

## Resignation

It is summer and the sun is shining. The party can begin. From the stage in the square the music is playing. The traditional festival week turns the whole town upside-down.

Most people are in the street: The elderly, families with children, all are attracted by the music and the party mood.

Just over lunch a new sound interferes in the music. The ambulance from the hospital. The sirens are on. In this little town this sound each time gives rise to attention from everyone. What is going on? Is it someone I know who has become ill, or has there been an accident?

In a short time the truth spreads to all the people on the streets and also to the audience in front of the small stage: Homicide! A woman has killed a middle-aged man. The ambulance returns with howling siren to the hospital, but it is in vain. The man is dead. Again the small town has been the scene of a homicide.

Around 7,000 citizens live in our small municipality. Many families live a miserable life with abuse of alcohol and cannabis. It gives occasion to a high rate of homicides and suicides in our small community. Over ten years, sixty people chose to commit suicide in the municipality, and almost every year at least one homicide occurs. It is far higher than in the countries we usually compare ourselves.

Most people seem to resign. Just another homicide! The festival is a long-planned celebration, and the music continues to play as if nothing had happened.



Sculpture, The project 'Stone & Man',  
Qaqortoq, August 2015