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Compassion

Members' magazine for RAV, the national organization for relatives to those violently killed.

“Dä ä te å göre skillna på fölk å fölk” (“It’s about differentiating people and people” in a heavy Swedish *Värmländsk* dialect)

Carina Abrahamsson “Counsel for the injured party is needed through the entire process”

Sven-Erik Alhem “A compassionate support is essential”

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RAV's intent is to support and influence public opinion in favor of relatives or otherwise akin to victims of killings or those who are assumed to have been killed. RAV strives to improve support from both surroundings and society.

Photography: Medrek Daniel

The National Organization for relatives to those Violently Killed (*RAV in Swedish*) is a non-profit organization founded in Sweden 1996. RAV mainly consists of those who themselves are relatives or otherwise akin to victims of violent killings. There are also members of the organization that have no direct connection to victims but partake to support and express their stance on the subject.

The organizations purpose is support, gather knowledge and promote solidarity.

Few struck by the death of a loved one know where to turn with questions that arise. Among our members is a shared need for solidarity from those in similar positions. RAV strives to build this community complete with the support in mourning that society often lacks. A support that is critical and merited to those who have suffered this tragedy.

RAV's operation is based on the values set by the UN and EU's conventions on human rights and the UN's Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime.

We at RAV want to:

- Provide understanding and support for kin of those violently killed, not just in the direct wake of the tragedy but also support in the long-term sorrow that follows.
- Actively gather and enlighten questions, problems and experiences that kin may have or be afflicted by.
- Strengthen the voice of those afflicted and make it heard in society and media. RAV also aspires to act as their spokesman in politics and towards governmental bodies.
- Influence public opinion on the subject to improve conditions for kin of the violently killed.
- Act as an agency for referral in legislative and investigative manners related to those violently killed and their kin.
- Educate representatives in improving the representation of kin of those violently killed.
- Contribute to the community of kin to those violently killed.

Compassion is produced through cooperation with students at *Borgarskolan's* media courses.

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Print: Trycktrean 2019

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Missed – Why?

Saturday the third of January 2015 my family got it's before- and after date.

That afternoon our doorbell rang. My husband opened the door and was met by two police officers in civilian clothing who asked to come inside to talk. I remember so well how, before the officers even stated their business, I said "One of our children are dead". So grammatically wrong!

Suddenly everything felt surreal, as if I was in a movie. This is just not happening. The officers told us that it was Marcus, our son, who was deceased.

At first, I assumed he had been in a car accident. He was young with a "new" car and a relatively new driver's license. In a fraction of a second I am infuriated with him before the officers say that he was stabbed to death.

Marcus, murdered, stabbed to death! The officer's words don't reach me. My husband and I sat at the kitchen table, no tears, no thoughts just a tremendous feeling of emptiness, as empty as one can be. EMPTY, EMPTY, EMPTY!

We are informed that there had been a traffic accident in the afternoon where the man who caused the accident had stabbed Marcus in the heart and severed the aorta.

Our life-loving Marcus was no more. So terribly difficult, even impossible to comprehend.

Marcus was 21 years old and had his entire life ahead of him. He was a multifaceted person who loved life and lived it fully tongue-in-cheek, a person who always stood up for friends.

A text some of his friends left by his grave describes who he meant to them; *"We all miss you terribly. Our hearts bleed. We miss your smile, laughter and the happiness you gave us. Love you."*

Something I think all parents look forward to is seeing their child grow up and become adults, to see if their dreams are finally reached. Perhaps they will build a family or choose any of the other infinite possibilities of life.

All of these experiences a mentally ill person (paranoid schizophrenia) chose to take from us. He has not only taken our child's life but also a part of our future.

Helene Svensson, Marcus' mother

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A compassionate support is essential

For both victims and their kin, a crime can mean long term suffering, sometimes lifelong, Sven-Erik Alhem says. This is partly why he has volunteered as chairman of Victim Support Sweden.

When we met for a coffee at Gävle Central Sven-Erik Alhem thoroughly tells of his past career as Director of the public prosecution authority and his other experiences with in the Swedish judicial system. Alhem also tells of, in a light south Swedish dialect, his contribution to the Victim Support

Sweden. With his 40 years of experience in the judicial system the amount of knowledge he possesses is obvious.

In May 2009 Sven-Erik was elected chairman of Victim Support Sweden, a position he has held for 10 years. After a long career in the judicial system it was a given to Alhem to accept the offer of chairman.

- I always had an interest in matters of crime victims, for those that are weaker in judicial contexture, he says.

Alhem says that his current task has strong relation to his previous job as Director of the public prosecution authority where a large portion of the job is also both about the legal work and the human connection. The biggest difference is that he is no longer an administrative authority.

- One might think that everyone is fully equal in the eyes of the law, but this is not true. Those who can assert themselves, read and write have a substantial advantage in legal matters. There are also those who do not dare attend court, he says.

Alhem can now choose his work tasks and conditions. He is elected and...

[Facts Sven-Erik Alhem, Age: 77 years, Occupation: Chairman of Victim Support Sweden after a long career in several positions within the judicial system, one being Director of the public prosecution authority. As a retiree Alhem is now often recruited as an expert of law and as an expert commentator in legal matters, Resides in: Gävle]

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...not appointed by government as he previously was, which he is happy with.

- I am as free as a bird and can do what I wish. Victim Support Sweden has 73 local helplines who provide compassionate support for crime victims. To Sven-Erik Alhem the compassionate support is essential. He explains that police usually convey information of victim support but not quite as effectively as he would like.

- We would of course like to be as well-known as *BRIS* (another Swedish helpline for abused children), he says.

The most difficult questions Alhem has worked with are witness preparedness, witness predisposition and witness liability.

- In reality everyone is beholden to testify but that is not always the case.

Those who are subject to witness fear are a crucial group to the crime victim as the prosecutor holds the burden of proof.

Sven-Erik Alhem believes that both crime victims and the relatives of victims are important groups that are often afflicted with lifelong suffering with little to no support except for during the direct wake of the crime.

- In terrorist acts for example or in serious rape cases there is a large strain on not only the victim. In this case it is about people dying but, in some cases, one might be a surviving victim of a murder attempt which leaves the victim completely changed causing relatives' pain.

After a long and informative talk with Sven-Erik Alhem at Gävle Central time is running out and it is time for us to part. We say our thanks, shake hand and say farewell.

[Facts Victim Support Sweden:

A non-profit organization that strives for all crime victims' right to the support they need to regain their strength. The foundation is based on the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Victim Support Sweden consists of local helpline around the country, an association secretary and a national helpline which is free of charge (0200-212019).

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Denied counsel by the court of appeal

"In matters of serious crimes you really want counsel with you for support"

The 28-year-old mother Nella Olander was raped and murdered in a tunnel in *Fagersta*, Sweden. The police contacted her mother Camilla Malmström who was on vacation in Rhodes at the time. She was granted counsel in district court but was denied one in court of appeal. When we meet in *Gävle* fifteen months after the murder she is very critical towards this.

- I wanted to know what was being said in the court of appeal. It was important for me to be present and listen. I wanted to know what motives the defendant stated. The sanction was important to me. The punishment should be severe for such a crime.

It was on the 27th of July 2018 the rape and murder occurred which changed Camilla's life. As the mother of a crime victim she was put in a difficult spot where she had to process both her own grief but also help her now orphaned grandchild.

- This is very difficult, I'm sorry she says to me as we meet.

She tells me of the call she received from the police.

- It was our last day on Rhodes. I had seen in the newspaper that something had happened in Fagersta and was struck by a feeling of unease immediately. I tried texting my daughter Nella but got no response. Just after the police called.

Camilla has spoken to the officer since.

- Normally they do not give these notices by phone, but since social media spreads information like wildfire it was necessary so that I receive the official statement as soon as possible.

Sometime after, a 28- and 14-year-old were arrested in suspicion of the crime. The 28-year-old confessed. Camilla has strong memory of the court of appeal trial.

- The perpetrator showed no emotions whatsoever, he even laughed mockingly.

They had tried to contact Nella earlier that night but the first time she had managed to avoid them. In court the perpetrator commented "she did not see that feint coming" to the crime victim's family.

- It was horrible sitting there and hearing everything in detail. I looked at the perpetrator twice but after that I did not want to see him anymore.

During the court of appeal trial, where the sentence is to be reversed, Camilla no longer maintained her right to counsel.

- We were lucky enough to be appointed good counsel who came with us anyway. I was going to pay her if she did not come, but she volunteered. That is the small comfort you get from society, that singular representative.

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Other than that, you are completely alone and omitted.

Camilla holds strong feelings regarding the counsel for an injured party amendment.

- I can understand it when it's theft or burglary. But in matters of serious crime you really want counsel with you for support. If there is need for counsel the answer should not be a hard no.

After this entire process the decision of the suspected 14-year-old not being called to court has stuck with Camilla

- That is of course something us kin of the victim find very troublesome. He has committed a gross sexual crime, imagine if he finds it in him to do it again. If a 14-year-old is fantasizing about rape something is very wrong.

To Camilla the recurring theme in all rape cases, no matter how different they may be, is that society always fails the victim and their kin. You always imagine you would get some form of help from society, but you don't.

- I was lucky enough that our priest was in contact with another mother of a murdered daughter. He immediately asked if it would help to meet someone who knew what I was going through.

Meeting those who have suffered similar tragedies has been a big support for Camilla.

- There is no one who has not been through it that knows what it's like, I cannot even begin to describe how it feels.

Camilla has tried to regain a normal life, but the event of course has not left her.

- I have begun working again. But it comes and goes, and I realized just a week ago that I am past the initial shock. It feels different. Before this it was as if I had entered a glass bubble for myself.

She also tells me how her memories of Nella have been taken from her.

- I have not taken out pictures of her as a child and such because it's still too much to bear. Although, I can speak about things like when Nella was little, or Nella did this and that. The crime itself still occupies my thoughts the most though.

- However, she considers. Not the crime itself or the perpetrators but what happened to Nella sort of circulates round and round and round for me.

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Counsel for the injured party is needed through the entire process

Some crime victims are hit harder by the new amendment denying the injured party right to counsel in court of appeal and in the supreme court, says lawyer and counsel Carina Abrahamsson among others.

She has worked in the judicial system for 25 years in many areas of law. Now she serves as counsel for victims of crime.

- It feels good being able to contribute in giving people a voice who might not otherwise have one, she says.

The law (1988:609) on counsel for injured parties was established in 1988, primarily to strengthen the victim in sex crimes.

- The suspect was appointed a public defender, a lawyer representing that person. Then there was of course a prosecutor deciding on whether charges would be pressed or not, Carina says.

In all this the victim was often forgotten.

- A crime was reported, an interrogation was held and so forth until you received a letter stating your date to appear in court. And you had no knowledge, there was no one stepping up to inform you. That was the cause for this law, Carina explains.

Counsel was to support the injured party of in cases of sex crime, keeping the victim's interests in mind, informing them of their claims and compensation for damages. Since 1988 several other areas of law have adopted the right to counsel for the injured party.

But the 1st of July 2018 the law was partly amended.

- With this amendment, which was committed in 2018, the requirements of the legal expert have been increased...

[Facts Counsel for an injured party. Counsel is a particular aide that can be appointed by general judiciary to a victim of crime. In most cases it is a lawyer or a supporting legal expert from a legal bureau who is to conduct the victim's say and provide support and help.

The 1st of July 2018 the rules of commissioning counsel was changed in general court. The amendment states that counsel is commissioned until the time of which the district court can no longer be appealed. Counsel can in some cases be commissioned for the injured party in court of appeal if it is deemed necessary.]

... For example, it was not deemed appropriate that lawyers who had recently passed examination be appointed as counsel in cases of sex crime. If the case involves a child, the legal expert should be experienced in dealing with children. If the victim has suffered serious crime you might need to know how to handle a person in severe crisis, she explains.

"Really it's strange that this has not received more attention"

Carina implies that even though there is talk of strengthening the victim she finds that their help is restricted in different ways. She explains that previously the counsel was automatically included in the entire process, from sentence to district court and eventual reversals in court of appeal. Now the duty of the counsel is done after district court regardless of the sentence being reversed or not. This could cause problems.

- This could leave the victim alone in court with no one to turn to for questions. What happens now? When is the trial? What happens after that? The victim might still need support and guidance until the case is closed and the process is over. One might think this law is amended for financial reasons of government, but in my opinion, it is a minute fee in the scope of the entire judicial system.

Carina gives an example where this was handled terribly:

- It was a gross infringement of a woman's integrity where her male partner had abused her severely for many years. He was detained and sentenced in district court to a long prison sentence but appealed. I was not allowed to continue as counsel. This victim was completely forsaken, there was no one to inform her or help her understand what was going on. If his appeal is then granted there is

no one to tell her that he is released which means he could go to her without her knowing at any time. Also, there is no one to tell the woman when...

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The case is taken to court of appeal despite it eventually leading to his release.

Carina tells of how she often develops a personal connection to her clients and therefore finds issue with the amendment.

- Especially in cases of severe crime you maintain contact over a long time. Then you can't really just let it go and tell someone it's up to you to find this information now. It's not something you just know how to do.

Because of this she will sometimes counsel her clients after case closing – and free of charge.

Even though she has openly criticized and seen a lot of discontent among clients she has not heard any criticism from her peers or anyone else. She also tells of having heard a president of court of appeal express his thoughts on the amendment in local radio.

- He stated that there might be a risk of victims feeling somewhat abandoned in court of appeal after having had counsel in district court. No more than that. It is quite odd that this has not received more attention than it has.

[Feel welcome to book RAV for a seminar

Life can change in a second when subjected to the meaningless violence. Within RAV currently we have three lecturers which tell their story and how despite tragedy life must go on. If you are e.g. a principal at a school, employer, of authority within police or perhaps belong to another important social group and want to contribute in trying to stop the violence. Book a lecture with one of us in RAV. Read more at www.rav.se]

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Relatives' weekend 2019

This weekend RAV, the national organization for relatives to those violently killed, arranged for a weekend at *Hedenlunda Castle* in *Flen*, Sweden.

23 members gathered and shared in each other's destinies of life.

During Saturday members got to know each other by giving everyone their appropriate space to share their loss, experience and grief.

Meeting other victims' kin in similar positions has been very rewarding, we have shared both laughter and tears. Yes, believe it or not, we have been able to laugh together.

During the evenings there has been time for talks in smaller groups, in pairs or if preferred to spend some time alone and reflect on the day's conversations.

Saturday night ended with a nice candle ceremony for our beloved ones.

On Sunday former director of public prosecution visited and held a lecture. He has spent many years as prosecutor, chief public prosecutor and director of public prosecution. Sven-Erik has also worked at the Ministry of Justice but is nowadays retired. Instead, he travels and lectures on the judicial

system which he does with repute. He is also a social commentator on the subject and often appears in television and newspapers.

Several questions were discussed during the weekend:

- How come the prison sentence for murder can vary between 10 to 18 years and sometimes even be lifelong?
- Why does the process between murder to legal force take so long?
- How come some convictions can be based on circumstantial evidence and some cannot?
- Where do kin and relatives of victim go for the help they need?
- Why is one only entitled to 10 therapeutic meetings during the first year? For many relatives and kin, the grief and need for a therapist does not arise until much later where most of the investigation, proceedings and judgments have been completed and passed.

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- Within the RAV-group alone, who is considered the injured party differs significantly. For example, is a sibling of the victim the injured party and why? What does the law say?
- How could the injured party counsel amendment be passed? All injured parties MUST have the right to a committed counsel who is with them all the way until legal force is reached. Preferably the injured party should be entitled to counsel until all damages have been paid.
- How come evidentiary proceedings towards minors are not always held? This is important to the injured parties who then can find answers, or at least possibly find, for their questions.
- Why is there such a difference in the rights the offender has compared to the rights the injured party has? Should it not be obvious that the victims should have the same rights? How is this not a crime against the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 7?
- During some hearings there have been members of audience who have applauded and made disturbances, how is that allowed?
- What is required to start a new trial in cases where preliminary investigations have been resigned? Why does the victim not have the right to demand an uncensored preliminary enquiry report from resigned preliminary investigations?

Even though I myself am pretty bad at talking to people about what I am going through this has been a nice and safe group, encouraging me to gently open up and let others in and talk about what we all carry and struggle with inside.

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My brother Mikael

On the way home from work a Wednesday morning in November 2017 everything suddenly changed. The music quieted down; dad was calling.

Dad: Have you listened to the radio?

Me: No, I've been listening to music. Why?

Dad: They said something on the news.

Me: Oh yeah, what?

Dad: I'm not sure it's appropriate while you're driving?

Me: Please dad, I am super tired, I'm not up for it. What do you want?

Dad: Your mother called and said the police came to her... Your brother is dead – Murdered!

Me: What?!

Dad: They said they've sealed off Sjöstad in Karlstad. It's been all over the news all morning.

Me: How can they be certain it's Micke?

Dad: They've supposedly identified him.

Honestly, I don't know how I made it home that morning, but somehow, I did.

I called my bosses and immediately got time off. I also make sure dad gets to leave work. Everything's just spinning.

It can't be true, not my brother. Why?

I look for more news online. I text some friends and they advise me to check *Flashback* (a Swedish forum) – but to remain skeptical and consider how much trash people post there.

Even though I am tired and worn after working extra hours the past month I can't sleep. People I am merely familiar with start reaching out to me – by text, Facebook messenger, you-name-it. "What's happened? Is it true?".

I concede trying to sleep and go into the city, where dad lives. We hug and we cry. I simply can't process it, it can't be true. It mustn't be true! I call my mother.

Me: Does lil' sis know?

Mom: I haven't told her.

Me: But we must tell her Micke is dead!

Mom: Can you do it?

Me: What do I tell her, that he's dead or murdered?

Mom: I don't know...

Me: I'll tell her he's dead and if she doesn't ask, I won't say more. But if she asks, I can't lie.

Mom: That will do.

I call my little sister and tell her Micke is dead. Even though I try, I can't hold the tears from coming. My little sister has something you might call a *functional divergence* and doesn't react as most others might.

Her: Is mom sad? Is dad sad?

Me: Yes, they both are.

Her: I pity mom, dad and you.

Me: It's a pity for you to.

After the first day of chaos weeks of strange experiences follow. To even understand some parts of it you'd have to know that both me and Micke were adopted by dad. But for some unfathomable

reason dad's adoption of Micke is not registered with *Skatteverket* (The Swedish Tax Agency). The irony of that is that Micke's biological dad died when I was a teenager and then all authorities apparently knew that Micke was adopted. Try to explain that if you can?

"Even though you're considered kin in court insurance companies have their own rules."

The media coverage of the so called "*HA-murder*" is initially routine and nationwide. Journalists call both my siblings and mom; they want a statement from the relatives. The only good thing to come of Micke's non-registered adoption documents is that me and dad are left alone by the uncritical journalists' relentless calling.

How lucky that my sister, thanks to her functional divergence, is not adopted but "only" our sister through being a foster child in our family, sparing her too from the journalists.

Working with postal delivery, including newspapers, after the murder is a nightmare.

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Every morning at work I see the headlines and new speculations regarding the murder. I'm forced to get an electronic subscription so that I can read at home, in peace, without my colleagues seeing me break down every day. This, despite as a postal delivery man having access to both national and local newspapers.

Even though the authorities don't see me and dad as legal relatives they do acknowledge the family. A funeral announcement is posted, and the funeral is planned. The funeral home receives us and leads us through this tragic event in a compassionate manner. The same goes for our contact with police, priests, cantor and singer. Because of the autopsy among other things take time the funeral is not until January 12th, 2018.

Police is present at the funeral, both in an outside of the church, which's comforting for us kin. Truthfully, I could still not comprehend that it was my brother – my big, strong, kind and comforting older brother that is in that casket. A big THANK YOU to police, funeral home, priest, cantor and singer who all contributed to the ceremony being a beautiful farewell!

Shortly after the funeral *Värmlands'* (a county in Sweden) district court find the documents which confirm what the family has been saying the entire time. Meaning that me and dad are also seen as part of the injured party. Which also means that the journalists now start calling us too.

After Micke's murder there's a time when the family is forced to go through a lot of new things and learn new words and what they actually mean.

Those accused for murdering my brother were first exonerated by *Värmlands'* district court but were at the next court instance sentenced to lifetime in prison by Western Sweden's court of appeal. Lifetime meaning that they will be in prison for at least 12 years. (The time they were arrested is included in the time they are to serve.)

12 years, that's a rather short life I'd say!

When they have served 10 years of their sentence, they have the right to appeal for their lifetime sentence to be changed to a dated sentence instead, minimum of 18 years of which two thirds are to be in prison. However, it is not certain that they will get their sentence dated but they are allowed to appeal annually after 10 years have been served.

In the court of appeal's verdict it also appears that the perpetrators are to pay 60 000 SEK in damages for pain and suffering to each member of the injured party. 60 000 SEK for a human life – that's what the supreme court have decided on in prejudicing verdicts for situations like this* (see annotations page 14).

Along with the turn of the year 2018 the sum was increased from previous 50 000 SEK to the current 60 000 SEK.

Damages are not paid automatically but by the injured party who must themselves appeal for it, firstly through a claim towards the accused from *Kronofogden* (the Swedish Enforcement Agency). You're also expected to call your insurance companies and research whether you are entitled to insurance compensation from any of them.

Apparently, I like insurances because I had to make many calls and each time I was met by the same quizzical response. Nobody had heard of anything like this. "We'll have to get back to you".

The rest of the family got similar reactions when they called their insurance companies. Finally, the insurance company made their statement: as a sibling you are not a close enough relative – unless you live together – to be entitled to this compensation.

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So even though you're considered kin in court insurance companies have their own rules. As the perpetrators were arrested two motorcycles were seized to secure assets for compensation and damages. One of the motorcycles were registered to one of the accused. The other one was registered to the accused's partner. The second later became its own legal dispute since Kronofogden already had other claims against him.

(se <https://www.kronofogden.se/en-GB/Utmatning3.html> för översättningar)

The two, now murder convicts, testified to the damages in both district court and court of appeal. When the accused were exonerated in district court the claims on the motorcycles were revoked which led to one of the convicts getting his motorcycle back. He was then able to – before the sentence in court of appeal became final – get rid of this motorcycle so that Kronofogden had nothing to assets to seize. Kronofogden already held claims against the other accused so that ownership matter became its own trial. In October 2019 we were noticed that there were no assets to seize here either.

Brottsoffermyndigheten (the Swedish Crime Victim Support authority) were then our last resort. November 11th, 2019 we were notified that we had been denied damages by *Brottsoffermyndigheten* since the relative (in our case Micke) had been involved in a dangerous and criminal environment.

So despite the damages for kin's pain and suffering *Brottsoffermyndigheten* have the right to deny us compensation – guilty by association.

They base this decision on §12 of *Brottskskadelagen* (the Swedish Criminal Injuries Compensation Act) (2014:322) ** (see annotations).

How this law is not in conflict with Article 7*** (see annotations) in UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights is beyond me?!

The court which is to, in the name of the state, judge in different disputes has the power to make decisions on damages – but still the governmental agency *Brottsoffermyndigheten* can deny this

decree. Brottsoffermyndighetens verdict cannot be appealed. "Dä ä te å gäre skillna på fölk å fölk" ("It's about differentiating people and people" in a heavy Swedish *Värmländsk* dialect)

In Sweden the task of the counsel for the injured party is completed as soon as the court's judgement is passed. That is if you even have the right to counsel.

In Norway the victim of crime maintains their right to counsel until damages are paid. Also, it does not fall on the injured party to claim damages, instead the state covers the cost for the injured party. Then it falls on the state to collect that sum from the accused.

"Dä ä te å gäre skillna på fölk å fölk"

Regarding this Sweden should really look west and be inspired by a more humane way of treating victims.

I'd rather pay the state 60 000 SEK to get him back, but that's not how things work.

Tuesday November 12th I can see that mom has written in the family's Facebook Messenger group that the TV program *Brottsjournalen* (A Swedish televised criminal magazine) are going to cover our "case" in next week's episode. As relatives we were not informed and instead my mother found out when she saw the trailer for said episode.

[* The supreme court have in their practice accepted that damages for pain and suffering be decided generally based on specified pre-determined values. (Refer to cases: NJA (*Nya juridiskt arkiv*, The New Legal Archives in Swedish) 1972 p (page) 81, NJA 1991 p 766, NJA 1992 p 740, NJA 1993 p 68, NJA 1993 p 41, NJA 1996 p 509, NJA 2005 p 919 and the supreme court's verdict November 24th 2017 in case T 4435-16)

** §12 *Brottsskadelagen* (the Swedish Criminal Injuries Compensation Act) (2014:322). "Criminal injury compensation can be mitigated with regards to that the injured party or, if the injury was fatal, the deceased through behavior in relation to the crime or in other similar ways has intentionally or by carelessness increased the risk for injury.

Criminal injury compensation for property damage or pure economic loss can also be mitigated if it is reasonably in regard to the injured party not having taken measures conventional precautionary measures intentionally or by carelessness increased the risk for injury."

*** Article 7 "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination."]

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I chose to contact the channel airing the show and voice my opinion on how unethical we, the family, think it is to not contact us first. I was then contacted by a representative from *Brottsjournalen* who apologized for not contacting us before airing the trailer, something he insured us they usually did but unfortunately didn't have time for this time.

In my experience, this is not true, there are several members of *RAV* - The National Organization for Relatives to Those Violently Killed, who also find that they are not contacted by media before "their case" is broadcasted. If we inquire further True Crime podcasts, who monetize our tragedy, even more is left to be desired ethically. Where is the concern for the victims?

My brother was one of the nicest and most kind people I have known; I would never trade the years we had together. He was also a beloved and cherished son, always ready to assist both of his parents. As a father he was loved dearly, even though he was not always present.

Undoubtedly, he loved his family and stayed in contact with us all.

This certainly doesn't align with general view of a Hells Angels member. What he has done and who he was in that capacity I don't know. I only know that to us, his family, the pain and grief is just as present as for anyone who has lost someone they love and rely on.

The family is still learning to live with this. Some days are better, some are worse.

So why am I writing all of this? So that you, the reader, can get a look into what it is like being a part of a family struck by something like this.

I would like to take a moment and thank friends, colleagues, bosses and other relatives and their friends and families. Also, thank you to friends and colleagues of Micke who have expressed their condolences and shown that my brother knew a lot of good people who also miss and grieve him. None of us relatives would have taken us through this without our respective safeties.

Finally I would like to thank our second counsel Kristina Boethius and the law firm Thomas Bodström, who both have been an incredible support and sounding board throughout this entire process.

See you on the other side //Maria

[Vision & Goal

Vision 2025

Through good spreading of information RAV works towards strengthening relatives' support in society whilst also helping people in mourning.

Goals

Influence politicians on relatives' negative place in society

Indicator: Visit all political parties over 4% annually.

Indicator: Visit authorities and municipalities continuously every year.

Create opinion in society.

Indicator: Increase Facebook followers by at least 500 annually.

Indicator: Increase Instagram followers by at least 100 annually.

Hold meets for relatives/kin and friends/siblings.

Indicator: Three relatives' meets per year in Gothenburg, Stockholm, Örebro, Västerås and Gävle.

Indicator: Two friend and siblings' meetings per year in Hudiksvall and Umeå.

Indicator: One Relatives' weekend annually, destination decided annually.

Indicator: 2020 – Two meets spring term + one meet autumn term along with one Relative's weekend autumn term.

Indicator: 2021/2022 – One meet and one weekend spring term + one meet and one weekend autumn term.

Increase membership count in RAV.

Indicator: Membership amount increases by 15 per year.

Indicator: Supporting members amount increases by 20 per year.

Operational plan 2019-2020

Contribute to be a beneficiary in *Världens Chans*.

Maintain the *90-account*.

Contribute to the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority's Crime Victim's week.

Pursue work towards Nordic Collaboration with Finland and Norway (Denmark is dormant).

Develop voluntary work with more volunteers and educations in all crisis- and trauma management.]

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GDPR – a notice for all members

You have probably heard of GDPR on several occasions by now. GDPR stands for General Data Protection Regulation and is a new data protection law that took effect within the EU the 25th of May. GDPR replaces the Swedish personal information law (PUL).

Your personal integrity and our handling of our members' personal information is important to us. For you as a member of our organization to feel safe with how RAV handles your information we have reviewed our membership registry and now use a cloud-based service at Visma which abides by GDPR.

For our members in RAV this decree states we must declare what personal information we have, how we handle it and what we use it for.

We store the following data in our membership registry:

Name, address, telephone number, mail address. Whether you are; relative/kin, supporting member or sponsor.

We use this data to:

Notify membership fees, declare our number of members in applications for resources for the organization, collect members' views on the organization through surveys, send out e.g. invitations to activities, information in form of i.e. flyers, and our members' newspaper.

When you applied for membership in RAV you supplied your personal information. We consider this your consent to our handling of your personal information in this manner. If you choose to cancel your membership your personal information will be deleted from our registry automatically.

However, you must notify us if you should like to cancel your membership. Please remember to notify us should your personal information change, e.g. new address or phone number so that our information is up-to-date and correct, this way you avoid missing important information send-outs.

Should you have any questions you can contact spokesman Ewa-Britt Gabrielsen at 070-534 18 82 or at rav1996@live.se.

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Magnus Ljung is the only member of the RAV board who has not lost a beloved one to crime himself. Instead, he has very different experience. During 25 years as a police officer he saw how relative's lives were affected – and was baffled by how little society supported them.

We call Magnus Ljung and discuss what he has to say regarding legal matters and his engagement in RAV's organization. He has a long and interesting career behind him and when he applied for the Police Academy in the early 90's the will to make a difference motivated him. Ljung has among other things worked in different action units and for the United Nations Internationally.

- I started working with victims of crime and personal protection and realized I knew too little which was when I came into contact with Ewa-Britt Gabrielsen and RAV. During the investigation of the murder on *Öster* (A neighborhood in Gävle, Sweden) I became responsible for the care of the affected family which Ewa-Britt expertly counselled me in.

This led to Magnus being offered a position in the RAV board which he has been for several years now. He left the police force in 2015 and has since then worked with unaccompanied refugees in *Sandviken* and as coordinator for honor violence and violent extremism at Gävle's municipality. Now he lectures for his own firm and was elected as the second spokesman for RAV along with Ewa-Britt Gabrielsen.

- I noticed the subject of relatives and family of victims was often neglected and found I wanted to help change that. I have learnt a lot both personally and professionally through my work in RAV, Magnus says.

We ask magnus how he hopes matters of crime victims might change in the future.

- That's a very broad question. The most critical point however must be acknowledging the relatives and kin. That you understand the trauma that the violent loss of a relative does to a family which is what authorities and the public must realize as soon as possible.

Magnus says that RAV among other things has suggested a crisis coordinator within municipalities to help relatives with practical matters which might be hard to handle when in severe grief.

We thank Magnus for a rewarding conversation and clarification on matters of crime victims and RAV's organization.

[The entire RAV board is presented the following pages...]

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Meet the RAV board

Ewa-Britt Gabrielsen

Commissioner and spokesman, Gävle

I am the mother of Marcus who was kicked to death on Kungsgatan 4 in Stockholm the 5th of May 2005. Marcus died from the severe kicks he had received to the back of his head. He was our only child and would have been 30 in September, that same year he was violently murdered by three young assailants. In a single second our lives were changed forever, never to be the same again.

Marcus had a saying "Spend your energy on good think and think positive" which we have tried to do to honor Marcus.

Marcus' father and I were elected into RAV's board in May 2009. Sadly, my husband passed away in November the same year. Another profound tragedy in my life, losing my beloved life partner Oddvar.

Even though it is the most tragic thing one can suffer, losing a family member by someone choosing to extinguish their life, I find my energy in RAV.

Meeting others in the same situation and supporting each other is an important task and where I find power and courage. We strive to influence society's efforts and improve crime victims' support, which is unspeakably inadequate. I am convinced that together we can make a change for the better, "together we are strong".

Roland Jangestig

Commissioner and accountant, Arboga

I am married, a father of three and grandfather. My eldest daughter Emma and her children, my grandchildren, were attacked in their home in Arboga 2008. The children, Maximilian and Saga, did not survive the attack whilst Emma survived with almost no sustained injuries.

My commitment to RAV is to help and support other relatives and kin who have suffered similar tragedies where society fails to support. Sadly, I know firsthand how very lonely you find yourself when the worst thing imaginable strikes.

I want to, through compassion and experience, give the help and support I can to other victims. Also, I want to contribute to the influencing of politicians towards creating a better climate for victims of violence and their kin.

Carina Molin

Commissioner and spokesman, Stockholm

My beloved son Valter was stabbed to death just over a month after his 20th birthday June 2014. The killer was sentenced to two years in prison. It was a shock and a tragedy no one can imagine. I did not want to get out of bed, not suffer through another day, waking up hurt too bad. Now me and Valter's two siblings live with this gaping hole in our hearts we can never hope to fill.

We miss him so everlastingly much, every day. Society has offered no help and the correctional system is, in my eyes, one big joke. Eventually I felt that I needed amends and to fight to change society's inadequate handling of kin to the violently killed. I joined RAV's board in 2015 and have been spokesman since 2017. Here I have found people who understand and share the terrible grief and pain that you live with after losing a child to meaningless violence. Together we help and support each other.

Caroline Gustafsson

Commissioner, Stockholm

The spring of 2014 my life changed completely. I was at the time in the middle of my last year's studies at the University. My little brother Michael was shot and fatally wounded such that he passed away several days later. My family were suddenly the relatives of someone violently killed. As a bigger sister, to be thrown into this hell changed a lot. The University had no regard whatsoever for the situation once all the judicial procedures began. I was forced to choose between dropping out or failing my courses. I suppressed my emotions to support my family, especially my mother and little

brother who was 11 years old at the time. To see all that grief and change of life was incredibly painful whilst I myself felt, and still feel, terrible grief.

I joined RAV's board in 2018 hoping to make, albeit small, a contribution with my experiences. Partly as the daughter of a traumatized and choked mother and partly as the sister of a violently killed brother. To be there for others who find themselves in a similar situation.

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Susanne Klatzkow

Commissioner, Stockholm

I am the daughter of the goldsmith who was robbed and murdered the 27th of March 2013 in Stockholm. In 2015 I came in contact with RAV and a year later I joined the board. This was where I first started processing my father's death. It is a journey that will never end but on which, with time, the anger will fade and make the grief manageable. In RAV I have found people who understand me, support me and accept my grief.

I am driven by the commitment to help other relatives and kin of those violently killed but also by being part of RAV's important work with changing and improving society's shortcomings on the subject. To me it is key to engage politicians in these flaws and to influence them into working towards improvements.

Annelie Gustafsson

Alternate member, Stockholm

In 2014, my beloved son Michael was hit by bullets not meant for him. He was declared braindead some days later and the respirator was then suspended. He lived to be 23 years old.

I fell into what felt like an abyss and struggled to get out, struggled for the will to live, hour by hour. The journey back has been long, it is a battle that will linger the rest of my life. My work as financial manager for several companies, my family, my youngest son and his involvement in sports is my saving grace.

Society failed me and family and friends distanced themselves out of fear and nothing was the same. Despair and darkness are a constant battle in dealing with all that follows when a beloved family member is brutally murdered.

I want to, with my negative experience in the life after as kin of one violently killed, be a part of creating a better future for those who might find themselves in the same traumatic situation that me and the rest of RAV have been in. In RAV I have found new friends-in-mourning who have the strength to hear my despair, over and over. People who understand and share my grief.

[The board

RAV's board is looking for volunteers that want to join and change the inadequate handling of relatives and kin of those violently killed. It is a category of crime victims that have suffered the ultimate tragedy which society leave to their fate. If you want to contribute through charitable work and assist the board in various tasks, contact: rav1996@live.se.

Members

Members' fees 2019

Supporting member/Family/Household 300 SEK/year

Kindred/Relative-of member/Family/Household 300 SEK/year

Swish to phone number: 1234640439

Bank (plus) Giro account: 177 84 32-3

Organizational number: 857209-4129

When paying member's fee by internet and *Swish*, please fill in your name, phone number or email address.

Kindly, along with your payment, send an email to rav1996@live.se with your complete address, name of family members, email address and phone number so that we can contact you.

Donations

Should you want to support us with a contribution, mark your payment with "GÅVA" and an email address.

Bank (plus) Giro account: 177 84 32-3

Swish to phone number: 123 900 65 45

Calendar 2020

February 1 st	Crisis and trauma lecture 3 (for the board/volunteers), lecturer: Psychologist and priest Katarina Tingström
February 16 th	Relatives and Kin's meet
February 21 st	Crime Victims' Day
March 29 th	Annual meeting, lecturer: Björn Ranelid
April 19 th	Relatives and Kin's meet
September 25-27 th	Relatives' weekend
October 25 th	Relatives and Kin's meet
November 7-8 th	Organizational planning/Nordic collaboration

Tid:

200212 16:00 – 18:00 2h

200218 15:00 – 17:00 2h

200226 16:15 - 18:45 1h 45m paus 17:30 – 18:15

200227 13:15 – 15:30 2h 15m

200303 17:45 – 18:45 1h

Tot: 9 h