrest is undergoing for months might support this hypothesis.

Another investigative potential is related to Kaufland's business interest in Moldova. The company acts extremely non-transparent, at least now. While saying that they plan to build 18 hypermarkets and create more than 15.000 working places in the nearest future, German retail giant doesn't disclose such



information as financial terms, exact hypermarket locations and even the deadlines for proposed investments<sup>20</sup>. The universal explanation for hiding this information is “commercial secret”. I believe, a methodical research on all the future hypermarkets might reveal much more “skeletons in Kaufland's closet” similar to the scandal generated by “The Murder Business”.

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<sup>19</sup> Cadastre offprint of the 4.115 hectare land (cadastral code: 0100101.662) located at Testemitanu Str. 3, Chisinau, Moldova ([link to the cloud](#))

<sup>20</sup> “Kaufland Moldova” [official website](#)

## 7. Literature and list of sources

### 7.1. Literature

“A watchdog’s guide to investigative reporting”, by Derek Forbes, ISBN: 09584936-6-9

“Investigative Journalism: Proven Strategies For Reporting the Story”, by William C. Gaines, ISBN: 978-0872894143

“They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing” by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, ISBN: 978-0393933611

“The Visual Story: Creating the Visual Structure of Film, TV and Digital Media” by Bruce Block, ISBN: 978-0240807799

“The Filmmaker’s Eye: Learning (and Breaking) the Rules of Cinematic Composition” by Gustavo Mercado, ISBN: 978-0240812175

### 7.2. Official sources:

Constitution of Republic of Moldova

Î.S. Registru official website

Î.S. Cadastru official online database website

Moldovan Justice Courts official online database

Moldovan Penal Code

Decision No.218, by Supreme Court of Moldova

Kaufland Moldova official website

### 7.3. Media:

RISE Moldova official website

PRO TV official website (Moldovan branch)

“Adevarul” newspaper official website (Moldovan edition)

“Evenimentul Zilei” newspaper official website (Moldovan edition)

“Argumenty i Fakty” newspaper official website (Moldovan edition)

“Timpul” newspaper official website

### 7.4. Online media:

CrimeMoldova.com, Pescurt.ro (Romania), ZiareLive.ro (Romania), NMedia.ro (Romania), Moldova.org, Deschide.md, Actualitati.md, News.yam.md, Ziar.com, Mold-Street.com, Newsmd.md, Point.md, Golos.md, Bani.md, Bloknot-Moldova.md, Ultimele-Stiri.eu

### 7.5. Social media:

RISE Moldova official YouTube page

Oleg Brega’s Facebook page

GIJN official page on Twitter

### 7.6. Pictures, Logos, Screenshots:

RISE Moldova; University of Gothenburg; Î.S. Cadastru; Energotehcomplet S.R.L.