



László Tőkés Charged with High Treason

Following a July 2010 presentation held at the Tusványos Summer University (TSU), László Tőkés, President of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania, was denounced by Mircea Jorj, President of the Romanian Social Democrat Party (PSD) in Cluj. According to Jorj, László Tőkés “incited the Szekler (Székely) to demand the Szekler Land’s autonomy by organizing marches on the streets.”

The statement made by László Tőkés is perceived to undermine state authority and is viewed as a severe infringement of the Romanian Constitution. Accordingly, the Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) has charged László Tőkés with treason.

“In November, I was told that the DIICOT filed criminal charges against me, at their central office, on 27 July 2010. My alleged crimes are violating penal code articles 155, 166, and 167,” President Tőkés declared. He finds it peculiar that the DIICOT even filed the charges and initiated criminal action against him.

“It is my firm conviction that criminal action against my regional self-government statements may occur if the following constitutional rights are violated: Article 8 (on political pluralism), Article 39 (on the right of assembly), and Article 40 (on the right of association). Aware of these rights granted by the Romanian Constitution, I sought further information from the DIICOT and the Prosecutor’s Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice,” Tőkés announced.

Tőkés shared, “How could they possibly ignore the fact that I made my TSU declaration in the presence of the Romanian State President and Hungary’s Prime Minister? My opinion is entirely legal. It violates no decrees established in the Romanian Constitution. As a member of the European Parliament (EP), serving as Vice-President, I have never betrayed my country. I have never established contact with either any foreign power or organization in order to derogate the territorial unity, sovereignty, or independence of the state. This fact seems to elude the DIICOT prosecutors.”

“Further, I never incited anyone to disobey the constitutional law, regarding illegal and violent means. Lastly, I never participated in any conspiracy designed to undermine state security,” László Tőkés stated.

According to EP Vice President Tőkés, the manner in which the DIICOT’s Central Office handled this accusation was wholly inappropriate. Mircea Jorj’s malicious complaint has damaged his individual dignity, personal integrity, and public persona. And it tarnishes his participation and the principles celebrated at the 1989 Romanian Revolution. To protect his public image, Mr. Tőkés declared that he would file defamation charges against Mr. Mircea Jorj, citing false accusation, libel, and slander.

Xenophobic Graffiti in Cluj (Kolozsvár)

At several spots in Cluj-Napoca, graffiti has appeared that condemns and demeans ethnic Hungarians. The multiple spray painted inscriptions all read: “Cluj is not Kolozsvár.” The graffiti brought immediate public concern. A plaintiff wrote on an official complaint form, “I demand the mayor’s office take firm action, as soon as possible, against these xenophobic inscriptions.”



Shortly after the complaint was lodged, a reply arrived, in which another citizen argued that the city had an official name and everybody must use that one.

Representatives in the mayor’s office stated that the policemen had not yet observed such inscriptions. If caught and convicted, the perpetrator would be fined between 300-500 RON (92-153 USD).

The basis of the fine would be for vandalism; making a public inscription without the consent of the Mayor’s Office. (A Local Council resolution prohibits this activity.) However, unlike other EU states that do protect their minority citizens, the perpetrator would not be charged with a “hate crime” in Romania.

Return of Confiscated Church Property Perpetually Postponed

For 20 years, the Transylvanian Hungarian historic churches have not regained possession of their property, which was confiscated by a single stroke of the pen more than 60 years ago. Despite passage of a restitution law, the political will to enforce it remains absent. Attempts to obtain property possession are met with endless litigation. Sometimes, the trials even reach France, the European Union (EU) Strasbourg Court.

When this delicate matter is broached, the same despicable discourse is delivered: the matter is still in process. What lies behind these protracted political machinations? In the late 1990s, the leaders of Transylvania’s historic churches were given the answer by Emil Constantinescu, the former Romanian State President.

On 1 November 2010, Roman Catholic archbishop, György Jakubinyi, revealed that answer on Duna TV. “He openly told us that we should not raise high hopes for the complete restitution of church property, because one cannot change the cogwheels of history.” Then, he reinforced his position with one example: “On the Cluj (Kolozsvár) Main Square, every building was owned by the four Hungarian historic churches, until 1948. Now, they belong to the Romanians.”

The former President added, “In the past, the Romanians lived in villages, while Transylvanian towns were inhabited by Hungarian and German citizens. Now, there is a Romanian majority in every city; Cluj (Kolozsvár), for example. For this reason, we cannot ask the Romanians to return back to their villages and hand the city centers back to the churches, who now represent minority groups.”

This public acknowledgment of intentional discrimination validates the fraudulent front feigned, by the Romanian political system. Churches hope that Romanian politicians will eventually run out of fabricated excuses for illegally retaining the stolen properties.

Multilingual Name Plate at Câmpia Turzii (Aranyosgyéres) Declared Illegal

The Câmpia Turzii (Aranyosgyéres) local government passed the decree in 2009, which permitted the Hungarian name, along with the Romanian name, at the entrance of the settlement, despite the fact that only 8% of the residents are ethnic Hungarian.

The Cluj County Court of Justice declared the local decision illegal. In this instance, a local citizen, Mircea Crișan, attacked the local government's decree that allows multilingual name plates. The mere sight of the Hungarian and German names on the plate "disturbed" the vengeful citizen.

Crișan, who brought the case, and claimed the Hungarian name plate to be offensive, declared that he was happy about the recent court decision.

The court decision was motivated by a lack of proper police authorization, when the name plate was erected. The recent court decision triggered deep indignation, within the Hungarian community.

"This is an absurd court decision. Once the local government has passed the resolution, permitting the placement of the multilingual name plate, the court is not entitled to overrule it, since the prevailing law does not forbid it," Jurist András Máté declared for the *Krónika* Transylvanian journal.

Romanian Independent MP in Race against Autonomy

"The autonomy of the Szekler Land is being organized with the compliance of the Romanian government and the Democratic-Liberal Party (DLP)," Călin Potor, independent Member of Parliament (MP) of Alba Iulia County declared in a press conference.

"Step by step, taking advantage of their DLP partners voluntarily putting on blindfolds the Hungarian minority accomplishes the right to self-government in the Szekler Land," the politician assured his audience.

For this reason, the politician demands from the Romanian government to defend national interests, protect the sovereignty of the state, as well as, its territorial integrity and prevent the federalization of Romania, which contradicts laws in effect."



"Unfortunately the situation got out of control," Călin Potor stated. In his opinion, those who keep silent or make vague public declarations should, instead, take a firm stand against such extreme attitudes.

According to Potor George Maior, President of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), Romanians should face the House of Representatives and inform our politicians about "the real situation of these anti-Romanian manifestations."

Hungary Pulls Political Strings to Save Házsongárd Cemetery

The honorary monuments of the Házsongárd graveyard in Cluj (Kolozsvár) are on the brink of destruction. The demolition of the historical Hungarian cemetery and its art relics comes closer each day. Until then, it is desecrated daily: trash burning on graves, sooting (blackening) of restored tombstones, and the removal of protective perimeter fencing.



The Transylvanian Hungarian Pantheon, the Házsongárd Cemetery.

Concerned with these abhorrent phenomena, Oszkár Fűzes, Hungary's ambassador in Bucharest, visited the Házsongárd Cemetery on 12 November. He was flabbergasted at another sight; the recent demolition of an 18th century Hungarian gravestone.

“The proliferation of such mayhem qualifies as a criminal act,” the diplomat declared, while examining the broken pieces of gravestones from the 18th and 19th centuries. Reading the inscriptions, he stated, “It is a heartbreaking, yet tangible fact that the situation is continually deteriorating. It is Romania’s ethical obligation to secure the graveyard, without ethnic or political considerations. It is under their jurisdiction. It warrants immediate protection and intervention by the local authorities.” The Mayor of Cluj (Kolozsvár), Sorin Apostu, was personally contacted about the despicable situation. Official letters of complaint were mailed, warning of the monument destruction in the Házsongárd Cemetery.

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