

DECLARATION

– Kolozsvár/Cluj, 3 November 2006 –

As our churches' representatives, attached to the ethnic Hungarian national community of Romania, with responsibility derived from faith we declare the following:

1. We firmly espouse the autonomy of the Transylvanian Hungarian community, and fully support the rightful claim to its framing.
2. With this object we also provide moral support to Szekler Land's (east Transylvania) case of regional autonomy. Therefore, in accordance with legal possibilities, we facilitate an enunciation of will by means of popular votes.
3. In favor of the realization of a communal autonomy, we consider essential absolute solidarity and firm dialogue – with the attendance of our churches – between all organizational representatives of civilian and political life and all local and regional governments.
4. Similarly, we consider significant and facilitate the representation and uniform proclamation of the Transylvanian Hungarians' autonomy-claims in Romanian political life and at European forums.

It is our conviction that our believers' interest and the unobstructed proceeding of our self-governing churches' duty also demand the overall possession of the communal autonomy.

We consider that this provision serves the interest and benefit of our whole country within the frame of the forthcoming European integration.

Let the future of our churches and minority Hungarian conscience be carried in our common prayers.

Dr. György Jakubinyi, Roman Catholic Archbishop

Géza Pap, Reformed Bishop

László Tőkés, Reformed Bishop

József Templői, Roman Catholic Bishop

Dr. Árpád Szabó, Unitarian Bishop

Zoltán Dezső Adorjáni, Lutheran Bishop

OBVIOUS EVIDENCE OF INTOLERANCE

AT THE BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY

The Hungarian community in Transylvania has been demanding the re-establishment of the Hungarian-language state university since the fall of the communist dictatorship.

The Babes-Bolyai University, where 6,000 full-time Hungarian students pursue their studies, is a self-proclaimed “multicultural” university.

However, the university does not fulfill even the minimum requirements of multiculturalism. Inscriptions – including those on the facade of the University – are exclusively in Romanian.



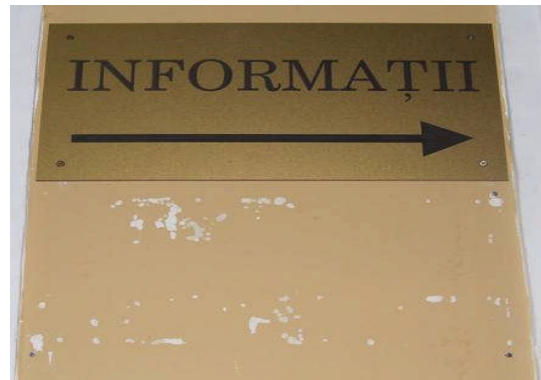
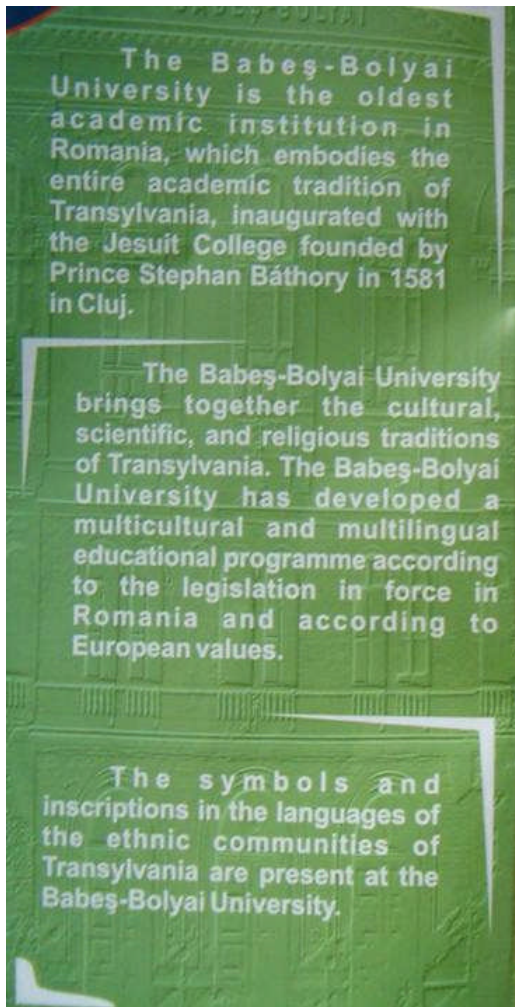
The Hungarian-speaking academic community of the Babes-Bolyai University demanded on several occasions the placement of multilingual inscriptions. The University Senate had a decision in this respect. The management promised the Hungarian teaching staff in 2005 that Hungarian language inscriptions would be placed within a few weeks. Nothing happened for a year.

The University printed a brochure, which stated that there were multilingual inscriptions at the University. Therefore, Hungarian speaking teachers felt encouraged and decided to place the actual Hungarian inscriptions themselves.

These inscriptions were removed by University officials on 21 November 2006. Two academics of the Hungarian speaking staff – Péter Hantz and Lehel Kovács – were fired.

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This English language brochure says that “the inscriptions in the languages of the ethnic communities of Transylvania are present at the Babes-Bolyai University.”



Other signs – like “No smoking” or “Information”, etc. – have also been immediately removed.



A lecture hall was named in memory of Hungarian poet Endre ADY. However, the University only tolerates a Romanian inscription on the door of this room.

OBJECTION

We have learned with astonishment and indignation that academics **Péter Hantz** and **Lehel Kovács** have been removed from their positions by the Senate of the **Babes-Bolyai University**. As leaders of the Bolyai Initiative Committee, they have been fighting for the restitution of the Bolyai University, which was dictatorially dissolved during the communist regime.

This decision reminds us of the dictatorial methods and techniques of the nationalist-communist era. The restitution of the Hungarian-speaking University has yet to be implemented, after having been confiscated decades ago.

Restitution remains the original purpose of the severely sanctioned professors. Their swift punishment, with draconian severity, is done for simply displaying “No Smoking” signs, in the Hungarian language, in the halls of their own university.



Péter Hantz being blocked to place a multilingual plaque at the “multicultural” Babes-Bolyai University.

Before the world, this case demonstrates the true spirit of the Romanian minority-policy: **hypocrisy**. It reveals the stratagem of “bold deceit” before the representatives of the European Union. Consider the following points:

1. Romania holds up the Babes-Bolyai University as an example of its multiculturalism, which it promotes as a great success, to the outside world.
2. Romania flaunts its “purported” multiculturalism at every opportunity, creating a “new myth” to those who fail to investigate the truth, independently.

3. Romania’s EU commissarial representative in Brussels, Leonard Orban, responsible for the European multilingual affairs, speaks of tolerance and the values of multilingualism before the world. But in truth, this representative’s words do not match actions in Romania: this very act of “multilingual intolerance” and outright “discrimination” is clearly a deceit and fraud on an international scale .

4. Romania further builds its “new myth” by organizing an exposition on Babes-Bolyai University’s exemplary activity within the building of the European Parliament. However the “multicultural” Babes-Bolyai University illegally fired the professors, who sought to actually promote the multilingualism. This is blatant hypocrisy.

5. A “multicultural” University accuses the academics Péter Hantz and Lehel Kovács of “defacement,” “extremism,” and “provoking tension among ethnicities.” All this for simply placing “No Smoking” signs in the halls of their own university.

FIRST, having just auditioned in Brussels to occupy his position as Romania’s Union-commissarial representative, we call upon **Leonard Orban** to intervene on behalf of our dismissed professors by using his authority and position.

Further, we ask that he immediately investigate this case of discrimination, which disagrees with the ideology and activity of the European multilingualism.

We remind Leonard Orban that the Hungarian language already belongs to the EU’s official languages. And as of 1 January 2007, Romanian will be similarly classified – so the story is about the free use of two co-equal European languages.

SECOND, at the same time, we call upon **Béla Markó**, President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, Secretary of State in charge of Romania’s EU integration, education, and minority rights, to promptly proceed and act in favor of our arbitrarily removed professors, knowing that their personal offense slaps the whole Hungarian community in Romania. This action violates the following EU legal points: (1) European democratic norms, (2) minority rights; (3) legally set equality of chances in education.

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It is proclaimed year-by-year that the condition of Hungarians is better than ever before. And that the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania is stronger than ever in representing ethnic Hungarian interests. If so, we can ask with good reason: (1) What is really happening in Romania's eager efforts to be integrated into the European Union? (2) How practical and effective is the governmental role of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania?

THIRD, as reporter of the European Parliament, with the chief patronage of whom the representational exposition in Brussels has just been opened, we appeal to **Pierre Moscovici** with a request to proceed in favor of the re-appointment of the dismissed academics, Péter Hantz and Lehel Kovács.

And we also request that he facilitate the restitution of the Hungarian university education in Romania, as well as, the development of Babes-Bolyai University's bilingualism – ordained by an act of the Senate. It is our conviction that Europe should not tolerate an ethnicity-based, direct discrimination.

FOURTH, we appeal to the **National Council to Combat Discrimination** to promptly proceed and investigate the case of: (1) ethnic-lingual discrimination perceived at the Babes-Bolyai University; (2) and also its resulting intimidating actions.

The Hungarian National Council of Transylvania – the Educational Committee of which is lead by adjunct Péter Hantz – offers fellowship to Babes-Bolyai University's removed professors and overall support in their further struggle.

At the same time, we call upon the **Hungarian public life in Romania**, the political and civilian sphere's representatives and leaders, the participators and representatives of academic life, and last but not least, upon our Transylvanian Hungarian churches, to raise their voice in favor of Hungarian university education and of those who have suffered dire consequences helping it.

We turn with a similar request to all good-hearted people, Romanian representatives of political and public life with a democratic feeling, and **Romanian fellow-citizens**.

Let us overtake solidarity with the victims of ethnic discrimination!

28 November 2006

László Tőkés
president

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vice-president

www.hungarianhistory.com

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