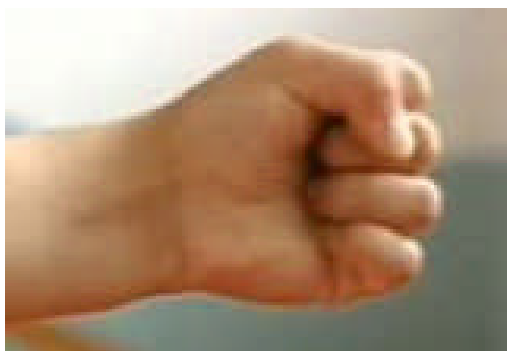


Girls cruelly beaten “...because they spoke Hungarian”

On 9 January 2008, young Hungarian girls were beaten up merely due to the fact that they were speaking in their mother tongue. According to the report of the victims, published in the Cluj/Kolozsvár daily entitled Szabadság, the Romanian-speaking aggressors in numerical superiority had kept the girls' acquaintances away threatening them with a knife. Meanwhile, they forced them to witness the entire brutal incident. The attackers kept on saying: “this is what befalls that person who speaks Hungarian on the streets.”

On 9 January 2008 two Hungarian student girls and two of their friends got involved in an incident after they, on their way home from a party, had entered a store. The two girls were waiting for their colleagues outside the store. Meanwhile they “spoke in Hungarian, since they were Hungarians.” “In a short while we observed that those two guys that had been standing at the front door of the place of entertainment scuttled into the store. They started to pick a quarrel with our friends. The watchman rebuked them and invited them to leave the facility. He did not do anything else”, reported the girls to the daily.



They narrated that in the meantime they were paying attention to the events from outside and were not aware of the reason of the above mentioned squabble. “Suddenly, the two Romanian individuals rushed out angrily from the store. One of them held my friend down, while the other one blocked my way. I told him in Romanian to leave me alone. Then he spat on my face and slapped me. After that four more boys came there, two of them stood at my back, while the other two started to hit my friend”, adds one of the victims.

They asked us whether we were Romanians or not. I answered that we were not. Next they began to cruelly beat us. Our friends stood at the door facing a Romanian boy holding a pocketknife in his hand against them forcing them to watch the events. “This is what happens when somebody speaks Hungarian on the streets.” The aggressors threatened our friends not to get involved; otherwise they would get in big trouble.

Meanwhile a girl cried for help, and, although the street was not deserted, no person would come and check the events. “As they finally ceased hitting us they warned us to next time watch out what language we speak on the streets”, said one of the beaten girls.

Communiqué

“**From Timișoara to Brussels**” was one of the key slogans of my campaign for the European Parliament elections in Romania. It is an important circumstance that the December 1989 uprising – which started the Romanian change of regime and concluded in Romania’s joining to the European Union – grew out from religious soil, namely from the Reformed Congregation of Timișoara/Temesvár. Furthermore, the strong solidarity between local churches made the popular uprising victorious. This or other ideological associations may contribute to the realization that the road once commenced should be continued in the same way and political context: in the light of both Christian and Democratic principles and values.

Taking into consideration the aforementioned, I instantly applied for admission into the EP fraction of the **European People's Party** (Christian Democrats) as I was elected Member of the European Parliament. Previously, **Wilfried Martens**, President of the European People's Party assured me about his support regarding this intention.

I thought that it stood to reason that my application for the EPP membership would be also backed up by the Romanian EPP-member political parties. In this respect, I contacted the Romanian **Democratic Party**, and I succeeded in obtaining a private hearing from Romanian State President **Traian Băsescu** on 5 December 2007.

The primarily objective of my visit – in the company of **Zsolt Szilágyi**, chief of my cabinet and **Tibor T. Toró**, Member of the Romanian Parliament – to the State President was to prevent eventual conflicts. I wished to officially inform the State President and the Romanian political structure about my future strategy: (1) close cooperation with the other 34 Romanian representatives in the European Parliament; (2) an enthusiastic commitment in sustaining **Romania’s** general interests besides supporting the interests of the Transylvanian Hungarian community.

I considered making all these facts plain not only due to the general mistrust that had been artificially generated against me on behalf of the Romanian side, but all those machinations and discrediting campaigns that were initiated once I was elected an EP-representative. Now, I will not mention about the political attacks on behalf of several leaders of the **Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania** (DAHR). First and foremost I am referring to the discrediting campaign against me triggered by certain EP-representatives of the Romanian Democratic Party at Brussels to possibly block my admission into the European People's Party. Since my election, **Jean Marinescu** and his party colleagues labelled me “an extremist” and charged me with “the intention of detaching Transylvania from Romania” in front of European politicians. At home, others called me an “aggressive nationalist”, whereas the media, once my name came up, started speaking about the “Kosovo-precedent”. Actually **Adrian Năstase**, the post-communist ex-premier went the furthest with these charges claiming that due to my election “... Hungary has attained another MEP, while Romania has lost one.”

I distanced myself from these charges and assured President Traian Băsescu of my constructive and collaborative objectives. I wish to seize the opportunity and reassure the Romanian political parties and the public opinion about my aforementioned pledges, since we should not forget the prerequisite that in a healthy European democracy what the Hungarians benefit from, will do good for the Romanians as well. Evidently, the formula also works the other way round. And regarding the root of the clash of views between us: reasonable discussions should take place concerning the **autonomy** for the Transylvanian Hungarian community and the Szekler Land, within the frameworks of the democratic constitutionality and the European Union’s political correlations. Consequently, we are supposed to reach mutual agreement, the most favourable method for this being a Hungarian-Romanian round-table political discussion.

It is well-known that President Traian Băsescu welcomed our proposals and initiatives concerning the conceptions for improving the Hungarian-Romanian relation. And it was President Băsescu who came up with the idea of me joining the Romanian group of the European People's Party. He promised that he would personally collate with the representatives of the Romanian Democratic Party and President Wilfried Martens about this issue.

(continues on page 3)

However, on 10 December 2007, on my very first working day in the European Parliament, I was compelled to face that in Strasbourg the representatives of the Romanian Democratic Party took up a position against my admission into the European People's Party. While the MEPs of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania assured me of their support, MEP **Petru Filip** declared that the Romanian delegation to the European People's Party: "...decided on a secret balloting that they would propose the fraction of the European People's Party not to include László Tőkés as member."

Momentarily, the issue came to a deadlock. The European People's Party postponed its final decision to this month.

All in all, it is highly unfortunate that, despite my previous efforts, a predicted Hungarian-Romanian conflict could not have been avoided. President Băsescu asked me not to burden Romania's entrance into the EP with a "Hungarian-Romanian dispute" by immediately raising the question of autonomy. Well, it was not me who caused hostility but the Democratic Party, which by this affair also tensioned the Romanian political ties with the Hungarian FIDESZ.

The developments concerning my EPP-membership and the rejecting attitude assumed by the Romanian side might be motivated by the following:

- They hinder my admission not because of the publicly asserted baseless rumours and calumnies, but, as opposing to the "comfortable partnership" maintained with the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, my presence in the European Parliament thwarts the nationalist minority-politics represented and successfully enforced by the Romanian side till this moment.
- As a political scientist put it once: "Elbowing out László Tőkés from the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania was largely due to Romanian desire." On this occasion they again strive to push me out, this time however from engaging into politics in Europe.
- It is a common knowledge that the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, in exchange of becoming a governing party, renounced to the **own foreign affairs of Transylvanian Hungarians**. The Romanian foreign policy finds it unattractive that the cause of the Transylvanian Hungarian community could yet be presented in an open forum in Europe. Furthermore, it is aware of the fact that the European Union may offer a real chance and its strongest political community, the European People's Party, may provide real support for attaining autonomy for our national community.

Having all these in mind, a way out of the present intricate conflict may only be possible by considering the viewpoints of the other side, by **dialogue** and **negotiations**.

I suggest that President Băsescu assumes the role of the mediator in order to discontinue this opposition with the Romanian Democratic Party. This is not merely the Transylvanian Hungarians' interest, but Romania's as well.

The Romanian Democratic Party should re-examine the rejecting attitude assumed by its EP delegation, the more so since the EPP-membership of its three "democratic-liberal" representatives raises more doubts than anything else.

The fact that the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania is the member of a Romanian government of liberal majority, while in the European Parliament they work together with the Democratic Party – being in opposition to the Romanian government – should induce the Alliance to take up a more deliberate position than ever. The Alliance, which I am also member of, should not be interested in obtaining a – Transylvanian Hungarian – monopoly position in the European Parliament by the exclusive support of the Romanian Democratic Party.

It is the mutual interest of all of us that the New Year and the representation of our country in the EP start in the light of mutual cooperation.

Melbourne, 3 January 2008



MEP László Tőkés

The Romanian Securitate as a terrorist organization

The Romanian Institute in Charge of Investigating the Crimes Committed by Communism would alter the penal code as well as the code of criminal procedure in order to make the crimes committed by the communist oppressive system before 1989 imperishable.

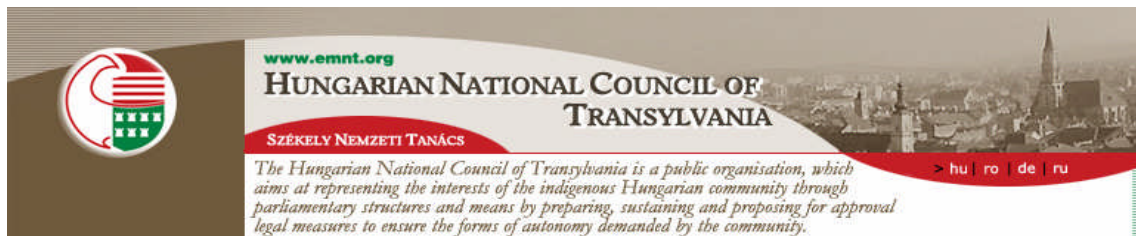


Securitate troops dispatched against the unarmed population of Timisoara in December 1989

On 23 January 2008 historian and ministerial counselor Marius Oprea stated that one of the objectives of the Institute is to legally declare the Romanian Securitate – the brutal oppression machinery of the Romanian communist dictatorship – a terrorist organization. In order to accomplish this they could appeal to the administration of justice. “It is at the law court where we should condemn communism and we must not feel satisfied with symbolical gestures”, announced Oprea. He added that till the present moment the Institute in Charge of Investigating the Crimes Committed by Communism initiated criminal proceedings against approximately 300 individuals. However, now one can refer to the lapse of past crimes.

Previous Transylvanian Monitor issues are available at:

www.emnt.org



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