



ANTI-HUNGARIAN MANIFESTATIONS IN ROMANIA 2014–2016

2014

■ **Sándor Tamás, president of Covasna County Council received death-threats**

■ On the Facebook community site a Romanian citizen from Iasi threatened Sándor Tamás that unless he gave up demanding the autonomy of the Szeklerland he would end up a victim of a car accident.

3 January 2014.

■ **The anti-Hungarian organization Civil Forum of Romanians calls for action against “Hungarian extremist manifestation”.**

■ The organization made appeal to Romanian political parties not to enter joint governance with the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania until this Alliance gave up its “Hungarist demands”. The Forum suggested that Hungarian extremist phenomena should be hindered through legislative measures for example through “hindering the naming into public office of those extremists who would use resources rendered to such public offices for the undermining of the united and indivisible sovereign Romanian nation-state.”

6 January 2014.

■ **There are several ongoing court cases against the Mayor’s Office of Miercurea Ciuc that were initiated on grounds of the bilingual traffic signs that were placed around town arguing on the basis of the fact that the Hungarian inscriptions on these signs precede the Romanian ones.**

■ First the police fined the Mayor’s Office, later the Prefect’s Office also called upon the Mayor’s Office to remove the signs. A further court case was envisaged by the Prefect’s Office on grounds of bilingual street signs in Miercurea Ciuc, signs that also have the Hungarian inscription first.

21 January 2014.

■ **Dumitru Marinescu, prefect of Covasna county is preparing to oblige the Hungarian political parties to set the Romanian flag up.**

■ Soon upon this the Prefect addressed a letter to the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, the Hungarian Civic Party and the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party calling upon them to follow legal

provisions and set the Romanian national flag upon their offices. In Romania following the coming to power of the Ponta-government, in the summer of 2012 the flag-war was started in the Szekler counties. Prefects serving as local representatives of the government called upon the mayors of different settlements and leaders of different institutions to remove the Szekler and Hungarian flags from public institutions. In case this did not happen, court cases were initiated and fines were imposed. These austerity measures were responded by reactions of defiance in the Szeklerland and contributed largely to the spreading of the Szekler flag.

23 January 2014.

■ **The Szekler flag was removed from the Mayor’s Office of Ozun village in Covasna county following the Brasov’s Court had communicated its sentence declaring the Szekler flag’s setting unlawful.**

■ According to the final and irrevocable verdict of September 2013 of the Brasov Regional High Court the local council from Ozun unlawfully hoisted the Szekler flag on the facade of the village hall. Codrin Munteanu, former prefect of Covasna county reported the flag. The prefect renowned for his anti-Hungarian statements argued: the flag hoisted on the façade of the Ozun village hall “symbolizes and inexistent entity”, further in his opinion the Szekler flag “is just as illegal as if they had hoisted the flag of a football club or automobile factory on the village hall only because the mayor or the members of the council liked that club or producer.” The Sepsiszek Szekler Council noted with indignation that the mayor also had to pay a substantial fine of several ten thousands lei.

24 January 2014.

■ **The Adevărul newspaper published a lengthy article under the title “How the historical churches from Transylvania have become the propagators of extremism”.**

■ According to the author of the article László Tőkés was the one to set the tone who continued to use the pulpits of Hungarian churches from Romania to blacken his country, and to incite people to demand Transylvania’s separation from Romania.

30 January 2014.

■ **Bogdan Diaconu intends to submit a draft bill based on which all those political organizations would be disbanded whose program or activity questions the national and unitary character of the Romanian state or the official language of the state.**

■ Those political parties would be banned as well that “decry” Romania or encourage separatism. His initiative, of course, targets first of all the Hungarian political organizations.

21 February 2014.

■ **Within one week four monuments were reviled in Gheorgheni, Harghita county.**

■ Sunday night oily liquid was poured onto the bust of Mihály Fogarasy and the memorial plaque of Antal Jakab in Gheorgheni, merely a week upon unknown abusers spilled similar liquid on the public statues of Lajos Kossuth and Dávid Fejér.

24 February 2014.

■ **At the Steaua Bucharest – Gaz Metan championship football match supporters were shouting anti-Hungarian rhymes.**

■ „Out of the country with the Hungarians!” – supporters roared at length.

16 March 2014.

■ **The organizers and several participants of the autonomy demonstrations of the 10th of March in Târgu Mureş were fined, for 11 counts of trespassing fines in the value of 36 thousand lei were issued.**

■ At the end of the Day of Szekler Freedom autonomy-demonstration the participants – despite the mayor’s prohibition – marched to the center of Târgu Mureş. At that time the gendarmerie’s spokesperson acknowledged that the demonstration took place without any notable incidents, smaller wrangles happened only because the crowd marching towards the center occasionally tried to walk on the street something that the law enforcers prevented. However, based on the video recordings of the scruffles Romanian politicians demanded the exemplary sanction of the “Hungarian extremists”. On Monday the Romanian ministry of internal affairs stated: four Hungarian citizens – among them two MPs of the Jobbik – were expelled from Romania for a year.

16 March 2014.

■ **The competent committee of the Târgu Mureş mayor’s office has authorized the organization of the demonstration planned by the Association Vatra Româneasca in the central square of the city for the 19th of March.**

■ According to the notice of the organization published in one of the Târgu Mureş newspapers on the 15th of March, they want to protest against the aberrant demands of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania – the use of the Hungarian language in administration, the Hungarian department of the University of Medical Science

of Târgu Mureş, the use of Szekler symbols --, and they are demanding from the prime minister not to name into the function of the Mureş county prefect a person member of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania. The Vatra Românească is organizing the demonstrations on the anniversary of the 1990 ethnic confrontations from Târgu Mureş that required five deaths.

17 March 2014.

■ **President Traian Băsescu considered it an impolite gesture that several politicians from Hungary were talking about the support for the autonomy pursuits of the Hungarians from Transylvania at the ceremonies organized with the occasion of the 15th of March.**

■ The Romanian Prosecutor’s Office against organized crime and terrorism stated that they took criminal proceedings with the suspicion of acts against constitutional order against people who had been promoting the Jobbik in Romania. Romanian president Băsescu requested the expulsion from Romania of the Jobbik’s leaders and members, referring to the autonomy-demonstrations from Târgu Mureş.

18 March 2014.

■ **There were approximately 250 participants at the Wednesday afternoon demonstrations in Târgu Mureş announce as protest against the use of Hungarian language in administration and the use of Szekler symbols by the Vatra Românească association for the anniversary of the 20th March 1990 events.**

■ The demonstrators wearing scarves and cockades in the national colors gathers on the sidewalk in front of the Avram Iancu statue, surrounded by law enforcers and waving flags, holding up a banner with the inscription “The Romanian language is the only Ruler”. The speakers were objecting to the “oppression of Romanians from the Szeklerland”, against the creation of the Hungarian department of the Târgu Mureş University of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and the appointment of a Hungarian prefect in Mureş county.

20 March 2014.

■ **The place name signs of several settlements from Satu Mare county were sprayed over with red-yellow-blue paint.**

■ On the place name signs of the villages along the road between Satu Mare and MaraMureş – Botiz, Ciuperceni, Sarchiuz, Negresti-Oas – exclusively the Hungarian inscriptions were sprayed over with paint. In recent weeks vandal acts against Hungarian inscriptions have multiplied. Unknown offenders have painted over the Hungarian inscriptions on the place name signs of Covasna city as well as Acateni in Mureş county. In Romania two or multilingual place name signs also containing Hungarian inscriptions were started to be installed at the beginning of the 2000s in settlements where the percentage of the minority or minorities population reached 20 %.

The reception of this was not without problems, in the beginning there were lots of instances when the Hungarian inscriptions were painted over.

20 March 2014.

■ **Unknown offenders painted over the Hungarian inscription of Covasna town's place-name sign with red-yellow-blue paint, as well as the Szekler gate next to the sign and part of the wall of the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor high school.**

■ In recent years the school from Covasna has been the location of several ethnic scandals: in March 2013 a schoolgirl wearing a tricolor hair band provoked tension, at the beginning of this March the school uniform's crest with Szekler symbols caused similar tension.

20 March 2014.

■ **The New Right Wing extremist nationalist organization organized an anti-Hungarian demonstration in Târgu Mureş.**

Participants at the demonstration shouted anti-Hungarian rhymes: "Harghita and Covasna are Romanian territories, Romania belongs to the Romanians, Whoever does not like living in Romania, should go abroad!"

27 March 2014.

■ **The Mureş county gendarmerie issued a criminal record of 3000 lei to the name of András Vetró sculptor from Târgu Secuiesc.**

■ According to the report "on the 10th of March in Târgu Mureş he urged to violence, he was waving around a naked sword, he was endangering public order," and he was identified on the basis of video recordings. He sculptor and teacher from Târgu Secuiesc hired a lawyer given that according to him he demonstrably was not present in Târgu Mureş at the Day of Szekler Freedom. He thinks that he made the black list of the police force because he is the platoon commander of the 15th Szekler Border Patrol Infantry Regiment.

27 March 2014.

■ **President Traian Băsescu announced that whoever wanted autonomy in Romania would come against the country's constitution and the Romanian state.**

■ „Autonomy is anti-constitutional. There can be no negotiations about it even if now upon the vote in the parliamentary assembly of the European Council the sails of the proponents of autonomy has caught wind” – the president referred to the European Council's decree adopted on Tuesday. The document prepared by MP Ferenc Kalmár from the KDNP group that has been adopted by the assembly supports different forms of minority autonomy. Traian Băsescu added: "Romania continues to define itself as a unitary state and anyone who wants autonomy will come against the Romanian constitution, and thus against the Romanian state."

14 April 2014.

■ **Among the twenty-seven cultural events supported by the Romanian Cultural Fund there is not one with Hungarian character.**

■ Among the events that receive no support are the Fair from Târgu Mureş and its events, the Mureş county Museum, the Saint Ladislau Days from Oradea, the László Lajtha Foundation from Sfântu Gheorghe and neither the Zsuzsanna Lorántffy Cultural Association. Csilla Hegedüs, the recently appointed secretary of state of the Ministry of Culture issued a communiqué upholding the indignation of the concerned contestants.

14 April 2014.

■ **Bodgan Diaconu Romanian social-democrat MP would disband organizations and political parties found guilty in decrying the nation.**

■ According to the nationalist MP the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania is an extremist organization and he would prefer to ban it. According to his draft bill it would mean decrying the nation "every such act, statement or action that hurts or offends the Romanian population, the Romanian nation, and Romania's statehood", or Romania's symbols. For a nation decrying statement he would issue fines "between 2500 and 25 000 lei" and the criminal act of decrying the nation would be punished with imprisonment from 6 months to 5 years.

12 April 2014.

■ **The Szekler National Council expects the Romanian government to exit the lawsuit in course at the Court of the European Union through which the initiators desire to registration of the citizens' initiative on national regions.**

■ Romania, Slovakia and Greece requested their involvement in the Luxembourg trial supporting the European Committee's rejection of the citizens' initiative, while Hungary requested the same thing on the side of the initiators. According to Romanian deputy prime-minister Hunor Kelemen, president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, Romania adopted a memorandum with reference to entering the trial already in 2013, before the Alliance's coming to governance.

12 April 2014.

■ **On Monday the Senate adopted the draft bill that obliges all towns in Romania to name one of their streets after the historical date of the national holiday, 1st December 1918.**

■ At the same time the new bill also obliges the local councils all county seat municipalities to commemorate the three Romanian principalities' unification with official ceremonies.

13 April 2014.

■ **On the border of Harghita and Brasov counties, at the exit on the county road between Petecu and Beia, the recently installed county border sign containing Hungarian inscription as well as damaged.**

■ The unknown offenders used the sign as a target; supposedly they shot at it with pellet guns.

25 April 2014.

■ **In Toplita the memorial plaque that commemorated the national road connecting Transylvania with Moldova built during the period of Gábor Baross's ministry, was broken to pieces.**

■ The plaque inaugurated in 1998 has been damaged before, a couple of years ago pieces were broken off, but the offenders haven't been identified since.

24 April 2014.

■ **According to court decision the mayor of Sfântu Gheorghe is obliged to remove the Szekler flag from the central park of town**

■ The Brasov Tribunal dismissed the appeal of Árpád András Antal, mayor of Sfântu Gheorghe, against the verdict of the Covasna county Tribunal that would have obliged the mayor's office to remove the Szekler flag from the central park of the city.

26 April 2014.

■ **„Hungary is the enemy of Romania, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania is an extremist party, therefore it must be hindered in getting into the European Parliament” – said Bogdan Diaconu, MP of the Social-Democratic Party forming the government in coalition with the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, referring to the EU parliamentary elections.**

7 May 2014.

■ **Several newspapers from Bucharest protested that the Romanian ministry of culture imparted financial benefits to a publication – the Székelyföld (Szeklerland) journal – whose name was identical with Szeklerland populated in majority by Hungarians.**

■ According to Norica Nicolai liberal MEP “The Székelyföld is a journal that publishes the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania's election materials and messages. The Hungarian ethnic Romanian citizens have all my respect but I believe that every attempt to separate regions from the country's borders to be political propaganda. Organizations or publications that promote such messages obviously goes beyond the legal framework because it is calls for the disintegration of the Romanian state” – states Norica Nicolai who is at the top of the National Liberal Party's list for the EP elections on the 25th of May.

8 May 2014.

■ **Employees of the Transilvania Airport from Târgu Mureş harshly rebuked travelers who spoke in Hungarian for not speaking in Romanian.**

16 May 2014.

■ **Anti-Hungarian inscriptions were painted onto the Petőfi relief from Ispánkút, Vlahita.**

■ In recent years the monument has been damaged several times. The previous year two of the three bronze plaques fastened to the pedestal of the monument were cut out.

19 May 2014.

■ **Băsescu is bothered by Hungarians celebrating their national holidays.**

■ „I go to Covasna and Harghita counties quite often: people are really not in the mood for quarrels, separatism, insulation. All these things are only forced on them by certain politicians. This does not really worry me, with all that occasionally we are bothered by the way the Hungarians celebrate their national holidays” – said Băsescu.

18 May 2014.

■ **Bogdan Diaconu MP of the Social-Democrat party governing in coalition with the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania accused the Democratic Alliance of having anti-Romanian activity.**

■ The politician notorious for his anti-Hungarian mindset called the Democratic Alliance an internal enemy, and also accused Viktor Orbán, prime-minister of Hungary that through the support offered to the autonomy-pursuits of the Hungarian communities beyond the borders of Hungary he wanted to change the borders. Diaconu has accused both the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania and the Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party that they were executing Budapest's orders, stating disapprovingly about the latter that recently it held its autonomy-caravan event in the ceremonial hall of the Oradea town hall.

21 May 2014.

■ **According to the final decision of the Brasov Regional High Court Szekler flags from the façade of the Târgu Secuiesc town hall and from around the Áron Gábor must be removed, what is more, the mayor has been called upon to also remove the Hungarian language Town Hall inscription from the building.**

■ Codrin Munteanu former prefect initiated administrative procedures against the Szekler flag hung on the town hall's building, while later his successor, the recently deposed Dumitru Marinescu sued because of the two great flags hoisted in the city center on the 15th of March the previous year. In March the Covasna County Tribunal decided in first instance that all three flags had to be removed, what is more, the verdict was in favor of the Prefect's office also with reference to town hall inscription. The local council of Târgu Secuiesc appealed the verdict, relying on the last possible appeal the council also made a cassation appeal, but after the postponement of the 7th of May, on the 14th the Tribunal dismissed the appeal.

22 May 2014.

■ **On Tuesday the Senate adopted tacitly a draft bill by the social-democrat party that evokes the chauvinist Ceausescu-dictatorship's practice.**

■ The draft that aims to amend the law with reference to national symbols would make the daily singing of the Romanian anthem in schools obligatory. At the same time it would oblige public institutions, cultural institutions and schools to have the Romanian flag continuously hoisted on their buildings. At the same time it would ban the hoisting of any other flag than the Romanian even on private property.

27 May 2014.

■ **The Târgu Mureș Regional High School nullified the burial permit for the name of József Nyíró issued by the Odorheiu Secuiesc mayor's office.**

■ According to unconfirmed sources at present the novelist's earthly remains are in Budapest.

29 May 2014.

■ **Ten Romanian civic organizations from Harghita and Covasna counties are trying to prevent the erection of a statue in honor of András Sütő in Târgu Mureș.**

■ The ten organizations have sent the same protesting text to the Mureș Court of Law. In his speech before the agenda András Peti deputy mayor expressed his deep indignation that this action against the statue of András Sütő has been taken by such Romanian civic organizations from other counties whose representatives do not know Târgu Mureș and neither the writer.

31 May 2014.

■ **On Monday Bogdan Diaconu, MP of the governing Social-Democrat Party, submitted to the Bucharest Parliament a draft bill that would ban territorial autonomy and "all sort of separatist aspirations."**

■ The bill would ban the promotion of thus ideas on meetings, events, debates, or through political or civic initiatives. In case the draft bill is adopted, there will be a ban on placarding such flags, symbols, posters and inscriptions that promote territorial autonomy or any kind of separatist aspirations. The law would penalize private persons who infringe it with one to five years imprisonment, while organizations would be disbanded. According to the MP Romania is threatened by strengthening separatist aspirations, therefore there is a need for such tools that would hinder organizations operating on its territory and enjoying the support of Hungary to promote the idea of territorial autonomy. According to Diaconu even the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, that is part of the governing coalition, has become the ally of Viktor Orbán, it has taken over "the separatist mentality" of Budapest, as they are planning to submit a draft bill with reference to territorial autonomy. In his opinion all this is threatening Romania's integrity, but the adoption of his draft bill would make the elimination of this risk possible. A former draft bill of Diaconu was adopted with a large majority in the Romanian senate in March, through which the MP suggested a law that facilitated the withdrawal of László Tőkés's Romanian state award on the basis that the

MEP had made a statement that criticized the country's nation-state and unitary character. With reference to this bill the House of Representatives will be de deciding factor.

2 June 2014.

■ **During his press conference, Cristian Bodea, senator of the National Liberal Party, has made anti-Hungarian statements.**

■ The senator stated: I do not understand why the Hungarians from Romania feel nauseous when using the Romanian language. And I call upon all those who do not want to learn the Romanian language to move to Hungary. And I would prescribe a twice-a-year psychological examination to the politicians of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania to have their complexes and their frustration with reference to using the Romanian language treated. The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania has allowed itself to insult the Romanian state and abuse the Romanians' patience.

4 June 2014.

■ **Yellow paint has been poured over the Oradea statue of Gábor Bethlen Transylvanian prince and Romanian flags have been hung on it.**

■ This is not the first time for statues to be damaged in Oradea. Three years ago the bronze plaque was pulled down from the memorial plaque from the Garasos bridge, the commemorative plaque of sculptor Nándor Wagner was damaged, as well as the public statue of Gyula Czárán speleologist.

13 June 2014.

■ **Yesterday the police from Târgu Secuiesc issued a report with a fine of five hundred lei in the name of Csaba Lungu-Csavar, operator of the Kézdivásárhely Másképp (Târgu Secuiesc Otherwise) internet portal.**

■ Csaba Lungu-Csavar was fined because on the 19th of June he was in the central park where "he formed a group with the aim of committing an illegal act, he participated and supported the public hoisting of the Szeklerland's flags on two poles without the necessary authorizations through which he violated the legal system and the cohabitation rules" – says the report. The authorized officer of the county police summoned Csaba Lungu-Csavar for violating law no. 1991/31.

9 July 2014.

■ **Six flags have been removed from the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania's offices in Sangeorgiu de Padure, and as a protest they have hung on the façade a mourning flag with the inscription "There's one God".**

■ Last year the Hungarian flag was removed from the churchyard of Ghindari, this February the Hungarian inscription Village Hall had to be removed from the façade of the Vargata mayor's office, and now flags are missing from the Claudia Rhédey square from Sangeorgiu de Padure. For one and a half years now the flags hung on

the offices in the central square have been continuously attacked. The most recent report was made by Dan Tănasă against the organization in Sangeorgiu de Padure, this time he once again discovered “faulty signs”: around the railway station an advertisement, in the center a tourism banner, in the local bus-stations informational charts had the Hungarian inscription first.

10 July 2014.

■ **The Cluj Napoca mayor’s office has appealed the Court’s verdict permitting the use of bilingual, Romanian and Hungarian place name signs.**

■ According to the mayor’s office Romania’s laws do not permit the Hungarian inscription on Cluj Napoca’s place name sign given that the Hungarian minority in the city does not make up 20% of the population. The Romanian law in force makes administrative bilingualism compulsory in those settlements where a minority population represents minimum one fifth of the population, but it does not ban minority language inscriptions in settlements with a minority of less than 20% either.

17 July 2014.

■ **On Sunday in Toplita, Harghita county, Mircea Dușă Romanian minister of defense handed over the Romanian army’s highest decoration to Ioan Selejan, the Orthodox archbishop of Szeklerland.**

■ The spiritual leader of the Orthodox Romanians from Covasna and Harghita counties with majority Hungarian population received the highest military decoration for “his rich missionary activity and as a recognition of this support in the creation of the Romanian army’s image.”

20 July 2014.

■ **The county police issued fines of 500 lei each to the eight Târgu Secuiesc members of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement, who had placed two Szekler flags near the statue of Áron Gábor in the morning of the 19th of June.**

■ From the eight fined people Zoltán Szócs, Csongor Szócs and Levente Mike appealed the fine on the 21st of July, while the others are intending to sue the county police given that in their opinion they have not committed any crime.

24 July 2014.

■ **A poll shows that for Romanians, after Russia, Hungary is the second most antipathetic country in the world.**

■ Approximately half of the interviewees had a bad opinion about Hungary. According to the similar poll conducted by the IRES institute in March 2013 Romanians consider Hungary to be the enemy of their home land. At that time 41% of Romanians considered Hungary to be the enemy; on the second place they mentioned Russia with a result of 27%.

31 July 2014.

■ **The gendarmerie from Oradea called upon MEP László Tőkés to remove the Szekler flag from his office in Oradea.**

■ According to their summons the Szekler flag serves advertisement purposes and it was hoisted without authorization. In November 2015 the Bihor County Tribunal deemed the Szekler flag an advertising tool.

10 August 2014.

■ **The sorting workers of the Oradea landfill inspecting the contents of the selective waste containers have found a pile of old documents the majority coming from the former Hungarian times.**

■ Among the documents dated from the end of the 1800s to the 1980s there were burial permits, birth certificates, medical closing reports, but as it turned out, the midden also held copies of court reports from the time of the Monarchy.

12 August 2014.

■ **Dan Tănasă known for his anti-Hungarian mindset also objects to the Szekler flag hung on the school from Cozmeni. The Harghita county prefect’s office through a transcript requested the school to remove the gold-blue flag from the façade of the institution.**

■ The prefect’s office is requesting the removal of the Szekler flag on the basis of the 2012. No. 269 verdict of the Târgu Mureș Regional High Court, according to which hoisting Harghita county’s flag was illegal.

13 August 2014.

■ **Marius Popica government commissioner called upon the mayor of Covasna, János Thiesz to place Romanian inscriptions on the public works of art in town – the news was published on the website of Dan Tănasă notorious for his anti-Hungarian reports.**

■ The town leader told us that Tănasă’s report mentions among others the names of Rózsa Ignácz, Ella Gazdáné Olosz, and Ferenc Erkel.

14 August 2014.

■ **On the night of Friday to Saturday an unknown offender climbed the left pole upholding the monument commemorating the heroes of the world wars in the church square of Lunga and using the sharp object he/she cut off the Szekler flag hung there the remains of which could still be seen there on Monday.**

■ This was the first time in Lunga that the Szekler symbols were damaged.

19 August 2014.

■ **Bogdan Diaconu social-democrat (PSD) MP announced on Thursday the foundation of a nationalist, anti-Hungarian party.**

21 August 2014.

■ **Zsigmond Nagy, the new deputy prefect of Mureș county confronts compliance with the respect to language rights in twenty-five institutions under the jurisdiction of the government office.**

■ Through his circular he requested status reports from within the institutions and also called upon the officials to respect the provisions of the 2001/215 law on administration and the 2004/340 law on prefect's offices.

25 August 2014.

■ **In Romania there is going on a process of step by step elimination of minority rights won at the turn of the century as the result of political bargains. The most recent example to this is the High Court's March verdict which basically overwrites the legal provisions with reference to the use of minority languages.**

■ According to the evaluation of Active Watch the verdict overwrites the provisions with reference to minority language use of the law on administration as well as the European Charter of minority languages ratified by Romania in 2007.

26 August 2014.

■ **The mayor and the chief city architect deemed the Szekler flag hung on László Tóké's office an advertising flag.**

■ The local police of Oradea, in the name of the city's mayor and its chief city architect, issued a report of offense calling upon László Tóké to have the "advertising flag" hung on his office building "destroyed" within a week's time.

26 August 2014.

■ **On the 6th of September in the center of Cluj Napoca there will be a 150 meter Romanian flag hoisted upon the initiative of a nationalist organization. The event is part of the Months of the Tricolor initiative the idea of which came about at the 12th open university at Izvorul Mureș.**

29 August 2014.

■ **Employees of the mayor's office cut off the bilingual banner that was placed on the promenade bench by the activists of the organization named MOST-ACUM Movement for free language use.**

■ In summer the location is favored for weddings. According to members of the movement the same conditions should be provided for Hungarian pairs getting married as for the Romanians.

2 September 2014.

■ **Radu Banciu, anchorman of one of the Romanian extremist nationalist commercial television stations envisioned the anti-Romanian notion of autonomy in Szeklerland, a horrific vision where the "góbé" self-government's omnipresent gendarmes and paramilitary henchmen would massacre all those who would insult the laws and dictatorship of the autonomous Szekler chauvinism.**

8 September 2014.

■ **The New Right extremist Romanian organization has received authorization for the demonstrations on the 6th of October.**

■ The organization that is decrying the memory of the 13 martyr generals from Arad, that has been making statements hostile to the Statue of Freedom and insulting the Hungarians, mostly consisting of football fan striplings wants to organize a demonstration in the center of the city on the day when the Hungarians are commemorating the bloody defeat of the 1848-1849 revolution and war of independence.

23 September 2014.

■ **The commissions of the Senate have given green light to draft bill submitted by 42 MPs of the Social-Democrat Party (PSD) with reference to adoption and use of own flags by local administrative entities.**

■ According to the draft bill village, town and county flags will be adopted by government decisions to the suggestions of local councils. In settlements where a minority makes up at least 20% of the population, the name of the administrative entity must be inscribed on the flag also in the language of the minority. According to experts all this is part of the campaign against Szekler flags.

24 September 2014.

■ **Vasile Oprea, prefect of Mureș county has sued the mayors of five settlements from Mureș county because they have hung the Szekler flag on their offices.**

■ The mayors of Vargata and Fantanele have removed the flag upon the prefect's warning; despite of this, the lawsuits against them have not been terminated. The mayor of Sovata has not received the plaint yet, the mayors of Ghindari and Sangeorgiu de Padure have stated that they were not going to remove the symbol and that they were going to try and defend their position in court.

25 September 2014.

■ **The gendarmerie from Mureș county has issued fines of one thousand lei to all those who on the 16th of September expressed their support for Scotland's freedom on a flashmob.**

■ These participants of the flashmob received the reports with reference to the issued fined in the course of this week. The motivation of the fine states that they have organized an unauthorized meeting in the center of Târgu Mureș and that they have participated at the event. The demonstrators were holding up signs with the inscription Scotland's freedom and they were waving Scottish and Szekler flags. The flashmob was disbanded within quarter of an hour. There were at least as many policemen and gendarmes present at the flashmob as participants, and all the participants' identity was checked.

25 September 2014.

■ **Silenced history at the Cluj Napoca train station.**

■ At the Cluj Napoca train station the memorial plaque listing the station leaders lacks the names of those Hungarian and German leaders who were in charge of the stationing before 1945.

30 September 2014.

■ **The Târgu Mureş Tribunal nullified the fine issued by the local police to the Transylvanian Hungarian National Council on the basis of the law with reference to advertising flags.**

■ The Tribunal upheld only partially the National Council's plaint in which the organization was requesting the nullification of the fining report. The Tribunal in first instance nullified the 30 thousand lei fine and changed it to reprehension. Előd Kincses, the lawyer of the Transylvanian Hungarian National Council stated to MTI, they were not really happy about the nullification of the fine given that the present verdict still deemed the Szekler symbol an advertisement flag. According to the lawyer you cannot consider a several-century-old symbol to be an advertisement tool and during the proceedings he presented the image of the 1603 stamp of Prince Mózes Székely which also contains the symbols present on the Szekler flag.

8 October 2014.

■ **The Regional High Court from Brasov has come to its final verdict with reference to the town flag of Sfantu Gheorghe, stating its illegality.**

■ Mayor Árpád Antal announced that they were going to bring the matter before the Strasbourg Court of Human Rights. The town flag of Sfantu Gheorghe was approved by the local council in 2008, and the prefect of Covasna county challenged the decision in court.

8 October 2014.

■ **A Dutch-Hungarian interpreter is suing the local police of Târgu Mureş who last December was mishandled at the police station because he was trying to enforce his language rights.**

■ Gábor Landman, Dutch-Hungarian interpreter, was trying to perform his contractual duties when interpreting for a Dutch reporter at the local police from Târgu Mureş. At the entrance of the city police station he requested Hungarian language customer service. When his request was not answered, he called upon the police to uphold article 120 of the Romanian constitution that sets the framework of minority language use in local administrations.

20 October 2014.

■ **In one of the election debates of the Romanian public television – where there were present senator Barna Tánczos and Gheorghe Funar – upon Tánczos having greeted the audience also in Hungarian, Funar stated that if he ever became president of Romania, he would ban speaking in the language of horses.**

■ On his Facebook profile the senator of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania wrote that he was going to report the head of state nominee former mayor of Cluj Napoca at the Antidiscrimination Council.

23 October 2014.

■ **Zsolt Szilágyi turned to the National Antidiscrimination Council after Gheorghe Funar attacked him and the**

Hungarian community several times in an election programme of the Romanian public radio station.

■ Among other things, Gheorghe Funar said that the 1956 revolution was only something invented by the Hungarians with the aim to re-annex Transylvania, but he also stated that in case he was elected, he would ban the use of any other language than Romanian in public media.

29 October 2014.

■ **Unknown offenders damaged once again the large Szekler flag hung on Libertatii Square in the center of Miercurea Ciuc on Friday night.**

26 October 2014.

■ **In Sfantu Gheorghe extremist youth coming from other counties again turned the national day celebrations into strident protest against the Hungarian community.**

■ The Romanian crowd was shouting “Out with the Hungarians from the country!” Members of the New Right extremist Romanian nationalist organization coming from further away arrived already on Sunday to the Covasna county center. They marched through the city center waving flags with the symbol of the New Right and Avram Iancu and they were shouting “Szeklerland does not exist!”, “Harghita and Covasna are Romanian land!”, “Out with the Hungarians from the country!”, “The Romanian language is the only ruling one!”, “Romania is the Romanians’!” Arriving onto the Mihai Viteazul square they put up the banners with the inscriptions “Against Hungarian separatism” and “Romania is a nation state, unified and indivisible”.

1 December 2014.

■ **On the evening of 1st of December, Romanian national holiday, unknown offenders destroyed the windshields of two cars owned by Lehel István Kovács, assistant professor of Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, member of the local council who had been fighting for language rights.**

■ This is the third instance of vandalism against the teacher and his family. In September 2012 during the Saint Michael day ball organized by the Hungarian community the window of his apartment was smashed with a stone, in February 2013 a bag containing excrement, tied with a Romanian national color ribbon was hung on his gate.

1 December 2014.

■ **The Covasna county prefect's office maliciously and unjustly fined the Târgu Secuiesc local council for not having “appropriately” decorated the town with Romanian flags on the 1st of December.**

10 December 2014.

■ **Prefect Marius Popică issued a fine of five thousand lei to the Hungarian Civic Party because on the 4th of June the participants of the Trianon commemoration sang the Hungarian anthem.**

■ On Monday approximately 150 people gathered in Sfântu Gheorghe in front of the Covasna county prefect's office and protested the fine the prefect had issued because of the singing of the Hungarian anthem. The participants sang the Hungarian anthem several times.

15 December 2014.

■ **The Prosecutor's Office against organized crime and antiterrorism ex officio initiated criminal investigation due to suspected threat in statements made at the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania's Representatives' Council.**

■ According to the communiqué issued by the DIICOT the fact that Hunor Kelemen, the president of the Democratic Alliance was talking about "recovering our motherland" and about "recovering the homeland brick by brick, forest by forest, building by building", as well as the fact that Árpád Antal, mayor of Sfântu Gheorghe asked György Frunda to deliver to prime minister Victor Ponta the message that he should instruct the prefect of Covasna county not to provoke the Hungarians from Transylvania as such provocation might lead to interethnic tensions, were against the law.

15 December 2014.

■ **The Szekler flag hung in Libertatii Square in Miercurea Ciuc became the victim of vandals once again; unknown offenders once again tore down the national symbol hung on a several-meter high iron pole.**

■ On the torn flag that was thrown away a couple of meters from the pole there could be found also small traces of fire that may suggest that the offenders tried to set it on fire.

16 December 2014.

■ **In Deva the memorial column of Transylvanian prince Ákos Barchay was torn down.**

■ On the 29th of December 2014 to the instructions of the Deva mayor's office the memorial column of Transylvanian prince Ákos Barcsay was torn down upon the Regional High Court from Alba Iulia had ordered its removal. The column had on it the bronze plaque of Ákos Barchay with the bilingual inscription in memory of Hunedoara county's sheriff and owner of the Deva castle. Prince Ákos Barcsay is remembered not only for having created Transylvania's coat of arms but also for having supported Romanian education. One and a half months upon the column's inauguration a hunger striker equipped with the tricolor demanded the immediate dismantling of the statue.

29 December 2014.

2015

■ **There were no Hungarian words uttered at the New Year's Eve inauguration of the Cluj Napoca European Youth Capital project.**

■ At the event only Romanian language speeches were

delivered, there were no English, Hungarian greetings or greetings in any other language. Beside this, the laser show of the project's inauguration also only "flourished" in the colors of the Romanian tricolor. The mayor only talked to the participants in Romanian.

5 January 2015.

■ **Dorin Florea mayor of Târgu Mureș stated that churches were unable to provide the appropriate education to students, and that the law on restitution was faulty.**

■ „I believe that one of the biggest mistakes of the Romanian parliament was the restitution of buildings of national interest: schools, cultural centers. This should have been done through a fair compensation and it is a pity that they did not do this and thus there are serious problems in the educational system” – the mayor stated.

9 January 2015.

■ **Sebastian Cucu, prefect of Covasna county is demanding from the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania to remove the Szeklerland-Molino placed in front of the prefect's office.**

■ Through a letter the prefect asked Sándor Tamás, president of the county council, and Árpád Antal, mayor of Sfântu Gheorghe, to participate at the 24 January celebrations organized with the occasion of the anniversary of the unification of Moldova and Wallachia, and to remove from the location of the celebrations the Sic-Terra Siculorum advertising canvas that has been placed there as protest.

22 January 2015.

■ **On the celebration of the anniversary of the unification of Moldova and Wallachia a one hundred and fifty meter long red-yellow-blue flag was carried along Sfântu Gheorghe by the participants.**

■ Approximately three hundred extremist Romanian youth participated at the march organized in the Szekler town with the occasion of the Romanian holiday commemorating the 1859 event also called "small unification". There were also provocative acts during the celebrations, the participants also wanted to cover the SIC sign. The initiator and one of the organizers of the event was Cosmin C, that Romanian high school student who had his photo with a red-yellow-blue flag taken on the Hungarian national celebrations of 15th March organized in the city.

26 January 2015.

■ **The Oradea Tribunal dismissed the action initiated by László Tőkés through which the MEP was requesting the nullification of the police report with reference to the Szekler flag as an advertisement tool and the call for its removal.**

■ The local police of the municipality from Bihor called upon the former Reformed bishop to remove from his EP-office's balcony the Szekler flag that he had hung there

as a symbol of solidarity and that had been deemed an advertising flag by the authorities. The 2014 state report on Romania of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) mentions Romanian authorities' hostile behavior towards Szekler symbols and calls upon Bucharest to apply equal treatment with reference to the use of symbols.

27 January 2015.

■ **The Ploiesti Regional High Court's end of November final verdict invalidated the restitution to the Reformed Church of the Mikó Székely College that had been nationalized during communism and issued sentences of suspended imprisonment to the officials ordering the restitution in 2002.**

■ On the basis of the final and irrevocable court verdict the local council approved the taking over of the school's building from the Transylvanian Reformed Bishopric, thus the building of the Mikó Székely College has become the property of the Sfântu Gheorghe council.

29 January 2015.

■ **István Szávay, Hungarian MP from the Jobbik group has been officially expelled from Romania.**

■ According to the motivation the vice president of the Jobbik endangers the country's public order and public safety. Last March four Hungarian citizens were expelled from Romania, among them two MPs of the Jobbik, István Szávay and György Gyula Zagyva, as well as Zsolt Tyirityán, member of the Betyársereg (Army of Betyárs) and Béla Mikola, member of the New Hungarian Guard. According to the verdict they are not to step onto Romanian territory for one year.

31 January 2015.

■ **The international newsletter bothers the Romanians' forum.**

■ According to the Civic Forum of Romanians from Covasna, Harghita and Mureş counties the Imre Mikó Rights Protection Service's Háromszék organization misrepresents reality and is falsely shouting discrimination. The anti-Hungarian civic forum is bothered by the Service's English language international newsletter through which they have been weekly informing the embassies from Romania and Hungary, the representatives of human rights organizations and foreign political parties with reference to abuse and infringements of the rights of Hungarians from the Szeklerland and Transylvania.

2 February 2015.

■ **Government authorities are bothered by Hungarian symbols, they are also picking now on the High School from Arad.**

■ Through the document signed by Cosmin Pribac prefect of Arad county the government authority calls upon the local council to inform them in the shortest possible time with reference to public locations where beside the constantly

hung Romanian flag the flags of other nations may be hung as well. Another document signed by Ionuț Bala local police superintendent and Valentin Burtă, head of the public order department, requests from the local council to explain what that Hungarian language certificate means that is hanging the office entrance of Levente Bognár deputy mayor of Arad, that is on the corridor wall of the mayor's office. The two official documents were presented to the media by Gheorghe Falcă mayor of Arad, and both documents have as their central element suggestions that violate Hungarian national sentiment. The certificate hung at the office entrance is the diploma conferring upon Péter Atzél, former mayor of Arad free royal city, the honorary citizen title, below which – by the way – its Romanian translation is also hung.

3 February 2015.

■ **The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania consider the Supreme Judicial Council's inquiry with reference to the statements made by Hunor Kelemen last Saturday to be incomprehensible and unjustified, statements through which the president of the Alliance defended the innocence of Zsolt Nagy sentence to imprisonment.**

■ „We are not going to stay silence when someone is unjustly imprisoned, when renationalization is going on in this country, and we will neither keep quite when the DNA (National Anticorruption Directorate) is harassing one of our politicians for a decision in the making of which he hasn't even taken part. And neither will we be silent when a politician of the Alliance is investigated under charges of terrorism, nor when we are abused because of having sung our national anthem or used our Hungarian national symbols” – said Péter Kovács, chief secretary of the Alliance.

3 February 2015.

■ **Even after two months the Hungarian Civic Party has still not received any response to the petition read out at the demonstrations from Sfântu Gheorghe on the 29th of November that was sent to the government.**

■ After the event the document demanding for the manifesto from Alba Iulia to be upheld was registered at the prefect's office; according to the provisions of the law the addressees should have responded within a period of 30 days.

4 February 2015.

■ **The mayor of Târgu Mureş prohibited the Szekler National Council to organize a march from the monument of Szekler martyrs to the city center on the 10th of March and a protest demonstration in front of the prefect's office.**

■ Balázs Izsák, president of the Szekler National Council, stated that according to the Romanian law on the right of assembly protest demonstrations do not require authorization; the law only prescribes their mandatory notification. Through the events called the Day of Szekler Freedom the Szekler National Council has been commemorating János Török, Mihály Gálfi and Károly

Horváth, the three leaders of the anti-Habsburg Szekler conspiracy wound up in 1852, the three leaders being executed on the 10th of March 1854. The event has been taking place at the memorial column of the three since 2004. The events in 2013 and 2014 ended with marches and protests against the Romanian government's plans with reference to the setting up of Romanian regions. According to the organizers' estimates there were tens of thousands of participants at both the 2013 event and the one of 2014 that was also banned by the mayor.

3 February 2015.

■ **According to the Imre Mikó Rights Protection Service the banning of the referendum in the Szeklerland is antidemocratic.**

■ The prefects' ban on the organization of regional level referenda violates democratic principles, while the Romanian state uses administrative tools and references to the constitution to make the initiatives of regional referenda impossible, despite the fact that consultation through referenda is one of the fundamental democratic principles. The Covasna county prefect's office hindered the organization of the referendum concerning the formation of the Szeklerland independent development region despite the fact that there were more than 170 thousand supporting signatures gathered in this sense. They also raise international public awareness to the fact that in Romania patients and the ill do not have access to information on medicine in their mother tongue.

5 February 2015.

■ **Cluj Napoca: the placement of bilingual place name signs might depend on the judge's benevolence.**

■ Upon the Cluj Napoca mayor's office having reasoned against bilingual place name signs with the quote from Ceausescu, now they are asking for advice from the ministry of foreign affairs concerning this issue. The court case initiated by the European Committee Human Rights Hungarians Central Europe Foundation on the 11th of July last year has its appeal hearing on Thursday.

4 February 2015.

■ **According to court order the Szekler flag from the Erzsébet Park in Sfântu Gheorghe had to be removed.**

■ Upon the final verdict of the court the Hungarian Civic Party had to remove the large-sized Szekler flag hung in the Erzsébet Park in Sfântu Gheorghe. The flag had been hoisted on the 4th of June 2013, and soon after that Dumitru Marinescu, Covasna county's prefect of that time called upon the mayor's office to remove the flag, and then took his case to court. Last year former prefect Marius Popică also fined the Hungarian Civic Party to 5 thousand lei for having sung the Hungarian national anthem in a public place last year at the Trianon commemoration.

4 February 2015.

■ **In its final verdict the court dismissed bilingual place name signs in Cluj Napoca.**

■ In its final verdict the Cluj Napoca regional high court invalidated that former court decision that ordered the mayor's office to install Hungarian language place name signs. The Regional high court deemed that the European Hungarian Human Rights Foundation registered in the Netherlands was not competent to sue in favor of Hungarian inscriptions in Cluj Napoca. On the basis of the Foundation's action, in July 2014 the Cluj County Court determined that Hungarian inscriptions had to be installed in Cluj Napoca despite the fact that the city's Hungarian population was below the necessary 20% set by law. According to data of the last census the Hungarian community of Cluj Napoca was the second largest in Transylvania, following the one from Târgu Mureș. However, as compared to the 310 thousand total population of the city the almost 50 thousand Hungarians from Cluj Napoca make only 16%. The mayor's office has several times warded off the Hungarians' request with reference to bilingual inscriptions stating that they were not obliged by law to install them.

5 February 2015.

■ **According to Dorin Florea, if there is a march on the 10th of March, it will be an illegal one.**

■ The mayor recognized that the "otherwise" the organizers of the event "do have the right to hold a commemoration", however, if the event takes place, it will be an illegal one and in this case he will notify the competent authorities.

6 February 2015.

■ **The registration of the Cluj – Kolozsvár – Klausenburg Association has not been authorized.**

■ The association has been initiated by those civilians who announced last year that they were going to submit to the Parliament through citizens' initiative a draft bill for the official restitution of Cluj Napoca's Kolozsvár (Cluj) historical name, that is the deletion of the Napoca element of the name.

7 February 2015.

■ **According to Valentin Bretfelean police chief – who is also the president of the committee for the authorization of public events in Târgu Mureș – the march planned for the Day of Szekler Freedom receives supported from abroad.**

■ „To bring this many people to Târgu Mureș, to pay the buses, to give people to drink on the way here, so that when they arrive they'll be drunk enough, financial support is necessary” – said Bretfelean, who also stated that he had earlier drawn attention to this issue.

9 February 2015.

■ **The hearing of the case with reference to the singing of the national anthem is beginning at the Court of Sfântu Gheorghe in March.**

■ The court set the first date of hearing for the 9th of March in the case initiated by the civic party against the prefect's office due to the fine of 5000 lei that was issued to

the institution for the singing of the Hungarian national anthem. The Háromszék president of the Hungarian Civic Party has also made a complaint against the Covasna county prefect's office at the National Antidiscrimination Council.

10 February 2015.

■ **The Cluj Napoca mayor's office has appealed the verdict of the Cluj Napoca Court of law that ordered the local council to install at the entrances of the city the bilingual place name signs.**

■ In Cluj Napoca, at the local council's meeting due to the bilingual place name signs the Musai-Muszáj civil initiative group and the representatives of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania chided the mayor stating that "We cannot talk about multiculturalism in Cluj Napoca when the mayor's office appeals a verdict that supports multiculturalism and the use of the Hungarian language in administration."

11 February 2015.

■ **Statues "are paying" for ethnic tension in Oradea**

■ In Oradea Hungarian-Romanian relations might also be measured by the fact that this year there were already two instances when the statue of the "Holnaposok" in the Main street needed to be cleaned. Last year yellow paint was poured over the statue of Gábor Bethlen and a Romanian flag was wound around it, the statue of Attila József was also damaged, a couple of years ago the bronze plaque on the memorial plaque of the Garasos bridge was painted over twice, the memorial plaque of sculptor Nándor Wagner and the public statue of speleologist Gyula Czárán were damaged, and now they are planning to move the huge statue of Mihai Viteazul from the main square to the place of the former Olaszi cemetery.

13 February 2015.

■ **Community "cut in two" – flashmob for multilingualism in Cluj Napoca.**

■ More than two hundred people from Cluj Napoca participated at the flashmob whose organizers intended to draw the attention of the city's leaders to the lack of multilingual place name signs. With reference to multilingual place name signs there had been a passionate quarrel at the Wednesday afternoon meeting of the local council of Cluj Napoca. Last year the Most-Acum Movement for free language use civic organization put up a bilingual banner in the promenade bench also used for weddings, but the employees of the mayor's office cut it in two thus removing from it the Hungarian inscription.

13 February 2015.

■ **Saturday night unknown offenders painted into the Romanian national colors the portraits of the 13 martyr generals on the pedestal of the Freedom-statue from Arad.**

■ The relief portraits of the generals were sprayed over with

red, yellow and blue paint. A contumelious text against Hungarians in black paint was also sprayed onto the pedestal. The statue was inaugurated in the memory of the thirteen martyr generals in the Freedom Park of the Arad of those days on the 6th of October 1890. After the Trianon treaty the Romanian police force first had the statue planked, later in 1925 removed. After seventy-nine years, in 2004 the statue was replaced in the Firemen's Square in Arad surrounded by the park of reconciliation – on the basis of the Romanian-Hungarian intragovernmental agreement. In recent years the statue has been damaged several times.

14 February 2015.

■ **A group of supporters at the Romanian-Spanish rugby match in the Cluj Napoca Arena were holding up anti-Hungarian banners.**

■ The fans put up a black banner on one of the grandstands on which there was written in white paint the following text in Romanian language: "The name is Cluj-Napoca – either you accept it, or you leave." The inscription was a reaction to the civic initiative aimed at having the city's name inscribed in Hungarian too on the place name signs at the entrances. With the name change the communist regime wanted to strengthen the belief in the Romanians' nativity in Cluj Napoca.

15 February 2015.

■ **On Monday social-democrat councilors from Cluj Napoca were demanding Anna Horváth's resignation.**

■ According to them the deputy mayor from the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania instigated the Hungarian youth against the mayor's office. What triggered the displeasure of the councilors from the PSD group was that Anna Horváth had encouraged Hungarians from Cluj Napoca to participate in the campaign for the bilingual place name signs. One of the elements of this is for every Hungarian inhabitant of the city to individually sue the mayor's office.

16 February 2015.

■ **The Mureş county government commissioner's office won its case against the Romanian antidiscrimination council, the verdict upheld the fact that prefect's offices from Romania were not obliged to publish information of public interest on their website in minority languages – that is in Hungarian.**

■ The Romanian Antidiscrimination Council damned the Mureş county prefect's office in July 2012 for having on its website information exclusively in Romanian language. The Council issued a warning to the prefect's office. At the same time it also phrased the recommendation towards the prefect's offices from Mureş, Satu Mare, Bihor and Salaj counties as well as to the presidents of the Satu Mare, Bihor and Salaj counties' councils, as well as the mayors of more than 50 settlements from Transylvania, to cease the discrimination against members of the Hungarian minority and have the information of public

interest on their websites also in Hungarian language. In these administrative units the number of the Hungarian minority exceeds 20%, therefore, they have the right to the use of their mother tongue in public administration. In first instance the Mureş county prefect's office lost at the Târgu Mureş Regional High Court, now, however, the Supreme Court has overturned the verdict and has upheld the prefect's office's appeal. According to the verdict published on the Supreme Court's website, they have nullified the antidiscrimination council's 2012 decision.

16 February 2015.

■ **At the university senate's meeting of the Târgu Mureş University of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences there has been no progress with reference to the destiny of Hungarian language pharmaceutical training.**

■ The university opened up one hundred places for those Romanian students who wanted to study pharmaceutical sciences, but no places for the Hungarians.

17 February 2015.

■ **The court has invalidated the autonomy-decrees of 24 local councils in Harghita county.**

■ In the county there were 27 local councils that adopted the autonomy-decree initiated by the Szekler National Council, but all these decrees were attacked at the administrative division of the court by the prefect of the county. According to the reasons given by the prefect, which were also upheld by the Harghita county Tribunal, the Szeklerland administrative region cannot be created because the Romanian constitution only lists as administrative units the village, town and county. The request for the Hungarian language to also become official language conflicts with the constitutional provision according to which "in Romania the official language is the Romanian." To the initiative of the Szekler National Council so far the local councils of 45 settlements from Covasna, Harghita and Mureş counties have adopted the decision through which they express their desire to belong to the separate administrative unit named Szeklerland, whose autonomy would be guaranteed by cardinal law and on whose territory – beyond the state language – the Hungarian would also be an official language.

19 February 2015.

■ **According to the decision of the Supreme Court Judges' Council Hunor Kelemen president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania violated the independence of the judiciary when in his speech delivered at the gala celebrating the quarter of a century anniversary of the Alliance he defended Zsolt Nagy sentenced to four years imprisonment.**

■ The president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania said: he did not intend to influence to independence of the judiciary and he didn't do that, given that his statement was made after the final verdict was

published, and otherwise in such cases the principle of freedom of speech should prevail.

19 February 2015.

■ **The consumer protection agency from Covasna county called upon an enterprise from Odorheiu Secuiesc to change the slogan on one of its meat-products from "Szekler taste" to something else.**

■ Mircea Diacon, the head of the consumer protection agency from Covasna county motivated the notice with the fact that there was no such thing as "Szekler taste", only sweet, sour or bitter. "These days the Szekler denomination is used in the most impossible places, maybe there will soon appear the Szekler toilet or Szekler cemetery as well. On food products the use of references to the Szeklers is not appropriate" – said Diacon to the question why the expression Szekler should not be used with marketing purposes.

20 February 2015.

■ **In Romania the use of the mother tongue should and can be punished, respectively fighting for the right to use one's mother tongue.**

■ In its final verdict the Bucharest court of appeal warned Tünde Lakó Péterfi for trespassing, the activist who had been distributing bilingual product-labels in one of the markets from Târgu Mureş. The verdict is severe also due to the fact that it "overwrites" the verdict in first instance that upheld the activist's case against the police who had fined her for inexplicable reasons.

20 February 2015.

■ **The Mikó Imre Rights Protection Service has noticed severe abuses that violate human rights in the Romanian law enforcement.**

■ Nationwide there are several prisons where more than 20% of those imprisoned are Hungarian (for ex. Codlea, Miercurea Ciuc, Târgu Mureş, etc.). Despite of this in these institutions the Hungarian language cannot be used either orally or in writing, the programs of the Hungarian language radio and television are not available, one cannot ask for Hungarian teachers or psychologists. At the same time, it is demonstrable that whoever makes notice of violation of his/her language rights, will have to serve his/her full sentence, he/she won't be released before term due to "bad behavior".

24 February 2015.

■ **The social-democrat member of the local council of Arad would rather spend the amount set aside from the city's budget on the building of a new orthodox church than on the rearrangement, restoration and expansion of the Park of Reconciliation.**

25 February 2015.

■ **The house of representatives from Bucharest confirmed that emergency government regulation that gave the**

Romanian Orthodox church the Bradul hotel from Covasna city from the Szeklerland.

■ On the 18th of December 2013 the Romanian government issued an emergency regulation with reference to giving the six-storey high 89-room two-star hotel from the state protocol fund into “the administration of the State Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Orthodox Bishopric of Harghita and Covasna county.” The house of representatives confirmed the Ponta-cabinet’s regulation with 316 votes in favor, 7 against it and 14 abstentions.

25 February 2015.

■ According to the chief of the police under the administration of the Târgu Mureş mayor’s office criminal proceedings are started against the instigators if a crowd gathers at the monument of the martyrs on the anniversary of the Szekler martyrs’ execution on the 10th of March.

■ The Szekler National Council announced last week that upon the ban from the mayor they would not organize a crowd demonstration in Târgu Mureş on the Day of Szekler Freedom, but they also drew attention to the fact that everybody had the right to individually pay tribute at the monument with a flower and a candle. “The instigators can expect criminal proceedings. We know who are urging people to break the law, we know what is published in the newspapers and on social media” – the chief of police said. To the argument that even during the Ceausescu regime it was allowed to bring a flower to the monument, Valentin Bretfelean stated: “it is one thing for people to go there out of their own wish, and another for someone to call them there.”

3 March 2015.

■ Unknown offenders poured blue paint on the SIC-board in the Erzsébet park opposite the prefect’s office in Sfântu Gheorghe.

■ According to the organizers of the commemorations of the 10th of March “the timing of the board’s staining bears a crystal clear message: it took place after our announcement but before the 10th of March. This is also why we have to be there at the demonstration of the 10th of March, let us show them that they cannot oppress us.” The organizers’ communiqué argues: the timing is not accidental, as the 10th of March is approaching, and two days earlier the leader of the extremist New Right organization’s Cluj Napoca president suggested that Sfântu Gheorghe should become the new capital of Romania because this would be the easiest way to break the Szeklers’ autonomy-fight.

9 March 2015.

■ Dozens of gendarmes and policemen stood ready in Târgu Mureş while at the Szekler martyrs’ column the Day of Szekler Freedom commemoration was taking place.

■ At the monument and in the central square specialized gendarmerie vehicles, fire engines and ambulances were waiting ready for deployment. Several policemen were watching and video recording the participants of the commemoration at the Szekler martyrs’ column. Lucian

Goga prefect had announced earlier: the authorities were ready to reestablish order. While at the monument of the Szekler martyrs the Hungarians from Târgu Mureş were commemorating the heroes in silence, under police supervision, the central square of the town was loud with Romanian folk music and folk songs. People in Orthodox canonicals and with red-yellow-blue cockades were walking in the park, among them many policemen and gendarmes.

10 March 2015.

■ Sebastian Cucu, prefect of Covasna county, did not take over the petition adopted on the Day of Szekler Freedom.

■ The inhabitants of the city would have liked to hand over the document to the prefect, but the official did not receive them in his office. To the threatening murmur of the crowd finally the guard performing his duty at the gate took over the document.

11 March 2015.

■ The Romanian ministry of foreign affairs considers the 10th of March commemorations in the Heroes’ Square in Budapest unacceptable.

■ With the occasion of the Day of Szekler Freedom, the anniversary of the 1854 execution of the Szekler martyrs, the Pro Szeklerland Association organized a commemoration in the Heroes’ Square in Budapest with the participation of approximately five hundred people. President of the Association Árpád György-Mózes talked about the fact that the Szeklers’ freedom of expression is banned in Romania and that the authorities were trying to destroy our tangible cultural heritage. The Romanian ministry of foreign affairs reacted: “the statements made in Budapest are not only unacceptable, but they also contradict the European spirit.”

12 March 2015.

■ Balázs Izsák is suspected of instigating hatred.

■ Rajmond Domokos, officer of the criminal investigation department of the Covasna county police has been summoning to the Târgu Secuiesc police and has been interrogating as witnesses those members of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement who a year earlier had participated at the events organized in Târgu Mureş on the Day of Szekler Freedom. The hearing of the witnesses is going on in relation with the 2014/P/3876 criminal file through which Balázs Izsák, president of the Szekler National Council, is charged with instigation to hatred and discrimination. The witnesses are interrogated– as one of the reports states – in order to prove: “on the 10th of March 2014 Balázs Izsák organized a demonstration in Târgu Mureş which was not authorized by the authorities where there were shouted slogans that could be deemed attacks on the Romanian state, its citizens and its constitution. It also states about the president that throughout the event he publicly supported the Szeklerland’s territorial autonomy.”

12 March 2015.

■ **The wreaths placed on the 15th of March were thrown into the garbage in Cluj Napoca**

■ The wreaths with red-white-green ribbons that were placed on the memorial plaque on the building of the former Biasini hotel on the 15th of March were first hidden under other large ones with red-yellow-blue ribbons. Later the wreaths were found in a garbage can in the yard of the estate, and by then the wreaths with the Hungarian ribbons were also thrown there.

17 March 2015.

■ **The National Antidiscrimination Council issued a fine of two thousand lei to Gheorghe Funar for having called the Hungarian language “the language of horses” in a program of the public television.**

■ The National Antidiscrimination Council motivated the fine by stated that Gheorghe Funar’s statement was discriminating given that it created “hostile atmosphere” against the Hungarian language. “Such statements instigate interethnic intolerance, therefore, they are punishable.”

19 March 2015.

■ **Again anti-Hungarian infringement in Romania**

■ Since January the authorities have been harassing János Mezei, mayor of Gheorgheni, and his family, including his minor children as well. The true reason of the harassment is János Mezei’s political role, namely the fact that as the envoy of the Szekler National Council he has been strongly committed to the cause of Szeklerland. As it is well known, already on the day of his taking office he hung the Szeklerland’s flag on the city hall, and Gheorgheni was the first settlement where the local council adopted the decree with reference to Szeklerland’s autonomy. He was the one who together with Zoltán Márton went to the Kishinev meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the European Council’s Congress.

20 March 2015.

■ **The anticorruption prosecutors have started a comprehensive investigation with reference to the real estate restituted to the Roman Catholic church.**

■ The investigation is carried out by the prosecutors from Alba county and it encompasses several counties in Transylvania.

24 March 2015.

■ **The 2015-2020 Romanian public order and public security strategy, the draft of which was submitted for debate on Tuesday by the ministry of internal affairs, would list ethnic autonomy demands among risks to public security**

■ The document published on the website of the ministry lists among the risks to public security on the first place “racism, xenophobia, extremism and any other form of intolerance that aims the achievement of ethnic autonomy for certain areas or regions.” According to the motivation annexed to the document the long term public security

strategy aims to increase the efficiency of public order protection among conditions when free movement within the EU has created new possibilities for criminals, and in Romania’s neighborhood the number of instable areas has increased. The Romanian intelligence service also lists among its tasks the hindering of territorial autonomy on the territory of Romania: a fact revealed by a press release of last year by the director of that time of the Romanian Intelligence Service, George Maior. “We are striving to make territorial autonomy impossible to achieve and any other such things that are the scope of our neighbor’s new so-called national policy” – said Maior, referring to Hungarians and to Hungary.

24 March 2015.

■ **The Hungarian inscription on the place name sign of Gheorghieni was sprayed over**

■ According to Sándor Soós, the Cluj county president of the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party, “in Gheorghieni 6 km from Cluj Napoca the majority of the population is Hungarian, so it is clear what was the motive for the spraying over of the Hungarian inscription.”

25 March 2015.

■ **The Covasna county prefect’s office issued a fine of 5.000 lei to the Hungarian Civic Party because it considered that the singing of the Hungarian anthem on the Trianon commemorations organized on the 4th of June was illegal.**

26 March 2015.

■ **Heads of institutions under the jurisdiction of the Mureş county prefect’s office are neglecting not only national laws and international conventions with reference to language rights, but also the notice received from the prefect’s office.**

■ Out of the 34 decentralized institutions under the jurisdiction of the prefect’s office only ten even responded to the circular in which the heads of these institutions were called upon to respond to five questions within nine days. The questions were: 1. Are the bilingual boards placed on the facades of the institutions? 2. Have they ever received Hungarian language oral or written requests from the clients? 3. In the departments involved in public relations is the language of the Hungarian minority used? 4. In case when clients turn to the institution with Hungarian language petitions, does there exist the possibility to respond to these in Hungarian? 5. Does the possibility exist for the institution to use the Hungarian language – upon request – in their services?

8 April 2015.

■ **The committee working within the Bihor county prefect’s office had an adverse opinion on the proposal to name the Chrisul bridge in the Oradea city center after the city’s founder, Saint Ladislav.**

■ According to the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party the committee in charge of place names in Oradea county is discriminating and it instigates tensions among

the Romanians and Hungarians, therefore, the Party is seeking redress at the national antidiscrimination council.

8 April 2015.

■ **The court invalidated the job advertisement of Pericei village that set as a condition Hungarian language knowledge.**

■ The local council of Pericei village had to republish the vacancy for the function of clerk, but this time they had to eliminate from the text of the advertisement the requirement with reference to the knowledge of the Hungarian language. Ferenc Asztalos president of the National antidiscrimination council pointed out: given that we are talking about a village where the Hungarian minority makes up more than 20% of the population, the requirement with reference to the Hungarian language knowledge is legitimate.

9 April 2015.

■ **In Covasna bath town from the Szeklerland the Ministry of Health wants to change the name of the hospital named after Géza Benedek the institution's founding chief medical officer to Benedek-Teculescu Cardiovascular Rehabilitation Hospital without asking for the local council's opinion.**

■ Géza Benedek founded the hospital in Covasna in 1960, and he was the director of the institution for 25 years. He became world-famous due to the rehabilitation model developed by him. The model builds on the healing power of the bath's facilities: the healing waters and the mofettas (volcanic fumes containing carbon dioxide). The chief medical officer died in 2010 at the age of 94, a couple of months after the institution took his name.

9 April 2015.

■ **The local police under the jurisdiction of the Târgu Mureş local council deemed the bilingual street name signs installed by the volunteers of the Civic Engagement Movement (Cemo) to be advertisements and fined the two volunteers caught in the act to five thousand lei (350 thousand forints) each.**

■ In recent weeks the volunteers of the movement installed approximately 80 bilingual street name signs on the facades of such buildings in Târgu Mureş whose owners gave their prior agreement. The patrolling police checked the identity of the two volunteers under contract with the Cemo on the 20th of March and on the 23rd of March they were summoned to the local police station, while on the 30th of March they received the fining reports. Since 2001 in Romania the government act requires multilingual inscriptions in those settlements where the percentage of the minority exceeds 20%.

16 April 2015.

■ **Lucian Goga prefect called upon the local council of Ghindari to remove within ten days the place name signs at the entrances of the former three villages making up Trei Sate – Csókfalva, Atosfalva and Székelyszentistván.**

■ Upon the notification from the traffic department of the Mureş county police, prefect Lucian Goga sent a transcript to the mayor's office of Ghindari stating that the place name signs installed in Trei Sate endangered the safety of traffic, as they could be mistaken for traffic signs. In his response dated 15th of April, deputy mayor Imre Vass rejected the charges, stating: the signs were not standard road signs, but were installed with touristic aims on private property so that the visitors could learn about the place names eliminated during communism. He also rejected the discriminative treatment for as he pointed out throughout the country there could be found signs with the traditional names of settlements or regions.

5 May 2015.

■ **Unknown offenders painted over the Hungarian inscription on the place name sign of Gheorgheni at the entrance of the Szekler town from the direction of the Red Lake.**

■ According to the communiqué of the spokesperson of the Gheorgheni mayor's office the police recorded the matter while the local council was going to phrase a request towards the national police with reference to an investigation against unknown offenders. As it is known, while in many cities in Transylvania and Partium the local councils refuse to install the bilingual street name signs and there is a fierce fight going on in Cluj Napoca as well to have the name of the city written in Hungarian, too, it is quite often that the Hungarian inscription on the place name signs of different settlements hurts someone's eyes.

6 May 2015.

■ **The Justinian Teculescu Association is trying to prevent that the cultural center of Covasna be named after Rózsa Ignác.**

■ The Romanian civic organization sent a transcript to the mayor's office objecting the naming arguing that this act would instigate tensions among the Romanian and Hungarian population of the bath town.

13 May 2015.

■ **The Hungarian language sign "Sebes-Körös river" has been removed from the new bridge of Oradea.**

■ The spokesperson of the mayor's office stated that in accordance with legislation in force a fine of one thousand lei was issued, and he deemed it natural that the sign was removed from the bridgehead that was public area. "They were not authorized, although despite a request, they probably would not have received an authorization, given that only names authorized by the local council can be inscribed on signs" – the spokesperson explained. He added that in accordance with legislation in force private persons were not allowed to install signs in public areas "as they liked", and to his knowledge Wednesday morning there was a Hungarian plaque found at the other head of the bridge as well.

14 May 2015.

■ **In Savadisla, Cluj county, with 90% of the population Hungarian, the Hungarian inscription on the building of the police was covered.**

■ In 2013 the Cluj county police won its case against the National Antidiscrimination Council with reference to the bilingual inscription on the police station from Savadisla. In its verdict the Cluj Napoca regional high court nullified that written notice that was sent by the National Antidiscrimination Council to the local police for not having installed the Hungarian inscription on the building of the institution.

16 May 2015.

■ **The Civic Forum of Romanians from Covasna, Harghita and Mureş counties sent an open letter to Romanian legislators from Covasna county with reference to the plans for the rearrangement of the Freedom Square in Sfântu Gheorghe given that in their opinion the element called Dragon Hill was anti-Romanian as it would cover the Mihai Viteazul statue-group.**

■ The civic organization known for its anti-Hungarian manifestations interpreted the 5 meters tall, 13 meters wide and 33 meters long hill symbolizing a dragon as a “wall” raised between the Romanian and Hungarian cultures.

19 May 2015.

■ **Street names such as Avram Iancu, Horea, Mihai Viteazul, or Ştefan cel Mare cannot be translated into Hungarian, thus the mayor’s office from Târgu Mureş was not discriminative when neglecting to install the bilingual street name signs.**

■ Last year the Civic Engagement Movement (Cemo) made a complaint at the National Antidiscrimination Council given that despite the existent council decision there were still no bilingual street name signs installed in Târgu Mureş. The authority recognized that there was an act of discrimination, but the mayor appealed the verdict at the Regional High Court. Following this the Cemo turned to the Supreme Court, similarly to the Antidiscrimination Council who also appealed the Regional High Court’s verdict.

20 May 2015.

■ **The local council from Oradea rejected the proposal of the civic association that would like to have the statue of the city’s founder, Saint Ladislav to be erected on public funds on the Saint Ladislav (Union) square.**

■ Earlier the local council rejected the Roman Catholic Bishopric’s proposal also referring to European Union funding, adding that the old baroque Saint Ladislav stone statue donated by the church would be erected in the castle.

21 May 2015.

■ **90 Romanian MPs submitted a draft bill that wishes to declare the 4th of June the Holiday of the Trianon Treaty.**

31 May 2015.

■ **Mădălin Guruianu politician from the liberal party is making a criminal complaint against the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement for having chanted anti-Romanian slogans.**

■ The Civic Forum of Romanians from Covasna, Harghita and Mureş counties also called upon the liberal politician from Sfântu Gheorghe to make a complaint with reference to anti-Romanian slogans having been chanted on the streets of Sfântu Gheorghe.

8 June 2015.

■ **The prefect of Covasna county appealed the Sfântu Gheorghe Tribunal’s verdict which nullified the fine issued to the Háromszék organization of the Hungarian Civic Party for having publicly sung the Hungarian anthem.**

■ The five thousand lei fine was issued because at the end of the Trianon commemoration organized in Sfântu Gheorghe by the Hungarian Civic Party last year the participants sang the Hungarian anthem. The Sfântu Gheorghe Tribunal nullified the fine issued by the prefect’s office, given that the fine was not issued to the name of the appropriate legal person. The verdict also stated that a legal person could not sing an anthem, therefore it could not be fined with such a reason. According to the Tribunal a legal person organizing an event can only be fined if it does not comply with the mandatory conditions of organizing events.

9 June 2015.

■ **The local council of Odorheiu Secuiesc lost its case in first instance against the prefect’s office with reference to the Szekler flag installed on the Áron Márton square.**

■ A year ago, to the initiative of the representatives of the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party, the local council from Odorheiu Secuiesc adopted the decision to install a Szekler flag on the Áron Márton square.

On the 21st of July 2014 Jean-Adrian Andrei, prefect of Harghita county, sent a transcript to the city’s leaders stating that their decision did not comply with legislation in force with reference to the use of national symbols among other things also due to the fact that the given national symbol was only to be hung in public areas temporarily, with the occasion of holidays and anniversaries. The prefect turned to the Tribunal upon the local council’s denial to withdraw its decision and to remove the Szekler flag from the territory that otherwise constitutes church property. In Romania the use of the Szekler flag has become problematic since the coming into power of the Ponta-government. The prefects of the counties from the Szeklerland went to court to have the Szekler flags removed from public institutions, and in a couple of cases they also attacked Szekler flags installed in public areas. The authorities’ actions gave birth to reactions and it largely contributed to the spreading of the use of the national symbol.

10 June 2015.

■ **The consumer protection agency from Háromszék issued severe fines against the nursing home from**

Lemnia – among other things – for the missing Romanian inscriptions.

■ According to the motivation the fine has been issued because they found goods without the mandatory informational elements, the products did not have Romanian inscriptions, the daily menu was only written in Hungarian.

12 June 2015.

■ The Romanian gendarmerie issued a fine of five hundred lei to one of the organizers of the Trianon commemorations from Târgu Secuiesc because he was unwilling to talk to the gendarmes in Romanian.

■ The gendarmerie stated about Csongor Szócs that at the time when his identity was checked he said in Romanian: In Târgu Secuiesc we speak in Hungarian, and if the gendarmerie wanted to talk to him they should call an interpreter. In their report the gendarmerie made reference to the article of a 1991 law concerning the denial to present personal data and non-appearance upon being summoned.

16 June 2015.

■ On the day of the Romanian flag, to the initiative of the minister of defense, a huge Romanian flag was inaugurated in the presence of the interim prime minister in the center of Harghita county, Miercurea Ciuc populated in majority by Hungarians.

■ The aim of the obvious power demonstration is the intimidation of the Hungarian community who have been demanding equal treatment with the Romanians, language rights and cultural as well as territorial autonomy.

30 June 2015.

■ In its final verdict the Târgu Mureş Regional High Court nullified the autonomy decree of the Miercurea Ciuc local council.

■ According to the motivation of the Regional High Court, the Miercurea Ciuc local council exceeded its jurisdiction when adopting a decree with reference to the territorial administrative position of 153 settlements. The Court also made reference to the fact that also the European Commission rejected the registration of two citizens' initiatives concerning "the setting up of regions on ethnic basis."

To the initiative of the Szekler National Council so far 54 local councils from the Szeklerland have adopted the decree in which they express their wish to belong to the separated administrative unite called Szeklerland in whose case cardinal law would guarantee autonomy and on whose territory – beside the state language – the Hungarian would also be official language.

2 July 2015.

■ Lawyer Előd Kincses turned to the National Anticorruption Prosecution due to the abuse he suffered at the Târgu Mureş Transylvania Airport on the 2nd and the 12th of May.

■ In his motivation the lawyer stated that when at the beginning of May he passed through the passport control of the Vidrasau airport, one of the staff ran after him and asked again for his identity card to make a copy of it. Upon his arrival ten days later he was immediately picked out of the line and his travel documents were taken which he got back after about ten minutes.

7 July 2015.

■ Gyula György Zagyva, co-president of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement, represents "a national security risk" for Romania, therefore, at Valea lui Mihai he was denied the right to pass the border, and later he was expelled from the country for an indefinite period.

■ The co-president of the Youth Movement, former MP of the Jobbik, was picked from the line, the Romanian border guard called him by his name even before the identity check and he was asked to step aside. After a short period of waiting he was given a piece of paper according to which he was not allowed to step onto Romania's territory for an indefinite period of time. The motivation was only the usual risk to national security. The politician was taken by surprise by the decision, despite the fact that this was not the first time he was expelled.

7 July 2015.

■ The mayor's office from Cluj Napoca denied authorization for the autonomist banner in Cluj Napoca.

■ The idea's initiator, Ernő Fancsali has recently published on the Autonomy for Transylvania Facebook site his call according to which he was gathering funds for a huge banner that would promote Transylvania's autonomy. "Bucharest wants to sweep under the carpet Transylvanian pursuits of autonomy. Make a donation so that together we can raise attention to Transylvanian identity" – Fancsali wrote in his multilingual call.

10 July 2015.

■ The Târgu Mureş local police known for its anti-Hungarian measures is destined to decide whether the bilingual inscriptions donated by the Civic Engagement Movement hung on the corridor walls of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza school can remain in their place.

■ Horaşiu Lobonţ, the mayor's office's official in charge of school buildings has sent a circular in a vehement tone to the school directors in which, referring to an inexistent legislative article, he is trying to ban bilingual inscriptions in classrooms and school corridors. According to him the civic activists' deed to hang bilingual signs above the Hungarian classroom, the toilet or the teachers' lounge in the Cuza school was illegal.

23 July 2015.

■ The Mureş county prefect's office and the Civic Engagement Movement are preparing to attack in the administrative court the decision of the Târgu Mureş local

council with reference to the names of thirty streets in the center of the city.

■ According to the local council's decision on the walls of the buildings there would be installed informational plaques under the street's Romanian name, not with the Hungarian translation of the name but with the former Hungarian names of the streets. The prefect's office and the civic organization are demanding the withdrawal of the local council's decision.

11 August 2015.

■ The consumer protection agency deemed the SIC – Terra Siculorum – Székelyföld stickers aimed at promoting the Szeklerland to be illegal advertisements and therefore ordered their removal from taxis in Covasna county.

■ During the controls conducted together with the traffic patrol the consumer protection agency fined twenty taxi drivers from Sfântu Gheorghe, Târgu Secuiesc, Covasna and Intorsura Buzaului among other things for the SIC stickers on their cars. According to the head of the agency in compliance with legislation on taxis, taxi drivers can only have stickers on their cars on the basis of advertisement contracts also registered at the mayor's office. He stated that he did not know whether the SIC inscription was or was not an advertisement but it was "something that was stuck on the car", and that was something the law applied to.

12 August 2015.

■ The wooden cross in the memory of the József Kovács who died a heroic death at Poiana Sarata on the 11th August 1917, that was recently erected at the edge of the Hungarian lot by the hero's descendants, was found outside the fence of the cemetery of Poiana Sarata.

■ A small ribbon in the national colors on the cross reminded one of the fact that in that lot Hungarian heroes were buried. In the cemetery there were buried twenty-three Hungarian soldiers whose name was known and seven unknown.

13 August 2015.

■ The Saint Michael church was scabbled on.

■ On the night of Tuesday to Wednesday graffiti was scabbled on the walls of the Saint Michael church from Cluj Napoca, more than ten tags appeared on the walls of the church.

13 August 2015.

■ After only two days the Hungarian inscription disappeared from the ticket machines in Cluj Napoca.

■ During the opening ceremony of the Cluj Napoca Hungarian Days two persons scraped down those inscriptions that were placed on the recently installed ticket machines and which had the city's name written in Hungarian. The Hungarian inscription was drawn attention to by the Musai-Muszáj civic initiative group in their Saturday communiqué, welcoming the step that they attributed to the mayor's office.

18 August 2015.

■ In the center of Lunga an unknown offender climbed the pole of the monument in the honor of the heroes of the world wars located in the church square and cut down the Szekler flag that had hung there.

■ The same happened exactly one year earlier when also one of the flags hung on the monument was cut down. The two flags were hoisted on private property in the framework of a ceremony on the 21st of April 2013 to the initiative of the Lunga Szekler Council. This is the second time that the Szekler symbol has been damaged.

19 August 2015.

■ In Cluj Napoca unknown offenders sprayed red and green graffiti on the Karolina column in the Museum (Karolina) square.

■ This is already the third Hungarian monument in Cluj Napoca that has been recently damaged by unknown offenders. Earlier the Mathias statue and then the Saint Michael church's walls and sanctuary fell victim to vandals. The mayor's office made a complaint at the police; however, the offenders have not been found yet. The Karolina-column (its former name Statua) is the city's oldest secular monument in the Old Town, in Karolina square. The column was raised in memory of the visit made to the city by King Ferenc I and his fourth wife, Queen Karolina Augustza between the 18th and 27th of August 1817. The aim of that visit was to calm people down among the hardships of Napoleonic wars.

23 August 2015.

■ Starting with the new school year there will be no separate Hungarian school in Bistrita given that the ministry of education made legal objections against the local council's decision in this respect.

■ The ministry of education made legal objections to the decision of the Bistrita local council's decision, and – among other things – they also objected to the planned name of the institution -- János Hunyadi High School. As we have reported earlier, the Bistrita local council adopted a decision in May with reference to establishing a separate Hungarian school in the city with the name of János Hunyadi High School. According to the plans in the 2015-2016 school year the high school would have operated still in the old location, but as a separate administrative unite, and later would have moved to another building.

28 August 2015.

■ Dorin Florea is attacking the churches again, this time the mayor of Târgu Mureş criticized the historical Hungarian churches because of the natural gas-fueled heating stoves in the Hungarian denominational schools.

■ The concerned buildings are today the property of historical Hungarian churches, and the leader of Târgu Mureş uses every opportunity to request their renationalization on the basis of the condition the buildings are in. "The mayor has nothing to worry about, he should rather do everything in his power to get EU funds for the rehabilitation of the buildings

in the course of which we could also replace these stoves” – said the directors of the concerned schools.

3 September 2015.

■ **Jean-Adrian Andrei demanded standard bilingual inscriptions from the local police under the jurisdiction of the Odorheiu Secuiesc local council, otherwise he projected the issuing of fines in amounts up to 5000 lei.**

■ A debate heated by nationalist emotions has been taking place on online forums and in the media with reference to the question why one could read the Hungarian inscription Local Police on one side of the vehicles of the police of Odorheiu Secuiesc. As it turned out, on the other three sides of the vehicles the inscription could be read in Romanian. According to the prefect, the alternate languages inscriptions on the police cars are against the rules. He pointed out: bilingualism in public administration complies with the regulations only if the minority language inscription appears under “the official Romanian text”, with the same size fonts.

3 September 2015.

■ **Bogdan Diaconu, founder of the Unified Romania Party, who – since his exit from the governing Social-Democratic Party last year has been acting as independent MP, submitted a draft bill that would restrict the use of any other language than the Romanian.**

■ The draft bill would ban the use – in writing or orally – of any other language than the Romanian in public institutions, state authorities, local councils. It would prescribe that all meetings of local or county councils be held exclusively in Romanian, assuring “official interpretation” to “foreign guests and participants without Romanian citizenship.” In case the draft bill is adopted, “public inscriptions” would only be written in Romanian.

4 September 2015.

■ **Complying with the official notice, the staff and the volunteers of the Cemo have removed the bilingual inscriptions donated to the Alexandru Ioan Cuza School, Enikő Szigeti, president of the Civic Engagement Movement informed the public.**

■ The director of the school sent an official request to Horațiu Lobonț, deputy director of the directorate in charge of schools within the mayor’s office, in which she requested the possibility of keeping the bilingual plaques donated by the Cemo, but she has received no answer.

13 September 2015.

■ **A complaint has been made against the guerilla group from Târgu Mureș who have been installing bilingual stickers in town.**

■ At the beginning of September the *Bilingual Street Names in Târgu Mureș* guerilla group installed bilingual stickers on the monolingual, respectively only partially bilingual street name signs. Immediately the local police made a

complaint at the prosecutor’s office against “unknown offenders.” In the first half of September the guerilla group installed stickers with the bilingual inscription “We want bilingualism” in thirty streets. Valentin Bretfelean called the act a crime and he immediately turned to the prosecutor’s office so they would detect who the offenders were, because according to him through their acts these offenders endangered traffic.

17 September 2015.

■ **The Orthodox Movement from Savadisla has sent out a circular requesting the support of entrepreneurs for the building of an Orthodox church in Savadisla.**

■ The authors of the circular call the building of the Romanian church in the village whose population is 98% Hungarian a “Romanian national project.”

22 September 2015.

■ **Zsolt Árus has initiated further five lawsuits against different Romanian authorities and institutions.**

■ None of the answers that he has received to his letters and petitions sent to the different institutions, complies with all the legal provisions. The European Court of Human Rights is going to hear the case initiated by Árus against the Harghita county prefect’s office on the basis that there are no Hungarian inscriptions on the place name signs and on the facades of the different public institutions in Toplita. In another case he argues that at high school graduation Hungarian students are discriminated against given that they have to pass two additional examinations as compared to Romanian students. Zsolt Árus believes that all these cases will end up at the European Court of Human Rights.

22 September 2015.

■ **At the round table discussion organized by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and the National Antidiscrimination Council in Bucharest on the 29th of September, participants stepped up against racial and ethnic discrimination and other forms of intolerance that could be observed in Romania.**

■ According to Enikő Laczikó, state secretary from the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, the Office of Interethnic Relations comes against many obstacles the overcoming of which represents a challenge to the office. At the same time processes are often unreasonably interfered with, and thus also the formation of social relations based on mutual understanding and tolerance. We have been listening to a whole series of racist political statements that incite xenophobia, that have been hindering those pursuits that for the last 25 years have been trying to assure minority rights, said the state secretary.

30 September 2015.

■ **The Cluj Napoca organization of the Transylvanian Hungarian People’s Party was denied authorization with reference to the organization of the pro-Transylvanian**

autonomy meeting in the Széchenyi square on the 30th of October.

■ According to Ernő Fancsali, president of the party's local organization, the request submitted to the mayor's office with reference to the authorization of the meeting, did not even mention ethnic autonomy, the request specified as the topic of the meeting regionalization and decentralization.

30 September 2015.

■ After the pro-autonomy demonstration, the members of the New Right extremist Romanian organization also took up their banners in Cluj Napoca.

■ „As a Romanian, in my own country I am offended by certain Romanian citizens of other ethnicity, who have been inciting to the dismembering of Romania. Though they are saying that they want autonomy, but autonomy is the first step towards the dismembering of Romania” – said Codrin Goia, president of the Cluj Napoca organization of the New Right. “We expect authorities to step up against those who are in favor of autonomy and fine them for the violation of the first article of the Constitution. If the authorities do not take any measures, the New Right will go into the streets more often, in larger and larger numbers, against these separatist attempts” – threatened Goia.

1 October 2015.

■ The organizers of the presentation of the Târgu Mureş – Europe's Cultural Capital 2021 project intentionally “forgot” to mention the Hungarian, Saxon, Jewish and Roma elements, while at the same time they have been talking about multiculturalism as the project's key element.

■ At the presentation of the project Ciprian Dobre, president of the county council and Claudiu Maior deputy mayor emphasized several times that in case they manage to win the title of cultural capital, the project entitled “Made in Târgu Mureş” will be developed in five languages: Romanian, Hungarian, German, Roma and English. It is the legitimate expectation of all Hungarians from Târgu Mureş from their responsible Hungarian political leaders to use all legitimate tools to enforce the community's rights, and only support the project with his/her work or any type of contribution if the above mentioned problems are solved and comprehensive bi- or multilingualism prevails. The oftentimes advertised tolerance and the European-level peaceful cohabitation of different ethnic groups can only come true if the city's leaders take into account the Hungarian community living here, their cultural values, as well as their language and other minority rights.

1 October 2015.

■ The Târgu Mureş Tribunal does not consider the local chief of police's statement that all those house-owners who do not remove from the buildings the Hungarian-Romanian bilingual street name signs will be severely fined, a threat.

■ The Târgu Mureş Tribunal issued its final verdict according to which the statement made by Valentin

Bretfelean local chief of police cannot be considered a threat. He had envisaged severe fines to all those house-owners who did not remove from their buildings the bilingual street name signs installed there by volunteers. Előd Kincses filed a complaint at the prosecutor's office against the threatening authority in the name of 12 house-owners threatened with fines. The prosecution, however, without even seriously considering the case, came to the conclusion that it would not initiate an investigation.

1 October 2015.

■ At the end of April the Târgu Mureş police envisages fines between 30 thousand and 50 thousand lei to those who did not remove – within 48 hours – from the walls of their houses those bilingual street name signs that had been installed there by the volunteers of the Civic Engagement Movement (Cemo).

■ The Cemo installed the bilingual street name signs upon the mayor's office having neglected to do so. The police deemed these signs to be advertisements, and referring to the law on advertisement they envisaged fines. The local police also fined two volunteers caught in the act of placing out bilingual signs in March, but the fining report issued to one of them was nullified by the court in September. It is known that by the 2008 ratification of the European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages Romania has undertaken to have place names inscribed also in minority languages. The Romanian administrative law requires bilingual inscriptions in those settlements where the percentage of the minority population exceeds 20 percent. However, the law has no provisions with reference to street names.

2 October 2015.

■ Victor Ponta Romanian prime minister replaced from office Enikő Laczikó, the Romanian government's secretary of state for minority relations, with effect from the 1st of October.

Probably the measure is in connection with the fact that the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania supported in parliament the motion of censure against the government. Enikő Laczikó was head of the government's office for minority relations since January 2013.

5 October 2015.

■ According to the 2014 report of the Romanian Intelligence Service in Romania the “Hungarian threat” has increased.

■ According to the report foreign secret services have been working intensively with the aim of strengthening their governments' control over “the communities of the same ethnicity and their main organizations in Romania”. The quoted paragraph does not mention Hungary by name; however, among the listed threats and spy activities it is easy to recognize the calls and support for autonomy for the Szeklerland and the Transylvanian activity of the Hungarian government.

5 October 2015.

■ **One of the Romanian instructors teaching practical courses at the University of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Târgu Mureş threatened the Hungarian students in one of the mixed groups: they'll see what happens if it turns out that they do not speak the Romanian language well enough.**

5 October 2015.

■ **Organizations gathered at Izvorul Mureş, worried about the destiny of Romanians living in the Szeklerland, demand in their memorandum protection, special support, specialized government department, and the more efficient and more powerful presence of police-state organizations.**

■ Mircea Duşa minister of defense scolded Hungarian political organizations for having “unconstitutionally” demanded autonomy, but praised the Romanian civil forum active in three counties and known for its anti-Hungarian manifestations, that – in the minister’s opinion – had become a balancing factor in the region. The rotund memorandum serves the same purpose as the persecution of the Hungarian flag, the Hungarian anthem and the Hungarian language: to intimidate and to deter from their aims the Hungarian community.

6 October 2015.

■ **A group of members of parliament belonging to the governing party would list the injury brought to Romanian national symbols among the categories of criminal offences.**

■ 36 MPs and senators of the Social-democrat Party and the National Union for the Progress of Romania would punish with one to three years imprisonment those who publicly violate the Romanian national symbols or “treats them with disrespect.” The punishment would be half a year to two years for those who also publicly “show contempt towards the symbols used by state authorities.” As it is known, last year the prefect of Covasna county issued a fine of five thousand lei to the Târgu Secuiesc mayor’s office due to the fact that the town was not appropriately ornamented with Romanian flags on the 1st of December, on the Romanian national holiday. At the same time, this September Gabriel Oprea minister of internal affairs demanded the impeachment and punishment of those concerned in the fact that at the celebrations held on the anniversary of the Romanian troops’ march into Sfântu Gheorghe in 1944 the organizers were not allowed to hoist the Romanian flag on the tower of the city hall. Sebastian Cucu, prefect of Covasna county, made a complaint at the prosecutor’s office against the city’s leaders arguing that they have infringed the law against fascist, legionary or xenophobe organizations, symbols and acts and the cult of war criminals.

12 October 2015.

■ **A new wave of attack is in progress against Transylvanian Hungarian autonomy.**

■ The mayor of Cluj Napoca, Emil Boc former prime minister denied the authorization of the tri-lingual

banner for the promotion of Transylvanian autonomy as a sign of rejection of the so-called ethnic autonomy. The Civic Organization of Romanians in Covasna, Harghita and Mureş counties, an association that forwards the bad spirit of national-communism of the Ceausescu era, would use militia forces for the intimidation of Hungarians from the Szeklerland, while their main patron, Mircea Dusa minister of defense emphasizes their demands through his threatening speeches.

15 October 2015.

■ **Bogdan Diaconu independent MP would like to proclaim the 4th of June the Trianon holiday, respectively the day against Hungarian oppression.**

■ The draft bill also foresees the senate and the house of representatives celebrating the day in a joint meeting where they would commemorate the sorrows of Transylvanian Romanians “languishing under Hungarian oppression” something that they experienced before the adoption of the Trianon peace treaty and during the Second World War. The draft also specifies that any public, cultural or mediated event that would question the peace treaty from Trianon should be punished with one to five years imprisonment, and the same punishment would await also those who would distribute negative messages about the day of signing the treaty or who would present it as a day of mourning. The same 1 to 5 years imprisonment would be the sentence in the case of those who deny that the Transylvanian Romanians were oppressed by the Hungarian power.

20 October 2015.

■ **The president of the consumer protection agency instigated ethnic tension by fining those commercial units that had “Szekler taste” labels on their products, while the agency issued no fines due to products labeled “Italian tastes”, “Romanian tastes” or with references to the cuisines of any other nations.**

■ Mircea Diacon, president of the consumer protection agency from Covasna county, has been continuously abusing his power in office thus putting into a disadvantaged or abusive situation the county’s Hungarian population. The Imre Mikó Rights Protection Service sent a letter in this respect to the Prime Minister’s Office and the leadership of the national consumer protection agency, asking for the replacement of the above named person.

20 October 2015.

■ **Dorin Florea, mayor of Târgu Mureş, has recognized that the new street name signs for the procurement of which the mayor’s office had initiated the procurement process, will also be monolingual.**

■ In Târgu Mureş where 43 percent of the population is Hungarian, the Hungarian community has been fighting unsuccessfully for the last 14 years to have the names of the streets also inscribed in Hungarian. The Romanian administrative law prescribes bilingual inscriptions in

those settlements where the number of the minority population exceeds 20 percent. The law does not have specific provisions with reference to street names. At the beginning of October the Târgu Mureş mayor's office put out to tender the production of 7.188 street name signs, but they only asked for bilingual signs in the case of 1715 signs. In 2008 Romania ratified the European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages through which it undertook to use the traditional minority place names as well. In their most recent, 2012 report, experts of the Charter specify that by place names the Charter does not only refer to names of settlements. The mention as a concrete example that it is not enough to write after the Romanian name of the street the Hungarian word "utca" ("street"), but the name of the street in the minority language should also be inscribed on the sign. In September also the Târgu Mureş Tribunal accepted reference to the Charter when they nullified the fine issued to one of the volunteers of Cemo who had been installing bilingual street name signs.

22 October 2015.

■ **The investigation of how the anti-Hungarian board got in front of the Mathias statue in Cluj Napoca has been going on unsuccessfully for four years.**

■ The Mathias statue-group from Cluj Napoca was re-inaugurated after its restoration with the joint support of the Romanian and Hungarian governments in April 2011. One month later unknown offenders placed a bronze plaque onto the statue's pedestal with a quote from Romanian historian Nicolae Iorga suggesting the Romanian origin of King Mathias. Both Hunor Kelemen, at that time minister of culture, president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, and Balázs Gergely, former vice president of the Transylvanian Hungarian National Council, made official complaints because of the unauthorized intervention on the monument. In September 2012 Balázs Gergely was interrogated by the prosecutor's office, Hunor Kelemen has not yet been summoned for questioning. The spokesperson of the Cluj county prosecutor's office stated to the newspapers that the case is investigated by the county police under the director of a prosecutor. He added: the investigators have managed to gather several pieces of evidence, but he denied further details referring to the interests of the investigation.

27 October 2015.

■ **An investigation due to Hungarian state funding was carried out at the Siculitas Association represented by Balázs Izsák and the Sepsireform Association represented by Zoltán Gazda, the two associations involved in the organization of the lighting of the borders of Szeklerland.**

■ The inspectors of the Sibiu office of the anti-fraud department of the Tax and Financial Office carried out a targeted investigation at the Siculitas and the Sepsireform Associations. In the case of the Siculitas Association the inspectors issued a fine of 10 thousand lei on the basis of law 656/2002 with the motivation that the Association had

neglected to separately report a funding received from Hungary at the authority against money laundering.

30 October 2015.

■ **The committee for restitutions operating under the jurisdiction of the government rejected the restitution of the Batthyáneum library and observatory from Alba Iulia to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese from Alba Iulia.**

■ Approximately three quarters of the codexes and incunabula existent in Romania are preserved in the library founded by bishop Ignác Batthyányi. The committee motivated its decision with the fact that the party reclaiming the library is not the same as the former owner marked in the land register. The library and the observatory has been reclaimed by the archdiocese, while the land register marks as owner the Csillagda.

30 October 2015.

■ **The Bucharest Tribunal has registered the extremist Romanian New Right which is admittedly legionnaire and the follower of Corneliu Zelea Codreanu.**

■ According to the communiqué of the party the New Right "represents a national, Christian and social right wing policy as opposed to the liberal, anti-national, atheist and oligarch right wing."

5 November 2015.

■ **The Civic Forum of Romanians objects to the flag of Sfântu Gheorghe. The anti-Hungarian organization submitted its protest on Monday, the last but one day of the public consultation, arguing that the flag only represents the Hungarian community but not the Romanians making up 25 percent of the population.**

■ Otherwise, the coat of arms has several elements which the Romanians can consider theirs, too, the sun, the moon, the protecting castle walls, or Saint George also recognized by the Orthodox church. The local council adopted the flag of Sfântu Gheorghe in 2008, the prefect's office attacked it in court after the legal term, with a delay of four years, and finally the Brasov Regional High Court invalidated the council's decision.

10 November 2015.

■ **One day after her announcement regarding her intention to run for the position of mayor of Odorheiu Secuiesc, Orsolya Arros economist was fired. What is more, the police also showed up at her apartment.**

■ According to her account of the events, Orsolya Arros was officially dismissed from her job as the operative director of the Gordon Prod Ltd. with effect from October. In her opinion the motivation for her dismissal were trumped-up reasons.

10 November 2015.

■ **The representatives of the Harghita county prefect's office, prosecutor's office and Tribunal made a site visit to the mayor's office of Madaras Ciuc in the Szeklerland,**

with special emphasis on the Hungarian flag hung on the building.

■ The delegation made the site visit in the context of the lawsuit initiated by prefect Jean-Adrian Andrei against mayor László Bíró for having refused to execute the former final verdict of the court with reference to the removal of the flag. The prefect had fined the mayor several times. The mayor elected in the group of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania removed the flag at one time but – as he had stated earlier – he hung it again “after washing and ironing.” In Madaras Ciuc with a population of 2200 with the occasion of the 2011 census 99 percent of the inhabitants stated to be Hungarian.

16 November 2015.

■ **The extremist nationalist New Right Romanian organization is calling its members to a march in Sfantu Gheorghe on the 1st of December, on Romania’s national day.**

■ In the call published on the website of the party they urge everyone to celebrate Romania’s national day in Covasna county “together with the Romanians from Sfantu Gheorghe.”

23 November 2015.

■ **Dan Tănasă, notorious for his reports, wants to achieve it in court to have the Village Hall Hungarian inscriptions disappear from the buildings housing the mayor’s offices of villages from the Ciuc region.**

The MP argues that in the Romanian administration the denotation Village Hall does not have an equivalent, in his opinion, it is a denotation taken over by the local councils from the Szeklerland from Hungary, and they have been using it illegally. In Covasna county several mayors have been sued by the prefect’s office for having placed the Hungarian inscriptions Village Hall or Town Hall on the façade of their offices: in Târgu Secuiesc and Baraoid the monolingual Town Hall, in Cernat, Ghidfalau, Malnas, Mereni and Sanzieni the monolingual Village Hall inscriptions were objected to.

24 November 2015.

■ **An investigation has been started at the emergency of the county hospital from Sfantu Gheorghe after one of the patients complained that he was discriminated against because he did not speak Romanian.**

■ A patient asked for help in Hungarian at the emergency of the county hospital from Sfantu Gheorghe, but when it turned out that he was only able to describe his symptoms in Hungarian, the doctor said: “if he does not speak Romanian, he should go home.”

25 November 2015.

■ **The Tribunal from Sighisoara issued a fine of ten thousand lei to the man from Sovata who had erected an Albert Wass statue in the yard of his own house in the town from Mureş county.**

■ The verdict in first instance of the 24th of November was based on law no. 2012/187 banning the promotion of fascist, racist and xenophobic ideology and the cult of persons committing crimes against peace and against humanity. At the same time the court also ordered the confiscation of the bust, the plaque with the author’s name and the three ribbons in the Hungarian national colors. The verdict also obliges the man from Sovata to the payment of 850 lei legal costs and 550 lei investigation costs. Ferenc Tóth had the Albert Wass bust erected in the yard of his house from Sovata on Pentecost Sunday the previous year.

28 November 2015.

■ **At the celebrations organized with the occasion of the 525 years anniversary from the first written mention of the town, a huge Bucovina flag was hoisted in the center of Gura Humorului, a town in Suceava county.**

■ While the Romanian authorities have been persecuting the Szekler flag, people from Bucovina can use their community’s symbols without being bothered.

29 November 2015.

■ **According to the statements made by the social-democrat Ninel Peia MP, a script from Budapest, supported by Angela Merkel German Chancellor and Valdimir Putin Russian president, is in the background of the club fire in Bucharest causing sixty deaths so far, the aim of which was the dismembering of Romania.**

■ The MP – and also PhD student of the university of secret services – starts out from stating that the 30th of October fire at the Colectiv club was not the result of an unfortunate accident but the operation of a killer. He says that he possessed information with reference to this devilish plan “having been designed in the laboratory of a university from Budapest, something that surprises no sincere Romanian person.”

29 November 2015.

■ **Romanian authorities perquisitioned the home of the president from Târgu Secuiesc of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement.**

■ The authorities made no accusations, and there was no motivation stated in the search warrant either. During the perquisition they seized objects that were owned legally, for example the Hungarian flag and flags and T-shirts of the Youth Movement.

30 November 2015.

■ **The Regional High Court from Bucharest placed István Attila Beke, president of the Târgu Secuiesc organization of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement, in a thirty day detention, being suspected of the preparation of an assassination by the prosecution.**

■ The Romanian prosecution concerned with combating organized crime and terrorism (DIICOT) announced on Romania’s national day that the man from Târgu Secuiesc wanted to blow a homemade bomb at the event

organized for the national day. According to the DIICOT's communiqué the person was detained with the suspicion of intended acts against constitutional order and the infringement of regulations with reference to explosives. According to the prosecution, the tools seized during the perquisitions were appropriate to endanger Romanian citizens and their possessions. The raid might be linked to the fact that István Beke is member of the registered sports association Neoforum Siculorum Tactical Unit involved in the hobby sport airsoft similar to paintball.

2 December 2015.

■ **Unknown offenders have thrown a Romanian national flag with the inscription "Down with the Hungarians" into the yard of the Reformed parsonage in the György Dózsa street, Dumbravita, Timis county.**

■ Already in the summer the Sándor Petőfi memorial erected in 1945 in the central park of Dumbravita, a village bearing the title of the richest village of Romania, was damaged.

1 December 2015.

■ **The Romanian prosecutor general's office has arraigned the singer of the Kárpátia band from Hungary, János László Petrás for xenophobic propaganda.**

■ According to the prosecution at the concert in Miercurea Ciuc on the 6th of June 2014 of the Kárpátia rock band "known for its ultranationalist and anti-Romanian repertoire", János László Petrás incited the audience both with the lyrics of their songs and his dialogue with the audience, "he contributed to the generation and strengthening of their anti-Romanian feelings, and urged to anti-Romanian intolerance and physical violence." According to the communiqué the singer infringed on the provisions of the 2002 emergency government order with reference to the ban on fascist, racist and xenophobic organizations and symbols and on the cult of persons committing crimes against peace and against humanity. They also stated that they have also arraigned Barna Csibi who was selling T-shirts with the image of Large Hungary in June 2014. According to the prosecution's opinion the inscriptions of the T-shirts (for example "Movement for a better Hungary," "Hungarian land is not for sale!", "Justice to Hungary!", "We won't ever sell it!", "Give my mountains back!") together with the map incite to xenophobia and the redrawing of Romania's borders and they infringe on the first article of the Romanian constitution according to which Romania is a unified and indivisible nation state.

2 December 2015.

■ **Bogdan Diaconu independent MP submitted to the parliament a draft bill aiming to ban the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, referring to the alleged attempt that – according to the prosecution – the Târgu Secuiesc president of the Hatvannégy Vármegegy Youth Movement wanted to commit.**

■ In his motivation the politician notorious for his anti-

Hungarian statements argued: though the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania has "formally" dissociated itself from the attempt, the Hungarian organization has been machinating for years against the Romanian state's unity and its national and indivisible character, while the local councils led by the Democratic Alliance are the main financers of the Youth Movement.

2 December 2015.

■ **Dinamo-CSM Iași football match was stopped for ten minutes because the supporters were shouting anti-Hungarian rhymes.**

■ The match was played in the Dinamo station in Bucharest, and it was stopped in the 33rd minute by the referee upon the supporters of Dinamo having continuously scolded the Hungarians. (Out, out with the Hungarians from the country!) The "ultras" did not cease shouting even after five minutes of forced stop to the match; therefore the referee lengthened the forced break with further five minutes. The only foreign player from Hungary in the Romanian championship, Lukács Bőle is the player of the guest team.

4 December 2015.

■ **Several place name signs in Covasna county were sprayed over during the weekend that presupposes a coordinated act, and on the basis of the statement of an eye witness, also that the offenders were probably members of the New Right Party.**

■ At the Ozun exist of Bicfalau the Hungarian inscription was sprayed over with black paint, the county coat of arm and the name of the sister settlement from Hungary Alsótold were also painted over. Also on Sunday the Hungarian inscription at the Katrosa entrance of Valea Seaca was sprayed over with black paint as well as the Piliscsaba sister settlement sign. On the place name sign they also wrote in paint the text "fuck Hungary" in Romanian. In Sanzieni the Hungarian inscriptions of two place name signs were sprayed over.

15 December 2015.

■ **The decision of the Harghita county council to proclaim the Szekler flag as the county's flag is considered by the civic organizations of Romanians from the Szeklerland an injury to the Romanian state.**

■ The Civic Forum of Romanians from Harghita, Covasna and Mureș counties reacted harshly to the Harghita county council's decision of the 11th of December to reject the Romanian representatives' proposed amendments with reference to the county's flag. The Romanian organizations believe that Hungarian politicians from the Szeklerland "are provoking systematically and consciously" in order to "exert pressure and be able to blackmail the power from Bucharest."

16 December 2015.

■ **The Civic Forum of Romanians from Covasna, Harghita and Mureș counties is protesting against the name of the**

Albert Wass street in Târgu Secuiesc. The anti-Hungarian organization is demanding from the local council from Târgu Secuiesc to withdraw its November decision with reference to the name of the street.

■ The local council from Târgu Secuiesc made a decision to name a so far unnamed street after Albert Wass. The naming was proposed by the Târgu Secuiesc organization of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement and its president, István Beke, who is at present detained under the suspicion of assassination attempt. The Romanians' forum is arguing that "Albert Wass was demonstrably a war criminal, the Cluj County People's Court sentenced him in absentia to death in 1946." The forum made an official complaint at the local council.

18 December 2015.

■ Dan Tănasă known for his anti-Hungarian reports, sued the Corund mayor's office because of the Village Hall inscription.

■ The lawsuit is not without precedent, given that on the 2nd of June Dan Tănasă called upon the mayor to remove the Village Hall inscription from the office building as such a denotation does not exist in the Romanian administration.

22 December 2015.

■ The local council of Bistrita town rejected the draft with reference to the establishment of a separate Hungarian school.

■ The proposal with reference to the establishment of a separate Hungarian school was brought in front of the local council in May, when there was a positive decision: out of the 21 representatives 15 supported the proposal with reference to transform the Hungarian education, the Hungarian classes in Bistrita – at present operating within the Andrei Mureșanu High School – into an independent unit.

28 December 2015.

2016

■ The onion dome conquest on the majority Hungarian territories does not seem to slow down: the Orthodox Church intends to build churches also on territories belonging to the administrative region of Covasna and Comandau.

■ The Orthodox church is building a monastery and a monastic center in Covasna, while in Comandau a vacation house. Both construction plans were initiated by the Orthodox Bishopric of Covasna and Harghita counties. The two institutions are built on the road between Comandau and Botani. According to data of the 2011 census the total population of Comandau is 1006, out of which 52 declared themselves to be of Romanian nationality, 55 of Orthodox religion.

5 January 2016.

■ In the evening of the 29th of December, to the orders of the mayor, the monument commemorating Ákos Barcsay Transylvanian prince was torn down.

■ The memorial column was inaugurated in the square of the county hall on the 12th of November 2011, the day of the Hungarian diaspora, a monument that was saved from decay by Attila Dézsi, the prefect of that time. Despite the fact that the Transylvanian prince had recognized merits also from the perspective of the majority, one and a half months upon its inauguration there already appeared a tricolored hunger-striker demanding the immediate tearing down of the memorial.

6 January 2016.

■ Politicians from Covasna County are expecting explanations from the police with reference to recent events concerning the community of Hâromszék: flag-swap from Sfântu Gheorghe, the developments of the investigation of the damages done to the Hungarian place-name signs, and with reference to the case of those arrested as suspects of attempted assassination in Târgu Secuiesc.

8 January 2016.

■ The Harghita County Tribunal rejected to request for the registration of the association set up for the touristic popularization of Szeklerland.

■ 14 tourism and regional development associations from Harghita, Covasna and Mureș counties have initiated the setting up of the Pro Turismo Terrae Sicularum association through which they intend to popularize Szeklerland as a tourist destination in the country and abroad. They wanted to officially register the association at the Harghita County Tribunal. According to the motivation of the Tribunal's decision, given that the Szeklerland officially does not exist, it is impossible to promote it as a tourist destination.

22 January 2016.

■ Dorin Florea appeals the Court's decision approving in first instance the procession planned for the Day of Szekler Freedom.

■ At his Tuesday press conference the town leader announced that he was considering appealing the Tribunal's decision because he did not want the event to create the possibility of ethnic conflict in Târgu Mureș. He said that there had been precedents of such events causing riots, and that was why they had banned the march the previous year as well.

12 January 2016.

■ The new Romanian draft curriculum does not take into consideration the problems of minority education.

■ In the course of drafting the new curriculum, experts of the National Educational Institute did not take into consideration the problems of education in minority languages.

14 January 2016.

■ **Dan Tanasă and the Civic Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) would permanently and through court decision remove the Szekler flag from the County Hall of Harghita county given that in his opinion the flag that symbolizes “ethnic separatism” damages public order.**

■ In their action brought to the Harghita County Tribunal, ADEC demands the Tribunal to oblige the Harghita County Council to remove from the top of the County Hall and their meeting hall the “Szekler National Council’s blue-gold flag, also known as the Szekler flag, that had been adopted as the county’s flag.”

15 January 2016.

■ **On Thursday Jean-Adrian Andrei prefect called upon the Harghita County Council to withdraw its decision declaring the Szekler flag the official flag of the county. If the council does not respond to the call, the government official would start judicial action in the matter.**

■ In the prefect’s opinion the Harghita County Council took its decision with reference to declaring the Szekler flag the county’s official flag in bad faith, thus he will start judicial action in case the Council does not withdraw its decision. According to him this decision does not take into account either social interests or the Tribunal’s force of law verdict. The Council took the decision on the 11th of December the previous year. The Romanian councilmembers asked for an oak leaf to be added onto the flag as a symbol of the Romanian community, but the Council rejected the suggestion.

15 January 2016.

■ **The Mureş county Inspectorate does not agree with the initiative of the Reformed High School from Târgu Mureş to start two new Hungarian language vocational education classes in the town.**

According to the plans of the High School the mechanic and car tinker training and the baker and butcher training would operate on Hungarian state financial support. The institution has already signed collaboration agreements with several enterprises for the practical implementation of the vocational training.

18 January 2016.

■ **Despite promises, the loudspeaker in the Miercurea Ciuc train station is still making its announcements in Romanian language. They have not managed to add the Hungarian language announcements, according to those concerned “this is a matter that is handled in Bucharest”.**

■ The railway station introduced announcements through the loudspeaker last year, a decision that concerns all the stations belonging to the regional railway directorate. Beyond Romanian the program has English and French versions as well, used in case of arrivals and departures of international trains. The Hungarian language, however, is still missing.

18 January 2016.

■ **The Tribunal of Covasna County nullified the Sfântu Gheorghe Local Council’s land-use plan for the central square of the town, a plan that featured the sculpture of a fallen dragon in front of the Prefect’s and the County Council’s office buildings.**

■ It seems that in Sfântu Gheorghe the prefect’s office, the Ministry of Defense, the secret service and the tribunal decides in matters of shaping the cityscape.

19 January 2016.

■ **The Civic Engagement Movement (Cemo) announced the initiation of “strategic” court cases concerning language rights.**

■ They intend to initiate court procedures in cases when the state does not or does only partially apply the laws with reference to the language rights of the Hungarian community. As a first step they are suing the mayor’s offices of Târgu Mureş, populated in 43 % by Hungarians, Satu Mare with a Hungarian population of 38 %, and Oradea with 24 % of the population Hungarians, for not having installed the bilingual street-name signs.

20 January 2016.

■ **MP Bogdan Diaconu, known for his anti-Hungarian mindset, founded a Romanian guard under the name of Vlad Ţepeş Patrol.**

■ „If the Romanian state does not protect us, we are going to protect ourselves. We are going to show that Romania is not no-man’s-land where the loudmouthed and the strong can do whatever they like with the weak and the fallen” – they phrased the guard’s mission.

24 January 2016.

■ **After Cozmeni, in Siculeni also the Village Hall inscription had to be removed from the mayor’s office following the final decision of the Târgu Mureş Court of Justice in favor of the plaintiff demanding the removal of the inscription.**

■ In the case of both villages, and further five settlements from the Szeklerland, the plaintiff demanding the removal of the Village Hall inscription, respectively in the case of Miercurea Ciuc the Town Hall inscription, was Dan Tănăsă renowned for his anti-Hungarian mindset and the Civic Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) founded by him. At the Harghita and the Covasna county tribunals there are in course 18 such actions whose plaintiff is the ADEC.

22 January 2016.

■ **The billboard with reference to multilingualism in Cluj Napoca set up on the outskirts of Gilau by Gábor Landman Transylvanian businessman of Dutch citizenship has been removed.**

■ The language rights activist used the billboard to demand multilingual place-name signs in Cluj Napoca from mayor Emil Boc. On the billboard you could read in English the following message to the mayor: “Mr. Boc, my company needs Schengen and not chauvinism!” *

27 January 2016.

■ **Despite the shrinking of student-numbers sustained also by the worrying demographic indicators the Petru Maior University from Târgu Mureș does not intend to restate the Hungarian faculty. Professors competing for the position of the rector intend rather to initiate education in English, French, Italian and Spanish languages.**

■ The university that defines itself as the higher education institution that best covers the needs of the region states that there is no chance for the Hungarian faculty to be reestablished in the near future. According to the intentions of the founders from 1961 of the Târgu Mureș Pedagogical College the institution should be functioning with Romanian and Hungarian faculties. With time, however, the Ceausescu regime abolished teacher-training in Târgu Mureș.

29 January 2016.

■ **Monday morning the National Anticorruption Agency (DNA) perquisitioned the Modern Business College (MÛTF in Odorheiu Secuiesc and the editorial offices of the Gheorgheni television.**

■ According to the DNA's communiqué they took action in six Harghita county and Bucharest locations due to the suspicion of corruption offenses committed between 2008 and 2012. However, according to Endre Fóri, the MÛTF Association's lawyer, the prosecutors' Monday action can be brought into connection with the case of János Mezei, the mayor of Gheorgheni suspended from his office. As it is well-known, the major aim of MÛTF is to promote keeping the Hungarian youth from Transylvania in the country through providing them training possibilities on their homeland. At the same time the DNA also perquisitioned the offices of the Gheorgheni TV, reviewing formerly signed contracts with the Gheorgheni Local Council.

2 February 2016.

■ **Following the government change the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' standpoint with reference to rejecting the opening of Hungarian consular offices in Oradea and Târgu Mureș has not changed.**

■ „With reference to Hungary's request to open two new offices in Romania, in Oradea and in Târgu Mureș, Romania's response was already given in 2014” – the minister of foreign affairs stated. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Budapest announced in July 2014 that Romania had rejected without any substantive explanation Hungary's request for the opening of two consular offices in Oradea respectively in Târgu Mureș, submitted more than a year earlier.

3 February 2016

■ **Romania has not yet adopted the minority law that was approved by the government of 2005 before the EU accession.**

■ Experience shows that after Romania's EU accession

there can be witnessed a degradation of the majority-minority relations.

4 February 2016.

■ **Approximately thirty policemen perquisitioned the house of the man from Sovata who was sentenced in 2015 for having erected – on private property – Albert Wass's statue.**

■ Despite the fact that the appeal will only be heard in March, he was once again raided in his home, and while the previous occasion Albert Wass's statue and books were seized, now even more unbelievable “evidence” was taken. This is not the first of the signs of the strengthening Romanian oppression of the last years. Orders were issued by the Prosecutors from Sighisoara, and they also handed over a summons for questioning by the police from Târgu Mureș, even though the first prosecution is still in course at the Court of Justice from Târgu Mureș.

3 February 2016.

■ **The Court of Justice from Târgu Mureș rejected the request with reference to the registration of the association for the touristic promotion of Szeklerland, rejecting the appeal with reference to the registration of the Pro Turismo Terrae Siculorum.**

■ Thus the former similar verdict of the Harghita County Tribunal has come into force, a decision that argued that Szeklerland did not officially exist. The founding of the Pro Turismo Terrae Siculorum was initiated by 14 tourism and regional development associations from Harghita, Covasna and Mureș counties in October of the previous year with the aim to promote Szeklerland's tourist destinations in the country and abroad. The representatives of the associations intended to officially register the association at the Harghita County Tribunal, a request that was rejected in December. The Court of Justice deemed the appeal unfounded on the 4th of February.

9 February 2016.

■ **The Covasna County Prefect's Office brought action at the administrative court against five autonomy-decisions, out of which in three cases the verdict was in favor of the plaintiff, while in the two other cases the action is still in course.**

■ In all cases the government institution called upon the local councils to withdraw their autonomy-decisions suggested by the Szekler National Council. Last year local councils and mayors from Hâromszék adopted 21 thousand decisions and decrees, out of which the prefect's office deemed 124 to be illegal.

15 February 2016.

■ **The National Anticorruption Agency (DNA) perquisitioned the Mayor's office of Sfântu Gheorghe and the home of mayor Árpád Antal in connection with a case with reference to which earlier the funder European Reconstruction and Development Bank had**

already published its resolution deeming everything as duly.

17 February 2016.

■ **At the children's hospital from Cluj Napoca a seventeen-year-old girl and her family were humiliated because they did not speak well the Romanian language.**

■ The winner of the XIX. Recital and folk song singing contest was hit by a bus despite the green traffic lights. Following the accident the girl was transported to the emergency of the children's hospital. There the girl was several times treated inhumanly both by the hospital staff and the doctor. Surgeon Ioan Dobrescu rebuked that the girl did not speak the language of the country even though she lived in Romania.

17 February 2016.

■ **The Romanian House of Representatives tacitly passed the draft bill banning the use of minority languages in public administration, given that the draft was not on the agenda within the deadline set by the Rules of the House.**

■ The bill drafted by the MP Bogdan Diaconu renowned for his anti-Hungarian mindset would ban public institutions, state authorities and local governments from Romania to communicate orally or in writing in any other language than Romanian. In case the draft was adopted, "inscriptions of public interest" could be phrased only in Romanian. The Administrative Law of Romania adopted in 2001 obliges public institutions to put out bilingual signs in those settlements where the number of a minority exceeds 20%.

17 February 2016.

■ **Yesterday prosecutors of the National Anticorruption Agency arriving from Bucharest perquisitioned the home of Árpád András Antal, mayor of Sfantu Gheorghe, and then at the Mayor's Office, upon which the mayor was taken by the police with gendarme escort for questioning to the capital.**

■ With all certainty this is also an instance of that intimidation campaign started with Securitate methods against Hungarians from Transylvania, the new location of which – following Gheorgheni and Miercurea Ciuc – became Sfantu Gheorghe. It is a campaign through which they want to intimidate and silence first of all the Szeklers demanding autonomy and their upright and courageous leaders.

18 February 2016.

■ **The Corund Local Council lost their case in first instance against Dan Tanasă and the Civic Association for Dignity in Europe led by him, who became renowned for their anti-Hungarian attitude: according to the court's verdict the Council has to remove the Hungarian inscription Village Hall**

■ The Local Council started to use the building in 2010,

while the objected inscription – designed and executed by the local ceramist Domokos Páll – was placed on the building in 2011.

23 February 2016.

■ **A group of MPs would draft a law amendment to ban the singing of the Szekler anthem and the hoisting of the Szekler flag at sports events. The manager of the Sepsi Sic basketball team considers the law inapplicable.**

■ Fifty-eight MPs signed the draft amendment according to which all national sports events, daily television broadcasts and school lessons should be started with the singing of the Romanian national anthem. At the same time the amendment would ban from sports events the so-called "regional anthems and flags", thus also the Szekler anthem and Szekler flag.

24 February 2016.

■ **At the train stations from Miercurea Ciuc and other settlements from Harghita County the loudspeaker still does not make announcements in Hungarian, but only in Romanian.**

2 March 2016.

■ **Klaus Johannis, president of Romania has withdrawn László Tóké's "Star of Romania" award with effect from 2 March.**

■ In motivating his decision the president refers to a statement made as response to a journalist's question at Tusnad Bai, 27 July 2013, in which László Tóké suggested that similarly to the way Austria does with reference to South-Tirol, Hungary should also protect the historical Hungarian community living in Transylvania in insuring their rights.

3 March 2016.

■ **As a new development in the Cluj Napoca "war of signs" the Cluj Napoca Tribunal rejected the request of the Minority Rights association with reference to obliging the mayor to place bilingual signs at the city entrances.**

■ The mayor cannot motivate his rejection with the argument that the Hungarian population of the city would be below 20%, given that the 1206/2001 Government Decision makes the placing of bilingual signs in such cases obligatory.

3 March 2016.

■ **The mayor of Târgu Mureş appealed the court's decision obliging him to acknowledge the events of the Day of the Szekler Freedom.**

■ „In conformity with our prior notice our event is going to take place” -- Balázs Izsák announced. On the 10th of March they are expecting participants to gather at the Postaret monument of Szekler martyrs where a commemoration is going to take place and then they are

marching to the city center to demonstrate in front of the Prefect's office, demanding the autonomy of Szeklerland.

2 March 2016.

■ **For weeks in Sfântu Gheorghe a gendarmerie cross-country vehicle has been patrolling. At the same time for a while now police vehicles can be seen more often as well, so if someone takes an evening stroll, he/she will constantly see vehicles of the security forces.**

■ It has been proven numerous times now that Bucharest has been treating this region as a colony and has considered its indigenous inhabitants as the enemy. So it is not surprising that in our area the number of police, gendarmes and secret service agents is much higher than the national average. At the same time, the fact that members of the armed forces doing their service in our region receive a hazard allowance, similarly to their Afghanistan mission, says it all about their role here as well as about the authority's intentions. All the signs indicate that there is a tendency to return to the Ceausescu communist regime's practice of intimidating and liquidating the Hungarians from Transylvania.

3 March 2016.

■ **Once again István Szávay, vice-president of the Jobbik, was expelled from Romania. He became aware of this on the 8th of March when he wanted to enter the country at the border crossing from Ártánd.**

■ According to Szávay's communiqué he wanted to travel to Transylvania on the evening of the 8th of March in order to participate at the events organized with the occasion of the Day of Szekler Freedom, while on the days preceding and following the event he intended to have press conferences and meetings with the public in Cluj Napoca, Odorheiu Secuiesc and Satu Mare. "After almost half an hour of waiting the Romanian border guard from Ártánd informed me: he cannot let me go further because I have been expelled from the country for three years. From his words it also turned out that the verdict against me has been in force since the 21st of October, so similarly to my expulsion in the period of March 2014 to March 2015 once again I realized on the border that I cannot step onto Transylvanian soil."

Transindex, 9 March 2016.

■ **The prosecution opened a criminal dossier for one of the participants at the Târgu Mureş commemorations on the Day of Szekler Freedom for having on him a pocket knife.**

■ The person from Covasna concerned in the case stated: he had the pocket knife on him for personal use and he took it out in order to chip away the pointy end of a flagpole that the gendarmerie objected to. The gendarmerie impeded several dozens of people with Szekler flags at the entrance of the event's site. They objected either to the length, the thickness or to the pointy end of the flagpoles. The impeded persons were only allowed to take their flags to the event without the poles.

14 March 2016.

■ **Adrian Jean Andrei prefect initiated legislative again against one of the December decisions of the county council according to which the blue-golden Szekler flag was appointed the flag of the county.**

■ According to the government official the decision of the council is unconstitutional and infringes on several laws, given that "the council did not take into consideration the interests of the county's entire population."

Adrian Jean Andrei refers to the Mureş County Court of Justice's 2012 verdict in force which revoked a former decision of the Harghita County Council from 2009 that declared the Szekler flag to be the county's official flag.

17 March 2016.

■ **Balázs Izsák was fined ten thousand lei by the gendarmerie for the procession organized on the Day of Szekler Freedom in Târgu Mureş on the 10th of March.**

■ According to the report Balázs Izsák has to pay a fine of ten thousand lei because on the 10th of March the crowd of several thousands of people had no permission to march towards the city center. Izsák stated that he was going to request the nullification of the report in the court of law given that as the organizer of the event he followed all the rules.

16 March 2016.

■ **Upon the study of the video recordings of the Târgu Mureş commemoration and demonstration with the occasion of the Day of Szekler Freedom the gendarmerie fined 84 people in the total amount of 70800 lei.**

■ According to the press release 50 people were fined in the total amount of 61 thousand lei because they organized a crowd event without reporting, registering it or one that was prohibited. 34 people were fined in the total amount of 9800 lei for silence nuisance.

17 March 2016.

■ **The National Audiovisual Council of Romania (CNA) fined Radu Banciu, editor at B1 TV 50 thousand lei for his anti-Hungarian statements.**

■ At the Thursday meeting of the National Audiovisual Council it turned out that: Radu Banciu, the anchorman of B1TV is not acting out a part, he really believes that every Hungarian is the enemy of the Romanians. The Board interviewed the reporter shortly before fining the television station 50 thousand lei. The B1 TV was fined for Radu Banciu's chauvinistic remarks and ethnic hate speeches. Banciu had compared Hungarians to the Islamic State terrorist organization and had remarked that every Hungarian is the enemy of the Romanian state, "excessively extremist just like the Muslims", and that "none of them can state that his extremism isn't encoded in their genes."

18 March 2016.

■ **On the morning of our National Day of the 15th of March the inhabitants of Salonta woke up to a saddening fact: the sinister 90s returned when strong nationalism**

did not tolerate bilingual signs in town: once again the Salonta place-name sign was painted over.

■ Unknown offenders painted over the Hungarian inscription on the place-name sign of the town at its entrance from Oradea; it is obvious that this act was also an attack against the Hungarian community.

18 March 2016.

■ The Consumer Protection Agency has been investigating kitchens of kindergartens from the Szeklerland. They issued fines because some of the names of food used for cooking were not translated into Romanian.

■ With this occasion the authority led by Mircea Diacon investigated kindergartens from Sfântu Gheorghe and Târgu Secuiesc. One of the kindergartens was fined for entirely absurd reasons: in the kitchen of the Hungarian language Vackor kindergarten the names of food used for cooking were not translated into Romanian. This is not the first case when the Consumer Protection Agency issues fines due to the lack of Romanian inscriptions. The previous year they already went against kindergartens, not to mention their high-profile attacks on Szekler products.

21 March 2016.

■ The parliamentary group of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania left the Tuesday meeting of the Parliament as a protest against the public defense of the representatives of the legionnaire movement active before and during the II World War.

■ During the debate Aurel Vainer, representing the Jewish minority, objected to the election of Oana Stanculescu television reporter suggested by the National Liberal Party (PNL) given that the reporter praised legionary poets in her shows. Cristina Anghel senator of the ALDE group (the new liberal party set up the previous year), asseverated that the representatives of the legionary movement were not war criminals and the cultural values that they had created should not be forgotten. Otherwise, the previous year to the initiative of the PNL the Romanian Parliament adopted an amendment that extended the ban on the use of fascist, racist, chauvinist organizations and symbols and on praising war criminals to the legionary and iron guard symbols as well. The law states that the Romanian legionary movement was an organization with fascist character as well.

MTI, 22 March 2016.

■ Legislators from Bucharest would imprison those who decry Romania or the Romanian nation. In their draft bill the politicians clearly refer to statements of Hungarians from Transylvania.

■ The draft bill would again consider the decrying of the country and of the Romanian nation as criminal acts on the basis that in the legislators' opinion recently there could be noticed a multiplication of cases when "citizens of other nationality" called the 1st of December a day of mourning

or when Romanian historical figures were symbolically hung. The draft bill submitted by sixty-two MPs would punish with six months to three years imprisonment those who would decry Romania or the Romanian nation.

24 March 2016.

■ Further seven members of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement (HVIM), from Târgu Mureş, Odorheiu Secuiesc and Târgu Secuiesc were fined 200 lei each by the Târgu Mureş gendarmerie. In one of the cases the fine amounts to 1000 lei because a member from Târgu Mureş is considered to have been one of the organizers.

■ The motivation is once again the same, as it was before: silence nuisance with the occasion of the ceremony and parade of the 15th of March.

25 March 2016.

■ The Bucharest Tribunal rejected László Tőkés MEP's action for moral damages. Tőkés sued because former Securitate officers and agents said he was a traitor and an agent.

■ The Bucharest Tribunal through its non-final verdict considered unfounded and rejected László Tőkés's action for moral damages. The MEP started the lawsuit one and a half years ago against former officers of the Securitate for disputing his role in the 1989 revolution from Timisoara and for calling him a traitor and a foreign spy. Filip Teodorescu, former deputy commander of the Securitate's – former communist secret police – counter-espionage, and Ioan Talpes, former director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, declared in a television show in the autumn of 2014 that in 1989 Tőkés was the agent of the Hungarian secret service.

28 March 2016.

■ According to the verdict of the Mureş county Tribunal Ferenc Péter, mayor of Sovata, will have to pay fines for every single day until he removes the Szekler flag from the building of the Mayor's Office.

■ According to the Court verdict the mayor will have to pay a fine of 210 lei per day to the treasury, while he will also have to pay a late payment fee of 200 lei (14 thousand forints) to be transferred to the account of the prefect's office. The verdict is not in force yet, the mayor has the possibility of appeal within 15 days upon the verdict's publication.

MTI, 30 March 2016.

■ Prefect Sebastian Cucu had the Szekler flag removed from the meeting hall of the Covasna County Council because in his opinion it was unlawfully places.

■ At its Wednesday meeting the Covasna County Council accepted the donation of Kulcsár-Terza József, that he handed over at the previous monthly meeting. At that time the civic councilor entered the meeting hall with a Szekler flag, and upon the president's approval he hung it next to the Romanian, the European Union and Covasna Coun-

ty's flags. The Council accepted the donation through a resolution adopted unanimously.

1 April 2016.

■ **The mayor of Madaras Ciuc from the Szeklerland was fined ninety thousand lei for not having removed the emblazoned Hungarian flag from the façade of the local council's building. The Szekler leader had already been fined several times, now beyond the fine criminal action might also be brought against him.**

■ The mayor of Madaras Ciuc stated that he is filled with faith and strength when seeing that the leaders of Gheorgheni, Miercurea Ciuc and Sfântu Gheorghe are also standing their ground. He is also supported by the villagers but they also feel that the political leaders of the Hungarians from Transylvania do not emphatically support the leaders of local councils in trouble. After the mayor of Madaras Ciuc now the Harghita County Council is to be fined unless they remove the blue-golden Szekler flag from the building of the County Council. In Mureş county the mayor of Sovata also has to pay a fine for having hoisted the Szekler flag on the City Hall's building.

4 April 2016.

■ **According to the statement of the Romanian Ministry of Justice there cannot be interpreters among the personnel of judicial institutions.**

■ The Ministry has stated: "it contradicts the country's laws in force as well as binding international regulations to have interpreters and translators on the payroll of any judicial institution, which would provide translation or interpretation services in civil or criminal trials." According to the statement of the Ministry if interpreters were to become the employees of the courts, parties to the trials – especially the public – would doubt their impartiality in the court.

7 April 2016.

■ **The Senate tacitly – that is without a vote, upon the termination of the deadline set for debate and adoption, automatically – adopted the draft amendment that deems the disrespect towards Romanian national symbols a criminal act.**

■ According to the draft bill acts that publicly show disrespect towards Romanian national symbols, could be punished with one to three years imprisonment. If someone publicly disrespects symbols used by the authorities, that person may be sentenced from half to two years imprisonment. Another draft submitted to the Parliament in March by 61 MPs from the PSD, UNPR, ALDE AND PNL groups, bans the decrying of Romania and of the Romanian nation. According to the draft public decries may be punished with 6 months to 3 years imprisonment. In the opinion of the initiators "there is ethnic cleansing going on in the heart of the country – that is on the Szeklerland – against the Romanians."

19 April 2016.

■ **The supreme court deemed it unfounded and rejected the appeal of the Association for the Hungarian Language Medical and Pharmaceutical Training in Romania, the Hungarian Students' Association from Târgu Mureş, the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania and the Hungarian People's Party from Transylvania with reference to the first instance decision of the same subject, according to which medics studying in Hungarian had to communicate with the patients in Romanian.**

■ „The supreme court's decision is an outrageous political verdict that has nothing to do with justice” – stated Előd Kincses lawyer, according to whom the judges did not even try to understand the judicial situation, they came to their verdict without any special consideration. The rector of the Medical and Pharmaceutical University of Târgu Mureş, Leonard Azamfirei is happy about the verdict, of course. He stated: the supreme court's decision closes down a whole series of court cases initiated in the last four years against the institution (one which is interested in the suppression and elimination of Hungarian language training).

19 April 2016.

■ **The Restitutions Committee is reevaluating the Transylvanian Reformed Diocese's request with reference to the restitution of the Székely Mikó College from Sfântu Gheorghe.**

■ Emőd Veress lawyer, the Church's legal representative, stated: the committee found that the earlier trial did not settle the ownership of the building.

Krónika, 21 April 2016.

■ **The gendarmerie of Târgu Mureş fined further participants of the march from the Day of Szekler Freedom: among others author Zoltán Bedő from Sfântu Gheorghe and several people from Târgu Secuiesc received the report with reference to them committing silence nuisance more than a month after the event.**

■ According to the report, on the 10th of March Bedő Zoltán, as participant of an unauthorized march, disturbed the peace of inhabitants in the Trandafirilor Square of Târgu Mureş”. Therefore, he was fined 200 lei. According to Balázs Izsák, president of the Siculitas Association in charge of handling issues of the Szekler National Council, the authorities abused their power when fining fifty people as organizers, instead of the Association which was in fact in charge of organizing the event. In his opinion the gendarmerie committed forgery when fining people who demonstrably were not present at the events from Târgu Mureş.

22 April 2016.

■ **The Civic Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) won two lawsuits in first instance against the mayor's office and the council of Miercurea Ciuc. According to the verdict the Town Hall inscription, the Szekler**

and the town flag objected to by the plaintiff must be removed from the façade of the town hall.

■ On Thursday the Harghita County Tribunal announced its verdict in the two cases initiated by ALDEC led by Dan Tanasă in November, respectively December of the previous year against the mayor's office and the local council, considering the Town Hall inscription on the building of the institution and the town and Szekler flags hung there illegal. According to the Tribunal's verdict the flags and the inscription must be removed.

25 April 2016.

■ The local council from Batanii Mari had to cover the one-hundred-year-old inscription "Községháza" (Village Hall) on the facade of the former building of the mayor's office.

■ The county's prefect sued also the mayors of Târgu Secuiesc, Baraolt, Ghidfalau, Malnas, Cernat, Mereni and Sanzieni because of such inscriptions. He has also made complaint against the Covasna County Council for having the County Council inscription also on their office-building.

27 April 2016.

■ The Oradea Tribunal in its verdict in first instance perceived the Partium flag hung on the terrace of MEP László Tőkés's office an advertising flag.

■ According to the Tribunal's verdict of the 27th of April published on the institution's website the Tribunal of Oradea rejected the plaintiff's complaint in the case initiated by the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania's president in order to have the report and the fines defined by it with reference to breach of rules issued by the local police functioning under the local council nullified. László Tőkés hung the Partium flag on his parliamentary office façade from Oradea on the 11th of December the previous year. The local police – considering the flag to be an advertising tool – issued a warning and called upon the MEP to remove it. According to the police report also signed by Ilie Bolojan mayor, in case the politician does not have the advertising flag removed, he will face serious fines.

As it is known, this February the local police from Târgu Mureş lost its case with reference to the heavy fines issues on the Hungarian National Council from Transylvania, considering the Szekler flag an advertising tool, given that the Mureş County Tribunal argued that the Szekler flag cannot be considered an advertising flag, its hoisting does not infringe on the advertising legislation, thus the Hungarian National Council from Transylvania cannot even be reprimanded for having hoisted it. As compared to this, previously the Bihor county Tribunal's verdict argues that the Szekler flag hung on László Tőkés's office building was an advertising tool, and thus deemed the MEP's reprehension lawful.

27 April 2016.

■ The Tribunal of Harghita County through its decision

of 27 April obliges the mayor of Miercurea Ciuc to remove the "flag of the Szekler National Council" hung on Libertatii Square.

■ The Civic Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) led by Dan Tanasă requested from the Tribunal in December the previous year to have the mayor remove the flag given that in their opinion it was hung unlawfully in a public space. The flag was hoisted in the central square of town by the Hungarian People's Party from Transylvania and the Hungarian National Council from Transylvania in 2013.

29 April 2016.

■ Emil Boc mayor of Cluj Napoca did not keep his promise made to the Hungarian community from Cluj Napoca: he did not respond within the thirty days set by the law to the Hungarians' request from negotiations – announced the petitioner Muszaj–Musai civic activist group.

■ The civic group had requested the mayor multiple times to talk with them with reference to the bilingual place-name signs, following the Tribunal's decision in first instance that by the entrances of the city one could place signs containing – among others – also Hungarian inscriptions. Despite the fact that the politician often emphasizes Cluj Napoca's multiethnic character at different events, he successfully appealed against the verdict in favor of the Hungarian community.

3 May 2016.

■ Last year again Romanian authorities tried to restrict the Hungarian community's freedom of speech in several occasions and from time to time they were also successful – ActiveWatch says. The civic organization from Bucharest published its report on the freedom of press in Romania on the world day of freedom of press.

■ In the five-page chapter of the document dealing with the Hungarian community, the authors recall that fines were issued for participants of demonstrations for the autonomy of Szeklerland, for those who installed bilingual street-signs, and for those who used the symbols of the Hungarian community in public; further, there were draft bills brought in front of the Parliament intending to restrict the freedom of using the Hungarian language, while president Klaus Iohannis withdrew MEP László Tőkés's state award for a statement that fits among the frames of freedom of opinion. This chapter also mentions that the leaders of Cluj Napoca banned a billboard with the inscription Autonomy for Transylvania, and in Oradea the Tribunal deemed it illegal to hang the Szekler flag from buildings in private property. According to ActiveWatch the shared characteristic of all these cases is that Romanian authorities – referring the Constitution that defines the country as united and indivisible nation state – are trying to intimidate and limit the freedom of speech of the Hungarian community.

According to the Romanian organization the goals of the Hungarian community with reference to language rights

and territorial autonomy are stigmatized by the state and a part of the media and thus a public debate in this respect is hindered.

4 May 2016.

■ **The Consumer Protection Agency of Romania suspended the Hungarian language promotional activity of the producers of “Igazi csíki sör” (“Real Ciuc Beer”).**

■ Gábor Hajdu, legal representative of the manufacturer of the Igazi csíki sör, stated that the Harghita County center of the Consumer Protection Agency investigated their advertisements on the basis of the complaint from Covasna county. He remarked that objections were phrased first of all with reference to their contest under the title “Noah’s Ark” but their investigated other promotional materials of the company as well. “They objected to the fact that the company was only advertising in Hungarian” – explained Gábor Hajdu.

5 May 2016.

■ **The president of the National Anti-Discrimination Council, Csaba Asztalos, as well as András Király, the state secretary of the Ministry of Education from the group of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, deem it discriminative, anti-constitutional and illegal that in Târgu Mureş some school directors did not make it possible for Hungarian teachers and students to celebrate the second day of Pentecost at home.**

■ The law requires that if companies, institutions employ both Romanian and Hungarian people, the Hungarians should have the 16th of May free, while the Romanian employees the second day of the Orthodox Pentecost.

19 May 2016.

■ **Five and a half, respectively four and a half months upon their arrest, István Beke and Zoltán Szócs, members of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement (HVIM), were charged in connection with the terrorism charges from Târgu Secuiesc.**

■ According to the announcement of the Department of Organized Crime and Antiterrorism of the Prosecutor’s Office (DIICOT), they are charging the Târgu Secuiesc president of the Youth Movement with attempted attack on the community and infringing regulations with reference to explosives, while the Transylvanian leader of the Movement with incitement to attack against the community. In their release the DIICOT state that “members of the extremist nationalist Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement with foreign or double citizenship have been performing revisionist-separatist activities in Transylvania since 2014”. Within this they are pursuing building their physics, and they have been preparing for such violent acts through which they could achieve their autonomist goals as well as the restatement of Big Hungary.

20 May 2016.

■ **Within mere two-three weeks the city leadership of Târgu Mureş re-Romanianised the street named after the Szekler peasant-leader György Dózsa, the Gheorghe Doja name reappeared on the walls of the buildings.**

■ At the end of April a new street name sign with the inscription “Strada Dózsa György utca” (Dózsa György Street) could be seen from the corner of the central square to the Cluj Napoca exit of town. With this act the local council in fact served historical justice: after several decades the name of the leader of the 1514 peasant uprising was spelled correctly. Upon the protests of Romanian nationalist organization and the local police the City Hall returned to the name used since the anti-Hungarian Ceausescu regime led 80s. On the latest street name signs the Szekler peasant leader’s name was once again spelled in Romanian. The Mayor’s Office was seeking a compromise: they left the signs put up in April in place but above them the new ones were also set up.

The same happened in the street named after one of the most well-known generals of Hungarian history, Pál Kinizsi as well. At present there can be seen two types of street name signs in the street named after him: Strada Pavel Chinezu utca and Strada Kinizsi Pál utca. King Mathias was also not allowed to keep his Hungarian name: he received a “twin” with the name of Matei Corvin. In the case of Katalin Varga people installing the signs were prescient: they directly named the leader of the 19th century Transylvanian miners’ movement Ecaterina Varga.

24 May 2016.

■ **Upon the Bucharest Restitution Committee’s Tuesday dismissal with majority of votes of the restitution request of the Reformed Church, the Székely Mikó College from Sfântu Gheorghe remains in state possession.**

■ Béla Kató, bishop of the Transylvanian Reformed Bishopric stated that they were expecting the unfavorable decision of the Committee. “We wouldn’t be living in today’s Romania if the restitution committee had dared to come to a different decision and had recognized the Reformed Church’s ownership right.” The Mikó-case came again onto the table of the restitution committee because the college’s former restitution was deemed irregular by the Court from Ploiesti in 2014 and sentenced the former members of the restitution committee to suspended imprisonment, thus nullifying the Reformed Church’s ownership right. The Court sentenced Attila Markó MP of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, Tamás Marosán lawyer of the Reformed Church and Silviu Clim, former legal councilor of the Ministry of Justice to three years suspended imprisonment each because of their 2002 decision with reference to the restitution of the building.

1 June 2016.

■ **The People’s Party’s mayor candidate for Miercurea Ciuc was taken by the police for having hoisted the Szekler flag.**

■ On Friday Ervin Tőke, the mayor candidate of the Hungarian People's Party from Transylvania in Miercurea Ciuc, once again hoisted the Szekler flag in the central square of Miercurea Ciuc. Following the hoisting of the flag members of the gendarmerie and of the police appeared and called upon the candidate to remove the flag given that he was committing an offense. Ervin Tőke did not comply with the request, therefore, one of the members of the police removed the flag. Upon this Ervin Tőke was asked to identify himself, and then he was taken to the police to make his statement.

3 June 2016.

■ In October 2015 the Covasna County Tribunal upheld the action of the anti-Hungarian Dan Tanasă, proclaiming that the two Szekler flags hoisted in front of the former military school from Târgu Secuiesc had to be removed. On the 26th of May the Court of Justice from Brasov dismissed the appeal of the mayor of Târgu Secuiesc thus the former verdict with reference to the removal of the flags came into force.

■ According to the decision of the Brasov Court of Justice the two Szekler flags that have been hoisted in front of the former military school since 2014 have to be removed. In 2014 the two flags were hoisted among ceremonial circumstances in the presence of Zsolt Semjén deputy prime minister of Hungary and Barna Pál Zsigmond consul general from Miercurea Ciuc.

6 June 2016.

■ The inscription from the building housing the mayor's office from Danesti had to be removed – this was the decision in first instance of the Harghita County Tribunal.

■ The action for the removal of the inscription at the Harghita County Tribunal was initiated by the Civic Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC). The Court has recently published its verdict in first instance dismissing also the objections brought by the mayor of Danesti and the body of local councilors regarding the plaintiff's interests linked to the procedure and his lack of personal involvement. At the same time the Court upheld the ADEC's request and ordered the mayor and the local council to remove the Village Hall inscription from the façade of the building. The village hall of Danesti was built more than a hundred years ago, in 1912 on the basis of plans by the local architect Vidor Antal. It is not listed as a monument, but the mayor says they want to have it listed. The Village Hall inscription visible on the façade was put back to its original place during the 2006 restoration of the building and the towers. It is a multifunctional building as it also houses a guesthouse. The part of the building that houses the mayor's office has been inscribed in conformity with the law, the inscription Village Hall denotes the name of the building. "We won't let this happen, the building was constructed by the compossessoratus and not by the Romanian state" – argues the mayor adding that one can

only expect a favorable decision if the case is taken to international courts.

8 June 2016.

■ In Miercurea Ciuc upon a final court order they are replacing several traffic signs that had the Hungarian inscription first and in second the Romanian version. Earlier the Prefect's Office sued and won in this sense, this year the association led by Dan Tanasă also sued the city.

■ The Prefect's Office called upon the mayor and the local council to remove the signs in 2012. This did not happen, and following the trial in July 2013 the Harghita county Tribunal came to the verdict that this type of bilingualism was not legal and so the traffic signs were not allowed to remain installed.

15 June 2016.

■ Ervin Tőke, the president of the Ciuc region Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party, was fined eleven thousand lei for having hoisted the Szekler flag on a pole standing in the center of Miercurea Ciuc on the 3rd of June.

■ City councilors of the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania hoisted a large Szekler flag in the city center of Miercurea Ciuc in February 2013. It is important to note that there were no speeches, singing or anything similar, therefore the gendarmerie's action is unexplainable.

20 June 2016.

■ In Târgu Mureş there are still no multilingual informational plaques – in accordance with international standards – installed on the listed buildings – drew our attention to the shortcomings István Dávid Kovács, leader of the civic association "For a Democratic Târgu Mureş."

■ The organization fighting for the preservation of the city's specific historical character has remarked several times that there exist laws regulating the marking of listed buildings and the installation of internationally standardized plaques on them, but in Târgu Mureş you will find only shortcomings in this respect as well.

24 June 2016.

■ Dan Tanasă, the anti-Hungarian leader of the Civic Association for Dignity in Europe, demanded the immediate removal of the two Szekler flags hung near the Saint Stephen statue in Sanzieni.

■ The mayor of Sanzieni, Tibor Balogh stated that at this point they are not removing the flags. If there is a final court verdict forcing us to do so, we will have to remove them" – he added. The village leader explained that they could hang the flags on private or church property, but he believed that at present the symbol of the Szekler community was in its right place, in the central square of the village.

30 June 2016.

■ **The emblazoned red-white-green flag was removed from the façade of the Madaras Ciuc village hall, a flag the hoisting of which cost now the mayor a 90 thousand lei fine. The flag is now hung at the back of the building.**

■ After the fine received from the Prefect's Office, the local council of Madaras Ciuc lost their case at the Harghita County Tribunal and the Târgu Mureş Court of Justice who came to the final verdict that ordered the mayor to remove from the façade of the building the flag hung there since 2008. The first decision in this sense was taken in July 2014 but given that the flag remained in its place, the Prefect's Office initiated a further action for the execution of the verdict, action that ended this March with a similar decision, and added the above mentioned fine. The mayor of Madaras Ciuc argued that the emblazoned red-white-green flag symbolized the Hungarian nation and it was not functioning as Hungary's official flag.

1 July 2016.

■ **The Civic Engagement Movement (Cemo) initiated multiple actions against the Târgu Mureş mayor's office and several institutions under the mayor's office authority due to the incorrect application of the law with reference to rights to the use of mother tongue or the refusal to apply it.**

■ Enikő Szigeti CEO of the Movement stated that they made complaints at the Romanian antidiscrimination committee for example against the dozens of jobs advertised by the mayor's office where the knowledge of the Hungarian language should have been specified as requirement, but the mayor's office neglected to do so. They have also started action due to the personnel policy of the local police belonging under the authority of the local council of Târgu Mureş given that there are only a few local policemen who speak the Hungarian language and the institution does not uphold bilingualism in its notices either. She added: they have come to the decision that even before the exhaustion of national judicial remedy options, that is already in parallel with the in course strategic court cases in course in Romania they are going to turn to the Strasbourg Court of Human Rights with reference to street name signs in Târgu Mureş. According to Enikő Szigeti the notification with reference to whether or not the Strasbourg Court is or not going to hear their case and whether the shortened procedure may start is to be expected in six months

2 July 2016.

■ **All 42 pro-autonomy decisions adopted by the local councils of settlements from Harghita county have been invalidated by the Romanian courts of law.**

■ In Harghita county the local councils of 42 settlements adopted the decision according to which they stated that they wished to belong to the separate administrative unit named Szeklerland, whose autonomy would be guaranteed by cardinal law, and on whose territory – beyond the

country's official language – Hungarian would also share the same status.

2 July 2016.

■ **According to the final decision of the Court of Justice, the Hungarian and the Szekler flags have to be removed from the meeting hall of the Mayor's Office of Miercurea Ciuc, as well as the flag of the town.**

■ „The use of the Szekler flag as the official symbol of a territorial administrative unit in which Romanians and other ethnic groups live too, cannot lead to the exclusive emblem of a specific community becoming the symbol of local authorities” – argues the Court.

11 July 2016.

■ **The Târgu Mureş Tribunal through its first instance verdict only partially nullified the fine of ten thousand lei that the gendarmerie issued against Balázs Izsákl, president of the Szekler National Council on the 10th of March declared to be the Day of Szekler Freedom for having organized the march and demonstration in Târgu Mureş.**

■ Before the march of the 10th of March the court only ruled in first instance, a verdict appealed by the mayor but he again lost the case in second instance. The Romanian gendarmerie fined approximately one hundred organizers and participants of the march for the organization of an unauthorized march, for participating in it and for silence nuisance.

22 July 2016.

■ **The audit committee of the Ministry of Education is investigating the legality of the articles of association of the Roman Catholic Gymnasium that became an independent institution in Târgu Mureş the previous year. The plaintiff was the Romanian language Unirea High School – the two schools being operated in the same building – while the antecedent of the case consists in the disputes over classroom use between the two schools.**

■ All this is taking place despite the fact that the foundation of the Roman Catholic Theological High School in 2015 took place on the basis of entirely legal documents. The nationalized building was restituted to the Roman Catholic Church in 2004. The catholic high school was able to move into the church-owned building starting with the academic year 2015-2016 upon the January 2015 decree of the local council with reference to the setting up of an independent Roman Catholic high school. The church had lent its buildings to the city with the condition that they would operate a legally independent denominational school in them as well.

3 August 2016.

■ **It was not only the Szekler flags in front of the former military school from Târgu Secuiesc that were removed last week, but also the small Szekler flags from around the Áron Gábor statue disappeared.**

■ Upon the final and unrevokable court decision forcing mayor Tibor Bokor to remove on the 30th of May 2015 the Szekler flags from the Áron Gábor Square hung there on the 15th of March 2013, the members of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement have hoisted Szekler flags several times, in most cases setting them up together with the poles. The flag removed the previous week had been near the statue for more than a year, and on its pole there had been tied many red-white-green ribbons, that the day before were still on the poles.

9 August 2016.

■ **The DIICOT took into custody those alleged arms dealers from Romania who had been presented in the Sky News report the previous week, despite the fact that earlier they had confessed that the reporter of Sky News had outwitted them as well.**

■ According to the communiqué of the Prosecutor's Office, the Transylvanian Hungarian men featured in the film had set up a crime organization, they had infringed on regulations with reference to the possession of arms, and they had made false statements. According to the prosecution the arms presented in the report were legally owned in Romania. Their majority were shotguns; the only weapon that was presented was part of a collection.

12 August 2016.

With reference to the Cluj Napoca Hungarian Days in course the Romanian Television (TVR) is trying to instigate anti-Hungarian atmosphere with astonishingly manipulative materials.

■ The organizers of the Cluj Napoca Hungarian Days have issued a press release expressing their regret that the message of the parts of the concert that have been objected to has not gone through. "The lyrics of the song are meant against the mentioned historical personages and their harmful ideology" – they state. The organizers condemn any type of extremism and complain about the media having published tendentious and distorted reports about the concert of Feró Nagy and his band.

18 August 2016.

■ **Both in Cluj Napoca and in Brasov there have appeared inscriptions "We hate the Hungarian race!" Last year there have been posters with the same inscription. It seems that some – in preparation for the parliamentary elections – are again instigating anti-Hungarian atmosphere.**

27 August 2016.

■ **On a camping site from Sovata a rancorous anti-Hungarian organization held an event on Saturday.**

■ In the evening hours about one hundred and fifty loudmouthed people gathered around a campfire singing and reciting distasteful anti-Hungarian songs and verses. "Out with the Hungarians from the country!", "Were he

alive, Vlad Tepes would impale the Hungarians!" and other such unprintable rhymes were recited.

31 August 2016.

■ **The Prefect's Office transmitted to the local council through a notice the suggestions of several Romanian civic organizations with reference to renaming a part of the central Libertatii Square to Tricolor Square.**

■ The suggestion was rejected by the council. As it is known, the prefect – referring to the lack of different ministerial and secret service licenses – revoked the cityscape plans regarding the setting up of the Sárkánydomb (Dragonhill), but in fact the matter is that the Romanian community worries that the new statue would cover the Mihai Viteazul group of statues.

5 September 2016.

■ **Following the local councils from the Szeklerland, now the Mikó Székely College from Sfântu Gheorghe has become the target of Dan Tanasă renowned for his anti-Hungarian accusations and reports and of the Civic Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) led by him. The Association called upon the council of Sfântu Gheorghe to remove from the façade of the schoolbuilding the Hungarian inscription within 30 days otherwise they would initiate court action.**

■ For years now in the Szekler counties there has been going on a veritable crusade against Hungarian inscriptions. Three years ago the then prefects of Harghita and Covasna counties sued several mayors because on the facades of the buildings housing the local council offices the capital-letter-inscription Village or Town Hall was there only in Hungarian. The local leaders lost their cases one after the other, while the prefect offices were threatening them with huge fines.

14 September 2016.

■ **The situation of the use of the Hungarian language has deteriorated in educational institutions in Târgu Mureş – the Civic Engagement Movement (Cemo) has pointed out. They have argued that despite the fact that the national antidiscrimination directorate asserted the fact of discrimination, regarding the bilingualism in schools from Târgu Mureş the situation has improved only in the cases where the parents intervened.**

■ The schools' communication, the certificates issued by them, their posters, the written notifications sent to Hungarian children and their parents happen only in Romanian, similarly to the fact that we would search in vain for any Hungarian inscriptions on the corridors or shared spaces, representatives of the Cemo assessed, and they have also taken judicial steps in this respect. Investigating the implementation of the Hungarians' language rights it came to light that the Hungarian inscriptions and notices were missing almost everywhere, and in most places the administrative staff did not speak the Hungarian language.

19 September 2016.

■ **Despite the fact that formerly the tourism experts from Hâromszék had received a promise from the Romanian Tourism Authority (ANT) with reference to the acknowledgment of the Szeklerland as a tourist destination, now the institution has issued a letter stating the exact opposite.**

■ The Harghita County Tribunal rejected the registration of the Association set up for the touristic promotion of the region on the basis that in its opinion the Szeklerland does not exist officially, therefore it cannot be promoted as tourist destination. The creation of the Pro Turismo Terrae Sicularum Association was initiated by 14 tourism and regional development association from Harghita, Covasna and Mureş counties. Following this in May the Szeklerland Tourism Cluster has been set up that is also working on the harmonization of the region's tourism.

21 September 2016.

■ **The Târgu Mureş High Court issued its final decision upholding the verdict according to which there can be no Szekler flag hung in the Libertatii Square in Miercurea Ciuc. The flag constituting the object of action was formerly standing in the location of the Áron Márton statue-group.**

■ Upon the decision of the High Court now the Harghita County Tribunal's 27 April decision has come into force that orders the mayor of Miercurea Ciuc to remove the "flag of the Szekler National Council" from the Libertatii Square. The Miercurea Ciuc Mayor's Office has appealed this verdict in first instance, an appeal that has now been dismissed.

22 September 2016.

■ **The Civic Engagement Movement (CEMO) and the Hungarian Teachers' Association from Romania (RMPSZ) made a complaint to the National Anti-Discrimination Council (ODT) with reference to the discriminative decision of the Mureş County Inspectorate regarding regulations on the competition for directorial and deputy directorial positions.**

■ According to the 2011/1 law on education in schools where education is conducted solely in the language of a minority the director must speak the given minority's language, in schools with bilingual education one of the directors must speak the minority language. The aim of the RMPSz and CEMO's complaint is to cease the discriminative and illegal character of the Mureş County Inspectorate's decision, further they would also like the Mureş County Inspectorate to consult with the experts of the RMPSZ and the representative of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania responsible for education in the course of coming to a new decision with reference to contest for the positions of school directors.

28 September 2016.

■ **The DNA (National Anticorruption Directorate) is targeting the most popular Hungarian local council leaders.**

■ The National Anticorruption Directorate first beheaded the Miercurea Ciuc town leadership. The mayor Róbert

Ráduly was charged with threefold abuse of office and conflict of interest, Domokos Szóke deputy mayor with four-fold abuse of office and incitement to forgery. Domokos Szóke deputy mayor is suspected that as the chair of the project-evaluation committee he had illegally awarded the contract with reference to the renovation and modernization of the Áron Márton and Segítő Mária High Schools with a total value of 18 million lei financed from the Regional Operative Programme.

The DNA has also investigated the mayor of Sfântu Gheorghe, Árpád Antal. Following the perquisition the city leader was taken by the prosecutors to Bucharest for questioning. According to the prosecution his "sin" was that he had signed a contract in the value of 12 million Euros with the European Reconstruction and Development Bank for urban development, and the amount was not used as intended. The Prosecutor's Office started an investigation against the mayor of Gheorgheni János Mezey in a case in which Budapest's V. district local government was also involved. The DNA charged Mezey with abuse of power, blackmail and incitement to embezzlement, he was barred from exercising his office, and this year he did not run in the elections.

Anna Horváth, deputy mayor of Cluj Napoca, is the last among those popular Hungarian local leaders who have been persecuted by the Anticorruption Directorate and who have been hindered in their work for shorter or longer periods. It is conspicuous that Romanian mayor suspected of having caused damages of several hundred thousands of euro and of having accepted large amounts as kickbacks (like for example Dorin Florea or George Scripcaru) have not been barred from exercising their office at all.

13 October 2016.

■ **The bill adopted this week by the House of Representatives heavily infringes on the principle of local autonomy, giving a say to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Defense in the organization of official ceremonies.**

■ According to the new bill, every event organized by the local or county council with the occasion of holidays will be considered an official ceremony. If a local council organized events on Women's Day or on Children's Day or the 15th of March, these all may become official ceremonies. If the event also contains wreathing, then it can only be carried out if the given local council discusses with the concerned departments of the ministry of internal affairs and the ministry of defense. The bill also proclaims the setting up of a new central organ, the National Protocol Council that would function within the Presidential Office and would keep records of official events to be organized.

24 October 2016.

■ **Out with the Hungarians from the country – with this rhyme the fans of the Sibiu CSU "punished" Roland Török, the striker of U-BT Cluj Napoca at the fourth round of the men's basketball championship.**

■ In such cases it is not enough to have the approximately 2000 people present in the stadium hear the verbal abuse,

in order for the professional federation, in this case the Romanian Basketball Federation (FRB) to investigate it is necessary for the observer of the match to remark in his report the anti-Hungarian statement. Given that the fans of the Sibiu CSU can be considered as recidivists, fines should be quite severe. It happened in March 2014 that the Sibiu fans supporting their team at their match against the Târgu Mureş BC erected a Molino with unprintable anti-Hungarian inscription on it on the grandstand of the sports hall from Târgu Mureş and they were reciting slogans insulting the Hungarians.

25 October 2016.

■ **The police had the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania's billboards, that had stirred quite heavy reactions, and through which the Alliance had wanted to address the inhabitants of Transylvanian cities before the actual election campaign, removed.**

■ The Romanian language billboards placed on the outskirts of Cluj Napoca and Oradea had the following text: We are going to save Cluj Napoca (Oradea)! from Bucharest. Our taxes should enrich Transylvania. Not the capital!" "We are talking about decentralization and subsidiarity, when we are demanding that our taxes should not enrich Bucharest. We are asking what we have always been asking for: let us deconstruct the centralized state, let us trust local and county self-governments, let us hand over all possible authority and the resources allocated to those. Except the domains of foreign affairs and defense, there is no reason to centralize power in Bucharest. We believe that whatever is good for Transylvania, will be beneficial to Romania" – said Péter Kovács, executive director of the Alliance.

26 October 2016.

■ **The Musai-Muszáj action group would have wanted to campaign for multilingual place name signs on public transport in Cluj Napoca, but the public transportation company had not yet made it possible, what is more the civic activist handling the case has been threatened.**

■ The Musai-Muszáj action group's informational project received the support of the Cluj Napoca Mayor's Office. Thus they started the informational campaign on the installation of multilingual place-name signs – something that has been rejected by the mayor's office for 15 years – using the city's financial support. They prepared a three-dimensional advertisement featuring on one side a monolingual Cluj Napoca sign, from the other side a multilingual Cluj Napoca sign, while on the sides of the images one could read Romanian and Hungarian answers to the most frequent objections to the multilingual signs.

26 October 2016.

■ **The House of Representatives adopted with 168 votes and 10 abstentions the draft bill according to which Avram Iancu received the so-called "Hero of the Nation" title.**

■ Through this decision the House of Representatives rejected the president's request with reference to the renegotiation of

the bill. According to the newly adopted law "in honor of the biggest hero of Romanians from Transylvania" Avram Iancu "becomes the Hero of the Romanian nation."

8 November 2016.

■ **The Bucharest Court dismissed the action of MEP László Tőkés requesting the nullification of the presidential decree withdrawing his Romanian state award – the published verdict states.**

■ According to the verdict published on their website, the Bucharest Court deemed László Tőkés's action requesting the nullification of the presidential decree revoking his award unfounded. The verdict has not come in force yet, it can be appealed at the Supreme Court within 15 days upon the publication of the motivation of the verdict and the announcement of the parties in this respect. In Romania many people – among them Adrian Năstase former prime minister imprisoned several times for corruption – are in the possession of the award "Star of Romania" who have been sentenced to imprisonment and whose award should have been revoked in conformity with the law.

16 November 2016.

■ **Victor Ponta former prime minister declared in Miercurea Ciuc on Monday that the new election law has been drawn up in such a way as to make it possible for no Romanian representatives to be elected in Harghita and Covasna counties.**

■ Victor Ponta, together with Rovana Plumb and Eugen Teodorovici former ministers, travelled to Harghita county to support Mircea Dusa MP in winning a new mandate. According to Ponta a high number of voters can correct the erroneous law. At the same time he ascertained those present that if there were not enough voted gathered, at the redistribution of seats Harghita county would be "on the first position".

22 November 2016.

■ **The inscription on the Bucharest Triumphal Arch commemorating the Romanian army's entrance to Budapest in 1919 that had been plastered over under mysterious circumstances, was reinstated and was inaugurated on Monday by lord mayor Gabriela Firea.**

■ The 27 meters high Triumphal Arch erected in 1922 has those settlement-names engraved where the Romanian army triumphed in the I World War. According to a former communiqué of the lord mayor's office the Budapest inscription featured among the 12 settlement names was plastered over in 1953 probably because at that time they were not proud of having won over the Hungarian Republic's red army.

28 November 2016.

■ **Traian Băsescu former Romanian president suggested the expelling from the country of the Hungarian ambassador from Bucharest and the recall of the Romanian ambassador from Budapest as "the single appropriate response to the offense" that Péter Szijjártó Hungarian minister of external economy and foreign affairs prohibited Hungarian**

diplomats the participation at the Romanian National Day celebrations.

■ On Thursday, commenting to the public media Péter Szijjártó emphasized: Hungarian people have nothing to celebrate on the 1st of December, it would be strange for diplomats representing Hungary and employees of the ministry of foreign affairs would go to Romanian receptions on this day. The minister added: he had prohibited every Hungarian diplomat and everybody working in the ministry in Budapest to participate at any Romanian national celebrations either in Hungary or abroad.

5 December 2016.

■ The UNESCO's assembly in Ethiopia did not list among the protected intellectual cultural heritage the pilgrimage from Sumuleu Ciuc.

■ The members of the Romanian ministry of culture present at the assembly did not only neglect to sustain the initiative, but they even thanked for the rejection, disregarding the work of approximately one hundred experts and the desire of the Hungarians from Transylvania that the pilgrimage from Sumuleu Ciuc be part of the UNESCO list. The UNESCO probably rejected the request because no representative of the initiator Hungarian community from Romania was allowed to be present at the sustenance of the nomination.

1 December 2016.

■ Unknown offenders have painted in black the Hungarian inscription of the Valea Izvoarelor place-name sign, while the place-name sign of Mosuni from Miercurea Mirajului was painted in red.

■ At least twice a year the Hungarian inscriptions on the place-name signs of Valea Izvoarelor, Sanpaul, Ogra and Mosuni are painted over.

1 December 2016.

■ In Sfantu Gheorghe an Orthodox priest defied the Hungarians from Transylvania. In his speech of communist ideology mixed with stupid racism he called upon the Hungarians to wake up and take notice of where they really belong to.

■ According to the speaker who used abusive, instigating and racist affirmations, Szeklers should be rather proud of being the descendants of "the most courageous, most religious and the fairest nation", that is they are Romanians.

2 December 2016.

■ It is the third time in a row that the Miercurea Ciuc town leadership loses its case against the Association led by Dan Tănasă – now upon the dismissal of the appeal the verdict with reference to the removal of the Szekler and town flags from the façade of the mayor's office has come into force.

■ Not only the Szekler flag must be removed, neither the town's flag featuring two white and one red stripes and three forget-me-nots may remain on the façade of the building, given that the Târgu Mureş High Court has upheld the verdict in first instance of the Harghita County Tribunal of this April. The

High Court deemed the mayor's appeal unfounded and thus the Tribunal's verdict has come into force.

16 December 2016.

■ Andrei Coman lawyer from Târgu Mureş, who moved to a village near the town one and a half years ago, would rename a street named after one of the heroes of the 1989 revolution, László Szilárd Takács.

■ Andrei Coman's initiative is not unique in the post 89 Romania. In recent years the inhabitants of the Jenő Dsida street from Cluj Napoca and those of the Andor Bajor street in Oradea were already successful. In Oradea the local council – responding to the inhabitants' request – renamed the street formerly named after the Oradea native author, poet and humorist Andor Bajor.

16 December 2016.

■ After several positive decisions, it seems that the Roman Catholic Bishopric from Oradea has permanently lost one of the most imposing buildings of the city, the former financial palace that has seriously deteriorated during the years-long litigations.

Through its verdict nor 3645 from 15 December 2016 the Supreme Court and Supreme Court of Cassation annulled the April verdict of the Pitesti Court of Law that awarded the property of the prestigious downtown building to the Catholic Church. According to diocesan László Böcskei they have preserved all documents proving property rights and that the verdict is a political rather than a legal one.

19 December 2016.

■ The High Court from Brasov dismissed in first instance the Transylvanian Reformed Church's request with reference to the restitution of the building of the Mikó Székely College from Sfantu Gheorghe.

■ During the trial the Church has produced over forty pieces of evidence that univocally and clearly prove that the owner of the property right and of the right to restitution is the Transylvanian Reformed Church. According to the church the verdict has severe consequences: it opens the way for anti-Hungarian or malicious state authorities to renationalize any other church property as well.

23 December 2016.

■ Dan Tănasă's Association was not only successful in their action against the inscriptions on public buildings and the flags, they also objected to the order of the inscriptions on traffic signs in Miercurea Ciuc. The sued requesting that on every sign the Romanian inscription should be first.

■ The Harghita county Tribunal upheld the request of the Civic Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) and ordered the board of the Miercurea Ciuc local council and the mayor to change all the traffic signs in the city that had the Hungarian inscription on the first place to ones that have the Romanian language inscription first. The verdict published in first instance on the 21st of December can be appealed at the Târgu Mureş High Court.

27 December 2016.