

Anti-minority incidents

Three Hungarian young adults were attacked in Cluj/Kolozsvár, on 19 April. Their only guilt was that they were speaking in their mother tongue. They were attacked by a group unexpectedly, from behind. They needed medical assistance; one of them had his nose broken.

One of victims was István Ambrus, presenter at Paprika Radio. “They shouted ‘*bozgor*’ (i.e. stateless, hostile Romanian term referring to the native Hungarian minority) as they were running away. I had the feeling that they had committed similar assaults before.” – declared Ambrus. The scuffle lasted for about 30-40 seconds.

The victims of the hate crime will prosecute unknown aggressors.

This was not the only case when Hungarians were attacked recently because of their ethnic identity in Cluj/Kolozsvár (please see previous Transylvanian Monitor No 40 for details). Furthermore anti-Hungarian and anti-Jewish inscriptions appeared on the streets of the once Transylvanian capital.



The president of the Jewish Community of Cluj, Imre Rozsa alerted both the police and the Romanian Secret Service about the anti-Semitic inscriptions and signs painted onto the walls of the community's headquarters in Cluj, on 26 March 2008.

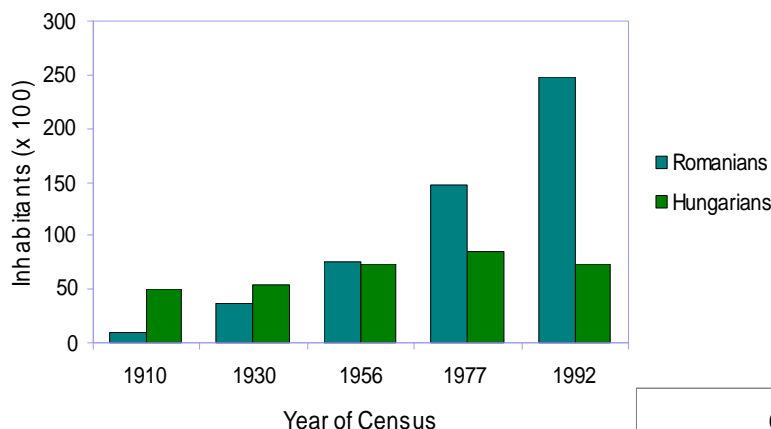
Mr Rozsa then declared to the press that: “We firmly condemn the appearing of these anti-Semitic inscriptions. I believe that this phenomenon is a continuation to the regrettable events of March 15 in Cluj. The street demonstration of the Noua Dreapta organization should not have been authorized for that day.” (www.kronika.ro)

SUBMISSION **on language rights in Transylvania**

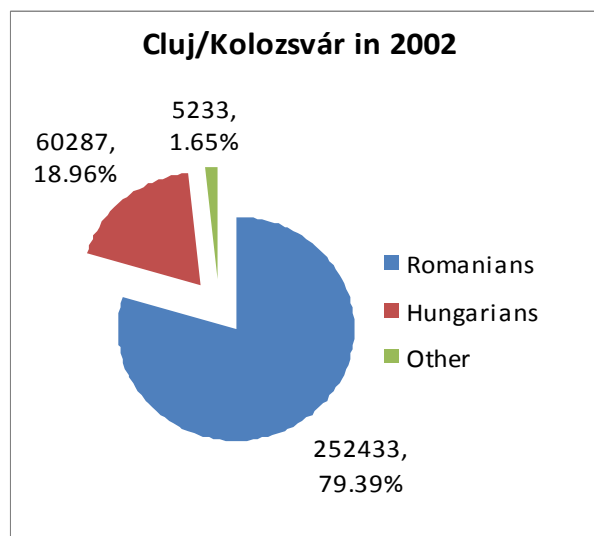
President of the Hungarian Youth of Transylvania Association, Sándor Soós wrote a letter this month regarding the free public use of the Hungarian language in the Transylvanian city of Cluj/Kolozsvár to Traian Băsescu, President of the Republic of Romania. Mr Soós reveals that there is no possibility to arrange matters at the local authorities in Hungarian, the only working language of justice, public health care and other institutions is Romanian.

The youth organization points out that Romanian monolingualism at Cluj/Kolozsvár is mainly due to the administrative law No 2001/215 which only allows the use of the Hungarian language in settlements where the proportion of the Hungarian population reaches 20%. However, this restriction contradicts the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. “According to the data of the census of 2002, 19% of the population of Cluj/Kolozsvár is ethnic Hungarian. This means 60,000 people. In 1948, there were 68,000 Hungarian inhabitants in our city, which was 58% of the total city population. To put this in other words: the proportion of the Hungarian population of Kolozsvár/Cluj did not primarily decrease because of a decline in the number of local Hungarians, but because of the organised settling policy – colonization – of the communist dictatorship.” – says the submission.

Ethnic changes in Kolozsvár/Cluj



The Hungarian Youth of Transylvania therefore asked the State President to use his office to help them achieve the following: (1) the parliament should reduce the threshold necessary for official language use from 20% to 10%; (2) the threshold of language usage should not only be set in accordance with the proportion of people of a given settlement, but there should also be a number of inhabitants as in Finland or in Canada; (3) the capital of Transylvania, which is meant to symbolically represent the multiculturalism and multilingualism of the region, should have a separate status as regards to language use.



LETTER TO HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

Your Holiness,

14 April 2008

With this I might like to express my deepest solidarity with the Tibetans as I follow the worrying news coming from your country.

I am Member of the European Parliament representing the Hungarian community of Transylvania, Romania. Our community is proud, that Sándor Kőrösi Csoma – or as he signed his English letters, Alexander Csoma de Kőrös – who, through the first ever Tibetan-English dictionary revealed your wonderful culture to Westerners, was a Transylvanian Hungarian.

From own experiences, our community very well understands your terms of “**cultural genocide**” and “**demographic aggression**”, when you describe the sufferings of your people. Besides, the spirit of 1989 also oblige me to speak up against the cruel oppression of Tibet: the courage in faith and peaceful resiatnce of my small Christian congregation in Temesvár/Timisoara started the anti-communist revolution in Romania, shortly after Your altruist and non-violent freedom wish for Tibetans was rewarded with the Nobel Peace Price.

Please find enclosed my one minute speech at the Parliament in Europe in which I was seeking support for the People of Tibet. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you think I could do more for your case.

I look very much forward to possibly meeting you in person at your upcoming visit to the European Parliament.

Truly yours,

MEP László Tőkés

Bishop of the Reformed Church in Romania

Enclosure

Plenary Speech regarding the situation in T I B E T

Hardly did the protests generated around the declaration of **Kosovo**'s independence settle, the world is attentive, at the very threshold of the preparations for the Peking Olympics, to the resistance of **Tibet** which had suffered bloody subjugation. The violent colonialist policy of nationalist-communist police states led to the bloodshed in both cases.

Denying the **right of self-determination** of peoples caused the crisis threatening the world peace in both cases.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner **Dalai Lama** revealed the **cultural genocide** and **demographic aggression** against Tibetans.

These are well-known methods in the formerly communist **Romania** too. **Ceaușescu** regarded the oppression of minorities belonging solely to the country's “home affairs”, just as China does now in the case of Tibet.

The European Parliament should also take firm steps alongside with Pope **Benedict XVI** against “injustice, hatred and violence”. The European Parliament should come out in support of Tibet's **territorial autonomy**. We look very much forward that His Holiness the Dalai Lama and His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI will tell the world from the European Parliament that: there is no **peace** without **truth**.

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www.emnt.org