

ANTI-HUNGARIAN MANIFESTATIONS IN ROMANIA 2017–2018

2017

■ It is outrageous and against education, that the Hungarian section grade 5 of fine arts in the János Apáczai Csere High School in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) has been dismissed. With this step taken, the future of the only Hungarian fine arts section in mid-Transylvania became compromised – stated the Miklós Barabás Guild (Barabás Miklós Céh/Breaslă Barabás Miklós) in its announcement.

■ The news of the dismissal of the class has had negative echo abroad since the art training practiced at Apáczai High School has gained recognition not only at home but on an international scale as well. The announcement insists on the importance of insertion by the School Inspectorate of Kolozs (Cluj) County of a new 5th grade majoring in fine arts, since that would be the basic condition for the perpetuation of the classes majoring in fine arts on high school level. It became clear in 2016, that, since the Ministry of Education had not given its consent in written form, the fine arts class was to be dismissed in the János Apáczai Csere High School in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca).

10 January 2017

■ The Roman Catholic Highschool in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) is only a few steps away from dissolution: in lack of a headmaster, the educational institution is unable to hand in its schooling plan, while the local administration has not yet carried out a vote in connection to the schooling network of the municipality. (Further news about the struggles of the educational institution can be found in the synopsis at the end of our publication entitled *The Struggle of Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic Theological High School in Târgu Mureș*.)

10 January 2017

■ Both the Roman Catholic Church as plaintiff and the Romanian National Library of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) which is responsible for the Batthyaneum have handed in the authorized Romanian translation compiled by them, in the lawsuit that was issued for the restitution of the building of the Batthyaneum Library and Scientific Collection.

■ According to Dezső Buzogány university professor, one of the translators, the lawsuit issued in connection to the restitution of the Batthyaneum may last longer than expected because the judge, who should have taken the decision in the case - is retiring in February and this case, that attracts significant interest, is to be taken over by someone else. Meanwhile, the analysis of the translation of the testament of bishop Ignác Batthyány by experts hired both by the plaintiff and by the respondent, is still going on. It is only after this process that the court of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) can be expected to pronounce a decision in the lawsuit in which the Roman Catholic Church demanded the nullification of the decision of the restitution committee rejecting restitution. The late bishop left his collection of unique value to the Catholic Church and Transylvania Province. However, the Romanian political elite considers that, as legal successor of the Transylvanian Province, the Romanian State also shares the right to ownership.

19 January 2017.

■ In the last few weeks the Hungarian signs indicating the names of the settlements have disappeared from the streets of Méra (Mera) village, belonging to Kisbács (Baciu) commune. These signs have not yet been restored. The Kolozs (Cluj) county department of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) has handed in a petition to the prefecture of Kolozs (Cluj) county in the case of the elimination of the bilingual signs from the streets of Méra (Mera) village.

■ Representatives of RMDSZ (UDMR) in the local administration have pointed out the issue of the missing signs several times to the Romanian mayor of the village, yet they have still not been restored. Consequently, the members of the alliance registered a notice on 13th January at the prefectural office, in which they require the prefect to give orders to the mayor's office of Kisbács (Baciu) commune to take steps for restoring the bilingual signs.

23 January 2017

■ According to the announcement of the school, the future of the Sámuel Brassai Theoretical High School in Kolozsvár (Cluj Napoca) is in danger. As a result

of a decision taken on 25th January, starting with the 2017/2018 school year, the one existing class of the high school's upper secondary level is to be dissolved. If this decision is not altered it will result in the change of the legal status of the educational institution, it being transformed into professional school which will exclude the possibility to have lower secondary classes as well.

■ In 2010 one of the theoretical classes of the Sámuel Brassai High School was taken away, in 2011 the school itself was evicted which resulted in the loss of a part of the classes of the school since the new building did not allow for parallel classes on the I-VIII. level. The school considers it negative discrimination done on purpose, that in the period 2010-2017 it constantly suffers from the fact that theoretical high school classes are perpetually taken away from them, being alone in this situation among the other Hungarian schools.

26 January 2017

■ **Sebastian Cucu, the prefect of Kovászna (Covasna) county, has initiated thirty eight lawsuits in connection with bilingualism and the flying of the Szekler flag in the last five years.**

■ The prefectural office has initiated five lawsuits against the County Council since 2012, in connection to the bilingual signs and the flag, while the number of lawsuits issued against local administrations grows to thirtyeight. According to the prefect, if the local administrations had respected the law they would not have got to court.

31 January 2017

■ **In the last few years several Hungarian members of local administrations have been accused of abuse of their administrative authority, by the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA)**

■ Csaba Borboly head of the County Council of Harghita (Harghita) county was prosecuted in 2013 by the anti-corruption agency on bases of accusations including continuous abuse of administrative authority, instigation for forgery in private documents and for using fake documentation, and unjust prosecutions. In the same case 12 other people were prosecuted. The internationally warranted Attila Markó, currently living in Hungary, is under prosecution by the anti-corruption agency for three series of abuse of administrative authority from the time he was member of the restitution committee. According to the anti-corruption prosecutors, the members of the named body have taken decisions for payment of compensation sums by overrating the values of real estates, thus causing 84 million euros worth damage for the state budget. The former mayor of Gyergyószentmiklós (Gheorgheni) János Mezei was involved in a case investigated by the prosecutors in which the local administration of Sector 5 of Budapest, Hungary was also concerned. The National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA)

accused the politician of the Hungarian Civil Party (PCM) of abuse of administrative authority, blackmail and instigation for embezzlement, and for the time of the investigation he as interdicted from fulfilling his official position. Róbert Kálmán Ráduly, the mayor affiliated to the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) was accused of three series of abuse of administrative authority and of conflict of interests, while Domokos Szőke, his vice mayor was prosecuted for four series of abuse of administrative authority and instigation for forgery, both in June 2015. Among other things, the DNA had problems with the construction licence of the Sapientia Transylvanian Hungarian University of Science, which, according to DNA sources, the mayor, who was also teaching at the university at that time, had issued based on incomplete documentation. Ráduly and Szőke are accused of having ratified unjustifiable payment by the mayor's office amounting to almost 1 million RON (approx. 215 thousand EUR), for a cadastral firm for carrying out work that in the end had no visible results whatsoever. In June 2015 the DNA had also prosecuted Sándor Kiss former head of the County Council of Bihar (Bihor) county. Beside abuse of administrative authority the politician is also accused of four series of money laundering, accepting soap and jobbing. Zsolt József Tamási, headmaster of the Roman Catholic Theological High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) was accused also of abuse of administrative authority. According to the DNA, he, together with Ştefan Someşan head of the school inspectorate of Maros (Mureş) county, have commonly facilitated the operation of the high school in spite of well being aware of the fact that the educational institution did not have the necessary licences for this.

4 February 2017

■ **The court of Nagyvárad (Oradea) declared the Partium's flag displayed on the façade of the office building of László Tőkés representative to the European parliament, a commercial flag.**

■ According to the decision, the municipal court of Nagyvárad (Oradea) rejected the appeal of the head of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (CNMT) and ratified the report of the local police, which is under local government law. The report summoned László Tőkés to "remove" the flag since its display is considered commercial activity, and as such, and being advertising surface, its public use requires licensing from the local authorities. In the lack of such permission its display is illegal. If the named politician does not comply with the summon he will be liable for fine. László Tőkés had put out the Partium's flag on his parliamentary office building in Nagyvárad (Oradea) on 11th December, 2015. The flag was adopted on the meeting of deputies of the Autonomy Council of Partium on 16th May, 2016. As it is well-known, last February, the local

police of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) has initiated legal procedure against the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (CNMT) for flying the Szekler flag that was also considered commercial activity, for which the Council was severely fined. The local police has then lost this case in court according to legal verdict as the Court of Maros (Mureş) County adjudged that the Szekler flag was not to be considered as commercial flag so its display showed no illegal attempt.

7 February 2017

■ **The National Audiovisual Council (CNA) fined the Realitatea TV channel to ten thousand RON. According to the institution, the episode on 6th December, 2016 of Rareş Bogdan entitled Games of Power (Jocuri de putere) acted against the audiovisual law in force.**

■ During broadcast the following texts were displayed on the screen: "Romania under attack by Hungarian extremists; Hungary has issued 3 attacks against Romania in 5 days; Budapest, a flow of provocations without antecedents; The Hungarian elite is issuing insults against Romania; The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs: The Hungarian people have nothing to celebrate on 1st December; Following the insults from 1st December Hungary is striking again; Romanian patriot spat on a Hungarian square." According to the audiovisual law, the TV channels are obliged to inform their audiences in an objective way, and at the same time they have to present the points of view of religious minorities, if topics concerning these minorities are being broadcasted.

8 February 2017

■ **The police and the prosecutor's office has re-launched investigation against representatives of the local administration and civil servants of the mayor's office of Kézdivásárhely (Târgu Secuiesc) who have proposed the adoption of the name Albert Wass as street name, and worked on the compilation of the decision plan.**

■ On 19th November, 2015 the town councillors voted unanimously that one of the unnamed streets should be given the name of Albert Wass. This initiated a huge scandal because the named writer is regarded as a war criminal in Romania. The local administration withdrew its decision plan on 25th February 2016. Following this step the prosecutor's office dropped and closed the case without initiating criminal investigation against anybody, to the advice of the local police. This decision was contested by the prefecture asking the re-investigation of the case.

10 February 2017

■ **The wish for Hungarian language mass for the Csángó people of Moldova region faces constant rejection. However, on funeral and memorial sermons songs and prayer are allowed in Hungarian.**

■ Four years ago, at Pusztina (Pustiana), to the request of the congregation, Hungarian prayer was allowed on Fridays in the church. Comparatively, at Külsőrekecsin (Fundu Răcăciun) it often happened that those children who were attending Hungarian classes were not allowed to take part in the Catholic confirmation ceremony. On the last census 250 thousand Roman Catholic people were registered in the Moldovan counties, and, according to the estimations of ethnographer Vilmos Tánzos, the number of those speaking Hungarian is about 60 thousand. In its Recommendation no. 1521 from May 2001, the General Assembly of the European Council proposed: the Romanian government has to guarantee for the Csángó people the possibility to study in their mother tongue, the Roman Catholic church should guarantee that the Csángó people can listen to Catholic sermon and to sing the religious songs in their mother tongue. The Hungarian Csángó people are considered Romanian by the nationalist Romanian state and clerical law.

14 February 2017

■ **Bogdan Diaconu former independent member of parliament, now head of the nationalist United Romania Party (PRU), handed in a draft to the parliament in Bucharest in 2015, that would declare 4th June the memorial day of "The fight against the Treaty of Trianon and against the oppression of Hungarian people". The same draft would legally ban the public questioning of justness of the Peace Treaty of Trianon in Romania.**

■ The experts of the committee for analysing the legal harmony in legal texts has issued positive opinion regarding the draft. The special body did not have any objection against punishing with one to five years imprisonment any public questioning of justness of the Peace Treaty or the display of any bereavement tokens in Romania in connection to the historical event.

15 February 2017

■ **According to the court decision in force the Hungarian inscription must be removed from the façade of the town's hall of Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc) within 30 days.**

■ The Appeal Court of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) rejected the plea in which the mayor's office and the local administration required the annulment of the previous legal decision. The petition for removing the Hungarian inscription of town's hall was handed in by the Civil Union for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) lead by the chauvinistic blogger Dan Tanasă, known for his serial anti-Hungarian prosecutions, in November 2015. The court accepted the arguments of the plaintiff that stated that the correct Hungarian name of the public institution is mayor's office (polgármesteri hivatal) not városháza (town's hall), both in first and in second instance. By the way, according to regulations, at the

entrance the nameplate of the institution is displayed with the correct name of the institution both in Romanian and in Hungarian. This plate contains the Hungarian term for mayor's office.

16 February 2017

■ No philology profile Hungarian 9th grade can be started in the Theoretical High School of Nagykároly (Carei) although the parents have gathered 33 signatures in an attempt to prove that there would be demand for such a class. The educational inspectorate pled that, on one hand the school enrolment plan had already been validated and on the other hand, they are consciously putting the emphasis on professional education because there is ardent need for professional workers in the county from economical point of view.

■ According to the school enrolment plan for the school year 2017/2018, out of the 3 Romanian and 3 Hungarian classes currently available at the educational institution in Nagykároly (Carei) one, namely the philology class was dissolved. Neither the school's management nor the parents endorse the decision of the school inspectorate of Szatmár (Satu Mare) county. Anna Pusch, one of the mothers has managed to collect 33 signatures from families from the surrounding villages in the Hungarian majority region, who would send their children to this class after finishing their studies in lower-secondary education. The survey sheet together with the petition were registered both at the school inspectorate and at the prefect's office.

20 February 2017

■ The mayor's office of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) is obliged by the first instance of the court of Kolozs (Cluj) county, to the display of bilingual plates for the names of settlements. While the mayor's office is preparing to contest the decision, the action troop called Musai-Muszáj is trying to prevent this step.

■ In first instance the Minority Rights Union won against the mayor's office: in its decision, the court of Kolozs (Cluj) county stated that at all the entrances of the so-called treasure town, bilingual - Romanian and Hungarian - nameplates are to be installed. As it is well-known, the mayor's office was originally sued by the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation in Europe registered in the Netherlands, to install the bilingual nameplates. The first instance gave place to the suit obliging the town's management to display Hungarian placenames on the nameplates at the five entrances to the town. Later, the court also gave place to the complaint issued by the mayor's office that claimed that the foreign organization had no contentious quality in the case. Consequently, the civil group issued another lawsuit, this time in the name of the Minority Rights Union registered in Romania. Last December the court of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) returned the file of the bilingual nameplates to the first instance of the county court for rehearing. The detailed motivation of the present verdict has to be

proclaimed within 30 days. The decision can be legally attacked within 15 days at the regional court of appeal. The respondent envisaged further legal action.

22 February 2017

■ According to the verdict of the court of Harghita (Harghita) county, the mayor of Csíkrákos (Racu) village is obliged to remove the Hungarian inscription Községháza (Parish hall) from the building housing the mayor's office.

■ The lawsuit was issued back in 2015 by the Civil Union for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) for the removal of the Hungarian language nameplate from the building. The first instance gave place to the claim of the ADEC and according to the verdict the Hungarian inscription of parish hall had to be removed from the building. At the same time the court rejected the claim for interference in the case handed in by Miklós Vizoli the vicemayor of Csíkrákos (Racu) in his quality as private person. Like in all the other similar cases, Dan Tanasă claimed that the term used in Hungarian had no proper translation in Romanian. The decision can be legally attacked and Attila Császár mayor of Csíkrákos (Racu) declares that they will indeed take further legal steps.

23 February 2017

■ The judge proposed the modification of the classification in the lawsuit of István Beke and Zoltán Szőcs of the alleged criminal action on the hearing of 23rd February, related to the assassination attempt at Kézdivásárhely (Târgu Secuiesc).

■ The accusation was modified from assassination attempt against a community and instigation to such action to activity against constitutional order. During the hearing several witnesses were interrogated to the proposal of the defence. The next first instance hearing is to take place on 24th March, after which a verdict might be expected.

27 February 2017

■ The Civil Forum of Romanians from Kovászna (Covasna), Harghita (Harghita) and Maros (Mureş) counties has issued an open letter on Monday to the Head of Parliament. In the letter they expressed their worries regarding the drafts of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) that, according to the signatories, would grant further privileges for the Hungarian community in Romania.

■ The nationalist extremists criticise that the draft aims at the reduction from 20 to 10% of the threshold limit for the use of the mother tongue. The letter also contains concerns in connection to modification drafts for the health law as well as for the law regulating social services. If the parliament accepts the draft of the RMDSZ (UDMR) than on those settlements where the number of the Hungarian community is over 20% or the number of Hungarian speaker exceeds 5000 people, it is compulsory to provide Hungarian speaking staff in

the health care and social institutions. The named civil forum highlights the fact that autonomy movements have once again found supporters both on national and on international level, furthermore, the Hungarian government is also encouraging them. The Civil Forum was established in 2005 aiming to contribute the preservation of the national identity of the Romanian minorities in Kovászna (Covasna), Hargita (Harghita) and Maros (Mureș) counties. It is now the union of 30 Romanian civil organisations.

28 February 2017

■ **The local authority of Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheoghe) is removing the mound from the main square of the town. The mound was designed to be the platform for the sculpture entitled Sárkánydomb (Dragonhill). The mayor's office however does not cancel this plan.**

■ For the time being, the local authority of Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheoghe) is trying to settle the situation of the place designed for hosting the sculpture entitled Sárkánydomb (Dragonhill) with this compromise. The plans have not been carried out because of the reprehensory attempts of the prefect's office of Kovászna (Covasna) county. Árpád Antal mayor considers that, in this question of how to organise the town's public spaces, the local administration has to stand against the state office and the secret services and the Ministry of Defence that backs it up. As it is well known the government office of Kovászna (Covasna) county has legally attacked the detailed development plan including the Sárkánydomb (Dragonhill), based on the lack of various licences from the all kinds of ministries and from the secret service. The real motive according to many people however, might be that the planned sculpture would overshadow the symbolic Mihai Viteazul sculptural ensemble installed on a nearby square in the Ceaușescu regime and highly appreciated by the Romanian communities settled there.

3 March 2017

■ **The court of Brassó (Brașov) rejected the appeals handed in in the recent lawsuit on the use of flags. In its decision the court obliges the Council of Kovászna (Covasna) County and its head to remove the Szekler flag donated by József Kulcsár-Terza a year ago, from the council chamber of the county hall.**

■ After having twice postponed proclamation, the Appeal Court of Brassó (Brașov) has finally proclaimed a verdict, rejecting the calls for appeal issued by József Kulcsár-Terza, by the Council of Kovászna County and by the head of the named body. The court proclaimed its verdict upholding the decision of the Court of Kovászna (Covasna) county from 6th October 2016. According to the decision the county council together with its leader, to remove from the council chamber of the county hall the blue-gold flag of the Szeklerland. In the text of the

verdict the name Szeklerland appears capitalized and without inverted commas. This is important because in the text of the claim, the prefect used the term "so-called szeklerland" without capitalization, thus rejecting the simple existence of the region and its historical name. According to the verdict of the court of Brassó (Brașov) the flag donated last January has to be removed from the council chamber of the county hall. If this happens, there still remains one other Szekler flag that was donated by József Kulcsár-Terza in November together with four other banners.

6 March 2017

■ **The mayor's office of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) has authorised the commemoration of the Szekler Liberty at the sculpture of the Szekler martyrs held on Friday but it did not give consent for the deployment of the participants on the road.**

■ The authority allowed the access of a maximum of 10 people to the prefecture where they were to hand in a petition according to the law. According to the prefect's office the participants at the celebration of the day of the Szekler liberty were allowed to leave the event only on the sidewalk. Előd Kincses, the legal representative of the organisers of the event said that the mayor's office did not even inform them officially, but only stated its point in a media announcement. The lawyer definitely considered this attitude of the mayor's office abuse of administrative authority. Kincses required the police to act according to the agreement made with the organisers last Friday.

8 March 2017

■ **Some members of the ultra-nationalist organisation called the New Right Wing (Noua Dreaptă) took part in the commemoration event of March 15th at Arad (Arad) equipped with national flags of Romania.**

■ At the commemoration of the 1848 revolution and war for freedom Gheorghe Falcă mayor greeted those present at the celebration at the Statue of Liberty in Arad (Arad). His speech emphasising his respect for the Hungarians has won the sympathy of the audience and not for the first time. Tibor Kecskés was bringing the message of the president of Hungary, Cosmin Pribac prefect of Arad (Arad) county shared the message of the president of Romania, while Péter Faragó member of parliament and president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) at Arad (Arad) spoke about how even today, Hungarians in Transylvania have to fight for their freedom just like the heroes of 1848 had. "In the spirit of the Declaration of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) we require our individual and collective rights. We claim that at least now, on the 100th anniversary, the Romanian community fulfil their promises. (...) A country where those eager to work and do something for the community are swept away cannot be free. A country where those flying the Hungarian or the Szekler flag risk imprisonment can also not be

free” – said Péter Faragó in his speech. The event held in the park of the so-called Romanian–Hungarian Reconciliation was undisturbed, however, at the other end of the park a few members of the New Right Wing (Noua Dreaptă) gathered as a sign of protest, equipped with Romanian National Flags.

15 March 2017

■ **During the festive deployment in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) on 15th March, the Romanian Police picked out Ernő Fancsali, the Head of the Hungarian People’s Party Transylvania of Kolozsvár together with yet another person for walking with the flag of Transylvania. The police was trying to prevent the display of this symbol with reference to the organizers.**

■ According to the police the deployment with the flag of Transylvania was an illegal act. The state body initiated action with reference to the organizers, while the latter are doing the same in connection to the police. Ernő Fancsali said he would probably get an endorsement but still, in hope of a legal remedy, he would initiate legal action. This case is not unprecedented, the police has also disturbed the peaceful march last year, with Fancsali among the crowd, for flying the flag of Transylvania. Then there was no fine.

16 March 2017

■ **The football match between Juventus Bucharest and Seps OSK was once again not closed without incidents.**

■ The football match, which by the way ended with the victory of the Bucharest team by two goals, once again did not go without anti-Hungarian slogans. The shocking thing is that the teenage supporters of the football team were instigated to chant “Out with the Hungarians from the country!”

19 March 2017

■ **According to the news, Emil Boc mayor of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) wishes to promote Ionuț Țene, the inspector of educational, cultural, church and sports department in the mayor’s office into the position head of department.**

■ As the living remains of the Funar era, Ionuț Țene is still instigating hatred through his right wing extremist page. Țene created his openly nationalist news page Napocanews.ro, which spreads Orthodox fundamentalist ideas and attitude, back in 2008. He is still its lead publicist. In his work he is regularly attacking ethnic and sexual minorities and openly supports and encourages right wing activity, especially the activity of the neo-fascist New Right Wing.

20 March 2017

■ **According to court decision in force, the Siculitas Union, the background organization of the Szekler National Council (CNS) is obliged to pay the amount of the 12 000 RON fine that was applied after the**

organization of the day of Szekler freedom, for breaking the law concerning public assembly.

■ The Szekler National Council (CNS) considers addressing the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in connection to the case. In their announcement they point out that the present procedure and the mode of execution prove that we have to establish a stable financial background for the fight for autonomy and for the civil autonomy movement in the Szeklerland. “We encourage all entrepreneurs of the Carpathian Basin committed to the idea of autonomy, all the people living in the Szeklerland, in Transylvania or wherever in the world, to help support the movement even with the smallest amount of money transferred regularly.”

23 March 2017

■ **The head of the Hungarian People’s Party in Transylvania of Kolozs (Cluj) county, Sándor Soós was fined to 500 RON by the police for not having left the location of the deployment organized for the commemoration of 15th March, even after repeated notice from the organizers.**

■ The report that was delivered on 23rd March expressly mentions Zoltán Czirmay, the head of the Romania Hungarian Democratic Alliance in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), but does not make any notice of the flag of Transylvania as demurrable symbol. The heads of the Hungarian People’s Party Transylvania and the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) transmitted a petition together to the Ministry of Home Affairs demanding an explanation for the legal basis for the prosecution of the flag of Transylvania and for the action of the police.

23 March 2017

■ **There is no sign of the Hungarian Marosvásárhely name on the nameplate installed at in the railway station in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș), it only contains the name of the city in Romanian.**

■ A local resident, Richárd Rheinfelder has already started a petition in which he pointed out that local authorities should take into consideration the fact that Maros (Mureș) county had more than 228 thousand, while Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) had more than 57 thousand Hungarian residents and these people would rightly expect to have bilingual nameplates and to hear important information from the speakers in their mother tongue. In connection to this, spokesperson Roberta Cătărescu said that the name of the city has been displayed both in Romanian and Hungarian languages while for the rest of the inscriptions the legally regulated standard railroad inscriptions were used.

24 March 2017

■ **Unknown defacers painted all the Hungarian names on the nameplates at Maroshévíz (Toplița), in Harghita county.**

■ These nameplates have symbolic meaning because they indicate that all people are equal members of the community regardless of nationality. In Maroshévíz (Toplița) the display of Hungarian names was the result of several years' struggle, although here, a court decision was not even needed because according to the 2010 census, the proportion of Hungarian residents exceeded 20% of the population, just like in the case of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca). The locals of the town fear that impairment will not stop at the nameplates and other Hungarian symbols found in the town will also fall victim of the destructive activity.

30 March 2017

■ **The Sámuel Brassai Theoretical High School is now certain to have to cancel the theoretical profile grade 9 starting from the 2017/2018 school year because the School Inspectorate of Kolozs (Cluj) County did not modify its decision.**

■ The parents of schoolchildren attending Brassai High School had handed in petition to the ministry demanding the override of the decision of the school inspectorate according to which it only allowed one class of 9th grade with professional profile. The teachers and the parents agreed that if they had to forsake one of their classes it should definitely be the professional one and not the theoretical one. They fear that this way the school might lose its high school status and will be transformed into professional school. The school inspectorate consciously designed the schooling plan putting an emphasis on the professional training. This, according to their explanation, was the requirement of current situation of the economy and of the labour market.

4 April 2017

■ **Although the President of republic did not yet pronounce the law passed this week, granting the right to use the mother tongue in health care units and social institutions, Dan Tanasă, known for his law suits against the use of national symbols of the Hungarian community, has already started attacking it.**

■ Tanasă draws a parallel between this law and the administrative law voted in 2001. According to him, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) used the 2001 law for purposes of "ethnic cleansing" in the Szeklerland. He argues that this made it possible for Hargita (Harghita) and Kovászna (Covasna) counties to employ, as he says, only Hungarians to the mayor's offices and other institutions of the local administration. As he argues, RMDSZ (UDMR) has proceeded to the next level and is now preoccupied with the hospitals. He says that the law can be used for ethnic cleansing in the hospitals and that the directors of the hospitals are firing the Romanian employees on basis of the law mentioned, only to be able to employ professionals who speak Hungarian.

15 April 2017

■ **The prefecture of Kovászna (Covasna) county summoned the local government of Mikóújfalú (Micfalău) to remove the Szekler flag installed on the memorial in front of the parish hall. The flag has to be removed from the memorial by the end of April. The mayor plans to install two Szekler flags in the churchyard instead.**

■ According to the prefecture, the memorial is in public place so there a Szekler flag cannot be flown. The mayor of the commune was summoned to remove the flag until 30th April. The mayor of Mikóújfalú (Micfalău) declared that, although they were going to remove the flag from the public square, they will fly instead not one but two flags in the churchyard, that is, on the property of the church. The local government of Kovászna (Covasna) county made a summary according to which the prefectures of this county had initiated in the last 5 years 96 lawsuits in 104 cases because of the use of Hungarian language and symbols. Sándor Tamás head of the county council earlier said: during those five years, the four prefects on duty had initiated three different law suits. They compiled two reports of penal law, they had sent 44 summons to the local governments, some of which conformed to those summons but most of them rejected them, so the prefecture proceeded to the court.

24 April 2017

■ **Sebastian Cucu, prefect of Kovászna (Covasna) county was annoyed by the bilingual appendix of a project published for civil organizations. Although the official form has been published in Romanian and Hungarian languages for years, the prefect now decided to threaten the County Council of Kovászna that he would issue lawsuit unless the document is modified to Romanian language exclusively.**

■ The prefect argued that the official language is Romanian. He also said that the 20% right for using the mother tongue was not applicable because that was only valid for private individuals not for organizations and foundations, so it was unjustified, and even illegal to use Hungarian language on project forms. The County Council does not wish to neglect the attack so it authorized Róbert Grűman vice president of the county council and Irma Kerestély representative to the local government and retired chief school inspector, to compile a memorandum of the case and hand it in at the congress of local governments of the European Council. At the same time they were to make a report of the case for the 25th anniversary of the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML).

27 April 2017

■ **The Hungarian research group called Trianon 100, which, on the competition entitled Lendület organized for young researchers by the Hungarian Scientific Academy, won thirty million Forints as financial support for the five-years project aiming**

to complete, sum up and publish all the knowledge connected to the Treaty of Trianon, was labelled in the Bucharest media as the department of anti-Romanian propaganda of the Hungarian government.

■ The echo of the “discovery” made by historian Ioan Aurel Pop, the rector of the Babeş-Bolyai University of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) at an event last week, where the newly established branch of the Romanian Academy, named the Laboratory of Analysing Information Warfare and Communication Strategies – mainly dealing with Russia – was presented. In his lecture the rector of the University stated that Romania was also involved in information and communication war with another neighbouring country (although Russia is not a neighbouring country to Romania). He said that Budapest had established a separate department with its own budget called Trianon 100 while the department of Romanian Centenary established by the Romanian government had no separate budget. Both the left wing newspaper called *Evenimentul Zilei* and the liberal *Adevărul* had quoted the analysis of political analyst and media personality, Cozmin Guşă, according to which the Trianon 100 group is an “intelligent segregationist bomb aiming to destabilize the whole region”, and that it was created by the Hungarian government in an attempt to compensate for the upcoming anniversary of 100 years from the long desired union of Transylvania and the Kingdom of Romania in December 1918. According to the Hungarian professors of the University the Trianon 100 group is not a government institution but a work-group made up of scientific researchers.

2 May 2017

■ **The anti-corruption department of the National Office of Tax and Finance carried out controls of the financial management at the Siculitas Organization and its partner the Sepsireform Organization. The former is led by Balázs Izsák, head of the Szekler National Council (CNS), the former is lead by Zoltán Gazda, head of the Szekler Council of Seps (Sfântu Gheorghe) region.**

■ After illuminating the borders of the Szeklerland, a civil action organized by the two civil organizations in 2015, the same authority carried out financial control. Then, the Siculitas Organization was fined to 10 000 RON that was later repealed by the court. The first control of the organization took place on the day following 10th March 2013, the day of the Szekler freedom. Then the controlling authority was the customs police of Maros (Mureş) county. Neither then nor now did the controllers find any errors in the financial management of the two organizations, fact that is proved by the reports available. Siculitas Organization has two other ongoing cases connected to the demonstrations on 10th March. The lawsuit concerning the fine applied by the police on the occasion of the 2014 demonstration, was rejected and the sum of 12 000 RON fine was blocked from the

account of the Siculitas Organization. In this case the organization appealed to the European Court of Human Rights. The decision of the Romanian court is estimated to come in 2016 in the second instance of the court also connected to the Day of Szekler Freedom and to the fine mounting to four thousand RON for Balázs Izsák. At the same time reports were completed for eighty volunteers but all of those were later called off by the court. All this suggest that the democratic, open and public struggle for the Autonomy of the Szeklerland does not only have to face political obstacles but it also must be pointed out that the police itself tries to prevent these activities.

3 May 2017.

■ **Almost 150 Covasna County NGOs and representatives of historical Hungarian churches made a memorandum to the Council of Europe on bilingualism. The signatories expressed their dissatisfaction that the Covasna County Prefecture asked the County Council to print out the form used for tendering for NGOs in Romanian and not in two languages, as in previous years.**

■ Signatories express their deep indignation and protest at the prefect's position, preventing individuals belonging to a minority from using their mother tongue freely in communicating with the authorities. With this, the Prefect has breached the European Charter for Minority and Regional Languages, which Romania signed on 10 May, 10 years ago, and which became part of the internal legal order by Law 2007/282. Sebastian Cucu prefect stated that he had only asked the representatives of the Council of Kovászna (Covasna) County to comply with the law, which states that all official documents should be issued in the official language of the country, not bilingual, and then translated into the minority language.

9 May 2017

■ **In a letter issued by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the named body complains to the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, that Tibor Navracsics has accepted the invitation to the FUEN Congress in Kolozsvár (Cluj Napoca), but does not visit Bucharest.**

■ Since the launch of the civil initiative for minorities, the initiators have to face the attacks of Romanian diplomacy, and the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs misinforms EU decision makers of the intentions of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR) and FUEN. As it is well known, Romania was on the side of the European Commission rejecting the Minority SafePack. The foreign policy of Bucharest is annoyed by the fact that FUEN, together with the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) fought side by side in the lawsuit issued against the European Commission recently won by the plaintiffs at the Court of Justice of the European Union.

13 May 2017

■ **Following the submissions handed in by the Civil Commitment Movement of Marosvásárhely Târgu-Mureș (Cemo), the Romanian National Anti-Discrimination Council established the fact of language discrimination in 17 mixed language schools (Romanian and Hungarian) in Marosvásárhely.**

■ Unlike in other Transylvanian cities, the majority of Hungarian children in Marosvásárhely studies in Hungarian groups and classes of mixed-language kindergartens and schools. Cemo has launched 31 discrimination lawsuits against mixed schools, complaining that some of them partially or completely lack bilingual inscriptions and public information, websites and social networking sites do not meet the requirements of bilingualism. Between October 2016 and May 2017, the Anti-Discrimination Council identified language discrimination in 17 schools.

18 May 2017

■ **Dan Tanasă, an activist infamous for his hatred for the Hungarians, considered finding signs of Hungarian revisionism at a playground in Nagyszalonta (Salonta).**

■ The Hungarian Csepel, the sister town of Nagyszalonta donated a unique “fairytale park” to the Romanian town. The transportation and assembly of creative, spectacular and imaginative playground facilities, as well as the improvement of the environment of the surroundings are also financed by the local government of Sector 21 of the Hungarian capital. Some Romanian “patriots” in Nagyszalonta complain that beside the white-barked birch trees on the playground, red and green painted pillars were placed, thus displaying the colors of the Hungarian national flag.

18 May 2017

■ **Since no appeal was made, the first-instance judgment delivered last year by the Court of Harghita (Harghita) County on fines for the former Mayor of Madéfalva (Siculeni) was closed. At the same time, the Court asked for evidence of the removal of the Hungarian inscription of Parish Hall.**

■ The former Mayor Csaba Szentes was sued by the Romanian Civil Organization for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) because they did not execute the definite court order of February 2016 and did not remove the inscription naming the institution from the facade of the parish hall. Although the former leader of the commune proved with documentation during the legal proceedings that the inscription was removed, in November last year the Court of Harghita (Harghita) County gave way to the claim of the association and decided that Csaba Szentes should pay the fine of 57 thousand RON.

19 May 2017

■ **One of the Popular Movement Party (PMP) representatives of Szilágy (Sălaj) county would declare May 15 the Day of Transylvania commemorating that**

the first national assembly of the Romanians in Transylvania demanding rights took place on this day in 1848 Transylvanian.

■ According to the petitioners, the meetings at Balázsfalva (Blaj) in 1848 in addition to the demand for recognition of the Romanian nation and its equal representation in the legislation, were the first steps on the way to the radicalization of the Romanian national movement. The petition that was accepted in the town on the banks of Küküllő river only demanded to rediscuss the union of Transylvania with Hungarian in the presence of Romanian representatives, but later the Romanians demanded the separation of Transylvania from the monarchy. The Balázsfalva meetings triggered national-based hostility in Transylvania and led to a reversal of the Hungarian War of Independence and an armed uprising of the Romanians. The famous speech of Simion Bărnuțiu, the ideologist of the Romanian emancipation efforts, was pronounced at this time, saying: “the bite taken from the table of Hungarian freedom is poisoned.” In his speech against the Hungarians, he stated that without Transylvania, the Hungarians of the Pannonian fields would be “field rabbits” in the eyes of the enemies, and without Hungarians, the Transylvanian Hungarians would slowly dive into oblivion.

28 May 2017

■ **The National Anti-Discrimination Council (CNCD) did not amerce Mircea Diacon, the consumer protection commissioner of Kovászna (Covasna) county known for his anti-Hungarian actions, for imposing a fine for the product designation “Szekler flavors” two years ago.**

■ According to the CNCD, it is not a discriminatory measure that Mircea Diacon, the head of the Covasna County Consumer Protection Office, fined the “Szekler flavors” product designation two years ago for. The council lead by Csaba Asztalos decided that negative discrimination could not be proved. Conversely, Zoltán Bedő journalist was amerced for his criticism of the Romanian people in his opinion on Diacon’s affairs. Diacon had previously fined a number of student camps for the lack of Romanian inscriptions, and later considered the display of SIC – Terra Siculorum – stickers on the taxis as illegal advertising, so he passed orders for those stickers popularizing the Szeklerland to be removed from the taxis at Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe).

30 May 2017

■ **The local administration of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) started to dismantle the bilingual street signs in Dózsa György Street and replaced them with Romanian nameplates. At some places only the Gheorghe Doja name remained.**

■ The bilingual nameplates of Dózsa György Street were displayed in 2014, and according to the promises

of that time, their placement should have been only the first first step. In this first round, those streets were labeled with “bilingual” signs, which were named after Hungarian historical personalities, which would be a sign of respect for the Hungarian community that founded the city.

31 May 2017

■ **A notice was issued by the local police to the Reformed parish of Oradea, on the placement of a banner on the wall of the Reformed Church of Újváros (biserica reformată Orașul Nou) celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.**

■ On May 31, a request from the local police arrived at the Reformed Parish of the Újváros (Orașul Nou), stating that the parish should “take the necessary steps” within ten days in the case of a banner placed on the wall of the church, which was classified as an advertising device. The ministers of the parish, Lajos Sándor and Gyöngyi Herdean consider it as an offense that this act of gratitude in front of the remarkable anniversary of the Reformation was classified as a commercial advertisement. They said they would not take it off and turn to the Reformed Church District of Királyhágómellék (Episcopia Reformată de pe lângă Piatra Craiului) for legal protection.

6 June 2017

■ **Zoltán Bedő, a journalist from Kovászna (Covasna) county considers his amerce by the National Anti-Discrimination Council (CNCD) for his material in which he demanded the elimination of the head of the Consumer Office of Covasna County.**

■ Bedő has announced that he will submit a translation of his article and the decision of CNCD to various embassies and press organizations, because, as he considers, the decision of the council violates freedom of the press and the right to free expression of opinion. He pointed out that the reasoning of the council is that he discriminates against the Romanians, instigates against, even though in his writings not the slightest reference to the Romanians can be traced.

8 June 2017

■ **An incident overshadowed the Hungarian Day of the Transylvania International Film Festival (TIFF). Ildikó Enyedi's Golden Bear Prize winner *Body and Soul* filled the hall with over seven hundred seats of Florin Piersic Cinema.**

■ The Hungarian-language film, like all foreign languages, was screened with Romanian and English subtitles. During the discussions following the movie, an elderly man in the middle of the room shouted at Alexandra Borbély and the translator standing on the stage to speak in Romanian, after all we are in Romania. Some of the audience applauded the man's comment, others expressed their annoyance in a barely audible manner.

The insulting man defended himself by stating that he understood the conversation and had no problem with Hungarians, otherwise he would not have sat on a Hungarian film. As he said, he wished to speak up for those who did not understand Hungarian or English.

8 June 2017

■ **On 10th of March 2016, at the deployment organized on the occasion of the memorial day of Szekler Freedom in Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureș), Balázs Izsák, head of the Szekler National Council, was fined to 10 thousand RO Nby the county police.**

■ Being fined, Izsák turned to the court, but it gave way to the point of view of the police. The head of the Szekler National Council brought about an appeal against the basic decision and presented in court evidence supporting cooperation between the organizers and the police. The court of second instance disregarded this evidence, including the fact that personally the Colonel of the Police, Colonel Iulius Cenan, received the documents related to the event, including a copy of the preliminary announcement. Since the judgment violates the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, on receiving the statement for the decision, the Szekler National Council, turns to the Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg.

9 June 2017

■ **In its final judgement the Court of Harghita (Harghita) County declared legal the fining record compiled on the occasion of fining by the police of Gyergyószentmiklós (Gheorgheni) of a person who was transporting firewood for the beacons for the illumination of the Szeklerland in October 2015.**

■ In 2015 the Harghita (Harghita) County Police Headquarters imposed 2000 RON fine because, as they say, the organizers of the event have transported timber legally purchased by Zsolt Árus, stored in his own courtyard to the sites of the beacons, without a bill of freight. The Anti-Fraud Department of the Romanian Tax Office (ANAF) carried out inspection at the Siculitas and Sepsireform Associations, both operating as backup organizations of the Szekler National Council.

9 June 2017

■ **In an anti-Hungarian resolution echoing Gheorghe Funar and C. V. Tudor's extremist nationalism, the Romanian Academy protests against the proposal that March 15 should be declared an official holiday in Romania.**

■ The academy published a statement on its website according to which the Administrative Commission of the Romanian Senate adopted on Monday the draft law elaborated by Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR), which would proclaim 15 March as an official celebration of the Hungarians in Romania. The draft would allow the settlements and

institutions of the counties where there is a significant Hungarian population to organize ceremonies on this day and cover their costs from the budget they manage. The academics recall that on March 15, 1848, the 12 points of the Pest Revolution, adopted by the Hungarian youth led by Sándor Petőfi, initiated also the union of Hungary and Transylvania. This is not the first time in the recent months that the Bucharest scientific community is engaging in anti-minority action. In February, more than 80 academics published a call fight back the attacks against Romania's national unity and territorial integrity, calling on the competent institutions of the state to prevent 'sabotage and aggression against national unity, identity and sovereignty', while politicians were called to "work together with responsibility and patriotism for the prosperity of Romania". In May historian Ioan Aurel Pop, rector of the Babeş-Bolyai University of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), labelled the workgroup called "Lendület" Trianon 100 Research Group as the department of anti-Romanian propaganda of the Hungarian government. However, the named group is made up mostly historians, who, based on the project of the Hungarian Scientific Academy, are working on the completion and summary of the knowledge connected to the Peace Treaty of Trianon.

21 June 2017

■ **With reference to the discussions between the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR) and the Romanian liberal left wing coalition, Head of State Klaus Iohannis stated that it is not possible to negotiate an ethnic-based autonomy, because according to him, that is an "undesirable thing" in Romania.**

■ The Head of State has called on the ruling Social Democratic Party (PSD) not to include in the negotiating package things that cannot be the subject of negotiation. He also explained that it would not be possible to negotiate an ethnic-based autonomy. In his opinion, this is an undesirable thing in Romania, and it cannot be negotiated under special circumstances.

21 June 2017

■ **Romania in danger, the Romanian national interests and the constitutional order have been betrayed, Transylvania is sold – all of Romania, the parliament, the TV channels and newspapers are loud of such cries of desperation.**

■ The slogans have gone so far that the Hungarian threat is overexaggerated to an extent that the government crisis is hardly an issue after the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR) has proposed the adoption of some of the laws that were included in its own program and election promises. Following the disclosure of the proposals, anti-Hungarian hatred occurred in such an extremely varied form and elemental anger in Romania, that even the national communist

Ceauşescu in his death would be proud of it. Romanian national-colored ribbons appeared in the parliament, patriotic songs fluttered in the assembly hall, and the patriot community sites displayed their enormous sense of patriotism to demonstrate to the world that they do not belong to the traitors. The number of shameless lies has increased to an extent that they started mourning the hundreds of thousands of Romanians killed during the 1848 revolution.

21 June 2017

■ **The prefect of Maros (Mureş) county summoned several of the leaders of local administration to remove the Szekler and Hungarian flags, as well as the banner propagating the unity of the Szeklerland.**

■ Lucian Goga called for the urgent removal of the Hungarian-language banner, which stretched along the road between Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureş) and Szováta (Sovata) promoting the unity of Szeklerland. Goga's call was preceded by a thorough field survey: the prefecture's employees toured the countryside for days hunting with a camera for community symbols.

22 June 2017

■ **According to the final judgment of the court of Târgu Mureş, not only the Szekler flag but also the city's own emblem must be removed from the façade of the town's hall of Gyergyószentmiklós.**

■ In February, the Court of Harghita (Harghita) County issued a basic judgment only for taking off the Szekler flag while the city flag could still fly on the balcony. According to Zoltán Nagy, mayor of Gyergyószentmiklós (Gheorgheni), there is a real hunt for the Szekler symbols. "However, with the removal of Szekler flag from the facade of the town's hall nothing really changes. Szeklerland will continue to exist and Gyergyószentmiklós will continue to be 85% inhabited by Szekler and Hungarian population" the mayor said. The mayor believed that the only consequence of the removal of the flag could be the tension between members of the Hungarian and Romanian communities, which, in his opinion, had not been typical in this town of Harghita county, and people lived together peacefully. The local government did not initiate legal appeal, but Zsolt Árus, the chairman of the Szekler Council of Gyergyószék entered the lawsuit as individual person, so he had the opportunity to have the European Court of Human Right in Strasbourg, which he benefited from.

June 23, 2017

■ **According to the report of legal aid service Imre Mikó anti-Hungarian atmosphere and hate speech has taken on frightening proportions in Romania in recent days, so the named service initiated legal action against several politicians and one journalist for accusations for instigation against the Hungarian community.**

■ According to the legal aid service, social media and news feeds are loud from the nationalist messages of Romanian politicians, journalists and opinion leaders. In the midst of a nationwide political crisis, the Romanian political elite, with the massive contribution of the media, retracts the “Hungarian card” and converts public opinion against the Hungarian community in Romania. Former president Traian Băsescu joined among the first the chorus of chauvinistic incitement.

23 June 2017

■ **Romanian extremist Cosmin Bîrsan posted a video of the burning of the Szekler flag on his Facebook page.**

■ In the video it is said that Romania has only one flag and that it is red, yellow, blue. The Romanian nationalist is ill-informed, he does not know his own flag, because the colors of the Romanian flag are: blue, yellow, red. There are a lot of discriminative comments, including the prospect of execution of the Hungarians by another profoundly Romanian thinker.

28 June 2017

■ **The Siculitas Association, announcing the Day of Szekler Freedom on the 10th of March, was informed by the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office that the authority had begun the investigation into a complaint handed in by the association.**

■ In March this year, the association brought two complaints to the authority: against Dorin Florea mayor of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) and Valentin-Constantin Bretfelean Director of Local Police, for abuse of power. Prior to the 10th of March, this year, the Mayor's Office issued a statement that attempted to prevent the lawfully declared deployment in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș), ignoring the provisions of the Law on the Right to Assembly, disregarding the decision of the Court of Maros (Mureș) county of 8 January 2016. On the other hand, the association also complained about the illegal banning of the protest announced for 2018. On March 16 2017, Bretfelean, as the mayor's representative, tried to prevent the march announced for 2018 at the licencing meeting, saying that the route of the tour passes in front of the hospital in Szentgyörgy (Revoluției) Street and the law prohibits the organization of public events in front of hospitals.

3 July 2017

■ **A Romanian politician would limit the rights of the Hungarian minority. He asks the Ministry of Education to issue recognition certificates only in Romanian in the future.**

■ Koronka (Corunca) lies a few kilometers from Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș). The 2700 inhabitants of the commune have a Hungarian majority, and even the children of the Romanian minority attend the local primary school, where education takes place in Hungarian and Romanian. Some Romanian parents do not like the

fact that the diplomas with which the school recognizes the performance of the students can be printed in Hungarian. These diplomas do not qualify as official records, contrary to this, if they were official documents they could only be printed in Romanian language. On hearing the parental complaints the MP of a Romanian party made a sharp anti-Hungarian rush against the diplomas, despite the fact that the Romanian students of the Koronka school were awarded a Romanian language diplomas.

10 July 2017

■ **Marius Pașcan, the Representative of the People's Movement Party in Maros (Mureș) county, who is notorious for his anti-Hungarian outbursts, responded to a letter written by Zsolt Szilágyi Head of the Hungarian People's Party in Transylvania and addressed to President Klaus Iohannis, calling for a dialogue on autonomy.**

■ According to the Romanian compatriot, the Hungarian People's Party in Transylvania, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR) and the Szekler National Council raise the issue of autonomy from time to time, because as he believes, they have one common goal: to break Romania into “ethnic enclaves”.

17 July 2017

■ **Kelemen Hunor, the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) should be punished with the withdrawal of his Romanian citizenship by the Romanian Coalition for Modernization (CNMR) after stating that Hungarians in Romania cannot and do not wish to celebrate the centenary of the Romanian assembly of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) in 1918.**

■ In its announcement the coalition made up of trade unions and civil society organizations is stunned by Kelemen's statement and declared that “While we fully understand and unconditionally support the European values of tolerance and inter-ethnic coexistence within a state, we consider it outrageous and against the law, and we condemn the statements of the President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR).” The association also initiated the withdrawal of the Star of Romanian awarded to Hunor Kelemen in 2000.

7 August 2017

■ **The CNMR condemns the leaders of the Hungarian community for receiving the head of state in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc) with a constitutionally non-existent Szekler anthem and attempting to convey symbols that violate the Romanian community of the town.**

■ Head of State Klaus Iohannis made an official visit to the counties of Harghita (Harghita) and Kovászna (Covasna) where he was welcomed by a group of about 30

protesters holding in their hands Hungarian, Romanian and German inscriptions, demanding ethnic autonomy after the model of the South-Tyrolean autonomy. At the beginning of the deliberation immediately after the Romanian hymn, the attendees sang the Szekler anthem as well, and later the president received a Szekler flag as a gift.

18 August 2017

■ **Ioan Aurel Pop, rector of Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB) says that if the President of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) does not recognize and does not consider the centenary important, then there is no reason to live in this country.**

■ The historian professor reacted to the statement made by Hunor Kelemen a few days ago according to which the Hungarians in Romania have nothing to celebrate in 2018. He also added that belonging to a nation and the respect for the symbols of that state cannot be separated. "The Hungarians in Transylvania may not feel the same as in Hungary, but for example the French in Germany are in the same position" the rector said.

21 August 2017

■ **The legal aid service Imre Mikó complains about the behavior of supporters of the Dinamo football club of Bucharest, as during the Seps OSK–Dinamo football match, the supporters from the capital were chanting the well-known anti-Hungarian slogan: "Out from the country with the Hungarians!"**

■ The legal aid service Imre Mikó initiates a lawsuit at the National Anti-Discrimination Council in connection with the anti-Hungarian manifestations during the match and transmits a written request to the Romanian Football Association to investigate what happened during the match and to take the necessary steps to prevent a similar case from happening in the future.

23 August 2017

■ **The National Liberal Party is ready to launch demonstrations if the parliament adopts the proposal of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ-UDMR), and reduces the current threshold of 20% to 10% for using the native language in local administration, said deputy Florin Roman on Thursday.**

■ The Liberal politician accuses the Social Democratic Party (PSD) of selling Romania "piece by piece" to the Hungarians in return for supportive votes. According to his information, the PSD has already agreed with RMDSZ (UDMR) that the Parliament will amend the administrative law by the end of September. According to the representative, if the amended legislation comes into force, the use of the Hungarian language in public administration will become mandatory in more than 400 settlements in Romania. The draft law amending

the administrative law was submitted by the RMDSZ (UDMR) to the House of Representatives in June. Legislation has already been positively commented on by the Employment Committee and will soon be discussed by the Administrative Committee.

7 September 2017

■ **Eugen Tomac deputy asked the drivers to boycott the MOL fuelling-stations in Romania. The Peoples' Movement Party (PMP) politician would thus take revenge on the Hungarian oil company, which, according to him, supports the efforts of Budapest to break Romania into pieces. The president of PMP, Traian Băsescu stood at the top of the MOL boycotting action on Saturday.**

■ Eugen Tomac, in his appeal expresses disagreement with Budapest's "aggressive anti-Romanian behavior". According to him, this hostile behavior also manifests itself in certain Romanian actions of the Hungarian state oil company. "If I buy fuel in good faith from MOL in Bucharest or anywhere in the country, I will indirectly support a campaign to fragment Romania. Apart from the use of Hungarian national colors, posters at MOL stations promote the autonomy of the region in the area densely populated by Hungarians. It is up to you to decide whether to refuel at MOL or not." By the way, the Romanian politician complains about posters that were already posted in 2011 at the MOL stations in the Szeklerland. With these, the Hungarian oil company obviously does not promote the splitting of Romania but popularizes the Map of Values elaborated by the Legendry of the Szeklerland. Băsescu immediately struck the topic. The former head of state said: "The Hungarian oil company promotes the autonomous Szeklerland with posters placed at its filling stations."

9 September 2017

■ **The National Liberal Party (PNL) continued its anti-Hungarian attacks on the fact that the RMDSZ (UDMR) extended the agreement on parliamentary cooperation with the left wing liberal government.**

■ Florin Roman, vice president of the PNL, said on Friday that the party was preparing a "serious action plan" to prevent the adoption of a draft law amending the administrative law, and that it would not be fooled by the organization of deeply unconstitutional street demonstrations."

11 September 2017

■ **The anniversary of the death of Avram Iancu was celebrated with anti-Hungarian incitement. "Maybe they will be called to battle," said president of PNL Ludovic Orban in front of the celebrating crowd, at the tomb of Avram Iancu, suggesting that he should take action against the demands of Hungarian rights.**

■ About five thousand people gathered in Cebe (Țebea) of Hunedoara County around the tomb of the chief

conductor, died of stroke 145 years ago, after the fall of the 1848-49 revolution. Following the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence and after attacking it from the back, Avram Iancu, one of the idols of the Romanian nationalists sank to the level of an alcoholic vagabond. The festive mood was accompanied by populist, expressly harsh anti-Hungarian voices, primarily coming from the National Liberal Party (PNL).

11 September 2017

■ **The Ultras of the Universitatea Cluj-Napoca football team equipped with sticks, chains, boxers, attacked the Hungarian supporters Kolozsvári CFR 1907 at a sports event. The bloody scenes took place in front of the eyes of about twenty children. The “KVSC 1907” support group is reporting to the police.**

■ The hosts took their families to the event according to tradition. “This soccer tournament is a relaxed event, we play, drink beer, make barbeque, the women are chatting and supporting us, the kids play. It’s more like a weekend family picnic” said a Hungarian supporter. However, this peaceful picnic was almost turned into tragedy.

13 September 2017

■ **The civil forum of Romanians of Kovászna (Covasna), Hargita (Harghita) and Maros (Mureş) counties together with several other Romanian non-governmental organizations turned to the parliament in an open letter and expressed disapproval against the proposal of the the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR) amending the administrative law, which would reduce from 20% to 10% the native language threshold.**

■ According to the letter sent to the State Presidency, and in addition to the Government and the Constitutional Court, the amendment of the RMDSZ (UDMR) was “an unprecedented assassination attempt against the single and sovereign Romanian nation state”. The signatories of the open letter believe that the draft law “virtually eliminates the official state of the Romanian language” and “replaces the Romanian administration (...) with the Hungarian state administration”.

15 September 2017

■ **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania declared that Romania has challenged the registration of the Minority SafePack to European Citizens’ Initiative at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, for strictly procedural reasons.**

■ According to the ministry, Romania is merely trying to prevent the Court of Justice from extending its legislative powers to areas such as the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The latter is part of the sovereignty of the Member States. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Romania has formulated the principle of good division of powers between the EU and the Member States under the Treaties. At the same time,

the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated its earlier position that Romania defends the rights of all citizens who freely decide to belong to a minority. Such persons “have the right to use their mother tongue in their relations with the administrative authorities and in the judiciary, have the right to learn their mother tongue, receive native language education at all levels, have the right to the mother-tongue church service, to the mother tongue press and to participate in public life decisions about society”. He added that Romania, through its representative minority organizations, provides significant financial support for cultural activities that embody the identity of national minorities.

27 September 2017

■ **The anti-Hungarian organization called Noua Dreaptă (New Right Wing) recruits sympathizers for the disturbance of the memorial event of October 6 at Arad (Arad) on the Internet and on Facebook’s social network.**

■ The local organization of the Romanian extremist nationalist party, lead by Angel Popescu head of organization, has also created an event entitled “Don’t remember war criminals here!” The call encourages the Romanians to be patriots and nationalists, and to gather on October 6 at the Orthodox Cathedral of Hegyalja Square, where they are to “commemorate the 40,000 Romanians killed by Hungarian soldiers in 1848-49”. The initiators also bring along a 20-meter Romanian flag. This is not the first manifestation of this kind of the organization, the national holiday of the Hungarians (March 15th) has also been draped – once by giving fire to the Szekler flag in the Reconciliation Park – and it has repeatedly protested against the Statue of Liberty, while perpetually emphasising that they condemned violent manifestations.

4 October 2017

■ **The House of Representatives in Bucharest dismissed on Wednesday the draft of the Hungarian Democratic Alliance in Romania (UDMR) which would extend the rights to use minority languages in the Romanian administration. The draft had already received a negative opinion at the morning commission meeting. The final decision will be taken by the Senate of the two-chamber Romanian Parliament.**

■ At the plenary session of the House of Representatives, only 21 representatives of the UDMR supported the draft, 256 members voted against and 4 abstained. The Legal, Administrative and Human Rights Committees had previously rejected the draft of the UDMR without substantive discussion, only the Hungarian representatives supported it. The initiative of the UDMR was not even supported by the representative of the non-Hungarian minorities, because he believed that the Romanian state gave sufficient rights to the minorities. With the exception of the UDMR the speak-

er of all fractions pointed out that Romania is a model country for patience in connection to minorities. In May, the Hungarian Parliamentary Group initiated an amendment to the administrative law in the Bucharest Parliament, which would reduce the current proportion of twenty to ten percent above which a minority would have the right to use their mother tongue in local administration.

4 October 2017

■ **Mircea Diacon head of the consumer protection authority of Háromszék (Trei Scaune) has once again acted for the priority of Romanian inscriptions: in September his authority imposed thousands of RON worth of fines.**

■ The Consumer Protection Authority of Kovászna (Covasna) county carried out inspections to its own initiative at various commercial units last month. The objective was once again to control whether the products are labelled in Romanian as well, as it is supposed to be according to the law. The action resulted in eight fines adding up to a total of 16,000 Ron. This time, the supervisors were particularly rigorous, as the sums that they applied to the individual units was twice the sum they usually impose. The commercial units were fined to 2000 RON. In September consumer protection controls were also conducted throughout the country, but the action was not aimed at checking the Romanian labels, but to control the lawfulness of distributing educational tools, such as uniforms and school equipment, as well as to inspect daycare units like kindergartens and schools. However, Diacon proved himself to be overzealous again.

18 October 2017

■ **The management of the Consumer Protection Authority of Kovászna (Covasna) county handed in a complaint against Sándor Tamás both at the National Anti-Discrimination Council (CNCD) and at the Prosecutor's Office at the Court of Appeal of Braşov (Braşov). It is believed that the president of the county council has made statements that could damage the good public reputation of the institution.**

■ Mircea Diacon, vice president of the named authority said on Wednesday that Sándor Tamás had repeatedly made negative comments on the work of Consumer Protection Authority of Kovászna (Covasna) county. For example, in September, he compared the institution to the Ku Klux Klan: "Sándor Tamás, President of the County Council of Kovászna (Covasna) attacked a Romanian public institution, defaming its work, its employees and leaders in a completely unjust way, just because we are trying to do our job. In September, Tamás told at a press conference that Romanian state institutions are using double standards. The head of the general county assembly then claimed that consumer protection works like Ku Klux Klan a hundred years ago

in the United States, using state aid for applying double standards and wanting to condemn a group of people."

18 October 2017

■ **A woman of Romanian nationality ripped off the red-white-green ribbons from two wreaths placed two days ago on the event of the Hungarian National Day at the foot of the 1956 memorial in Erzsébet park in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) and dropped it into an adjacent trash can.**

■ The 63-year-old woman reiterated that she didn't like the red-white-green ribbons, she admitted to her deed and assumes responsibility for it. She made a confession at the local police and gave a written statement. The police drew up a record and fined the woman to 500 RON for offense. The record was compiled on the basis of the law on public order so the full amount of the fine must be paid by the culprit, she cannot get away with half of the sum.

26 October 2017

■ **The Romanian Association of Professional Journalists (UZPR) launched a strongly nationalist weekly magazine entitled Certitudinea (Certainty) on the threshold of the 2018 centenary. One of the contributors is Attila Nagy nicknamed Puli, from the Szeklerland.**

■ According to the headline, the "spiritual and moral leader of the paper" is Mihai Eminescu, and its spirituality is inspired by the Romanian poet's national-chauvinistic publicism. This can be understood both literally and metaphorically because number zero and one of Certitudinea both start with "editorials" consisting of two of Eminescu's writings from 1882 and 1870 respectively. In the latter, for example, the poet explains that the Hungarians have added nothing to the development of humanity. Among the contributors of Certitudinea we can find Andrei Păunescu, son of the national communist poet and politician Adrian Păunescu, actor Dorel Vişan of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) and actor-director Dan Puric, known for his deep-seated Romanian thoughts. But a Hungarian author named Attila Nagy also appears among the contributors, who earlier became known handing in complaints to the Prefecture of Kovászna (Covasna) county against all the self-governments that flew the Szekler flag.

30 October 2017

■ **Gábor Kereskényi, mayor of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Transylvania in Szatmárnémeti (Satu Mare) won a lawsuit against the Civil Commitment Movement (Cemo), which would have tried to oblige the mayor and the city management to place bilingual street signs in court.**

■ According to Enikő Szigeti, managing director of Cemo, the case is so displeasing that she is ashamed instead of the Hungarian mayor. As she said, only the

motivation for a first-instance judgment is available so far, pronounced at the Court of Szatmárnémeti (Satu Mare) county but it can be concluded that the court has ignored the reference to international conventions ratified by Romania. In 2008, Romania ratified the European Charter for Minority and Regional Languages in which it undertook to use traditional minority place names. Specialists of the Charter expressly noted in the Romania report compiled in 2012, that the names of the streets should also be written in the language of minorities.

3 November 2017

■ **Răzvan Rotaru, representative from Botoșani of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) that is the leading force of the government in Bucharest, declared in his statement that Szeklers did not exist and Szeklerland did not exist either.**

■ There is only Romania for this party, and PSD would never support the autonomy of a region. Răzvan Rotaru recalled in his resolution published by the PSD: Romania is not a federal state, it is not made up of regions like other European states.

6 November 2017

■ **The Public Administration Committee of the Senate rejected the draft law of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Transylvania (RMDSZ/UDMR), according to which March 15 would become the official celebration of the Hungarian community in Romania.**

■ In mid-October, the Senate once put the draft on the agenda, but then, due to intense opposition, the RMDSZ (UDMR) suggested sending it back to the specialized committees for further consultation. According to the draft submitted by the 9 Senators and 21 representatives of the RMDSZ, March 15 would be declared a celebration of the Hungarian community in Romania, and in settlements where members of the Hungarian community live, the local governments and the public institutions could organize cultural and artistic events to celebrate the memorial day. To the request of the members of the Hungarian community, employers could give them a day off.

8 November 2017

■ **The National Anti-Discrimination Council (CNCD) imposed a fine of two thousand RON on the Maros (Mureș) County School Inspectorate for discriminating Hungarian children.**

■ Zsolt Biró, president of the Hungarian Civil Party (MPP), complained about the fact that the school inspectorate allowed Hungarian classes in the ninth grade in the 2017–2018 school year for a number of pupils that is with 169 less places than in the previous years. This number is less than the number of eighth grade Hungarian students accounted for in the previous years. At the same time, in the Romanian language ninth grade classes, he provided 139 extra places, while

in the German class 18 extra places were available, all of these in comparison to the previous year.

11 November 2017

■ **On Wednesday afternoon the prefecture and the police of Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) prevented the flying of the of the Hungarian national flag with hte emblem and called on the mayor and the local leader of the MPP to put off the event, otherwise they are to be accused of terrorism.**

■ The Hungarian Civil Party organized an outdoor historical exhibition in the park of the county seat commemorating the flying at Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) of the national flag 75 years ago. Hundreds of participants attended the event. The national flag would have been raised at the former site, but this could not be done, as the police, quite unusually, did not withdraw to the background, but marched to the site rather spectacularly with demosntrative attempt. József Kulcsár-Terza told us that Árpád Antal, together with the mayor, received a transcript from the prefecture and the police, calling on them to put off the event, otherwise they were to be accused of irredentism and terrorism.

15 November 2017

■ **The Supreme Court has dismissed the decision of the National Anti-Discrimination Council in a final judgment in which it declared the lack of bilingual street signs in Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureș) an act of discrimination.**

■ The Civil Commitment Movement (Cemo) brought complaint against the mayor's office to the Anti-Discrimination Council for the linguistic rights of the Hungarian community. Both the Cemo and the CNCD were summoned by the Office, seeking the dismissal of the decision. The first instance of the appeal court of Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureș), in February 2015 pronounced a decision in favour of the mayor's office, and the supreme court of second instance confirmed the decision made at the basic level. In the course of the anti-discrimination procedure and during the trial, Cemo and CNCD referred to international conventions ratified by Romania, including the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities, the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, and the Romanian-Hungarian Treaties, but the Mayor's Office of Marosvásárhely and the courts are Romanian authorities and operate based on Romanian law. In Romania, the Local Government Act has constituted the basis for multilingual inscriptions in municipalities where the proportion of a minority exceeds 20 percent, since 2001. However, the law refers only to the names of the settlements and does not contain regulations for street names. In 2008, Romania ratified the European Charter for Minority and Regional Languages in which it undertook to use traditional minority place names, including, where appropriate, official names. Specialists of the Charter expressly noted in the Romania report compiled in

2012, that the placenames do not include only the names of the settlements.

23 November 2017

■ **The Romanian nationalists demand the removal of the Hungarian Holy Crown along with the entire material of the exhibition entitled *Coronatus in Regem Hungariae* at the Transylvanian History Museum.**

■ The antecedent of this case is that an unusual exhibition was opened in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), with the help of the Transylvanian History Museum and the Hungarian National Museum, which presents the gold, silver and bronze coins issued at the time of the Hungarian coronations, as well as a copy of the Hungarian Holy Crown made with the original technique. Recently, six Romanian nationalist groups have published protest materials.

28 November 2017

■ **Lucian Goga prefect awarded Ioan Sabău-Pop former judge currently a lawyer living in Maarosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş), founder of the Vatra Românească extremist nationalist organization, the president of the Forum of Romanians of Kovászna (Covasna), Hargita (Harghita) and Marosvásárhely (Mureş) counties, one of the flagman of the anti-Hungarianism, who, in addition to its controversial statements, has provided legal support to organizations or individuals acting against minorities.**

■ This Sabău-Pop is one of the most active players against lawful real estate returns, the Hungarian nobles reclaiming their fair share, the operation of the Roman Catholic school in Târgu Mureş, the street name Kossuth Lajos or the use of the mother tongue. Recently, he attracted the attention of the public by calling on the municipality of Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureş) to immediately withdraw its decisions on bilingual street signs.

2 December 2017

2018

■ **The prefecture attacked the decision of the municipality of Szatmárnémeti (Satu Mare) to adopt bilingual street names for the so-called anonymous streets in the quarter of Pirosberek (Bercu Roşu).**

■ The government office urged the local council to revoke the decision and adopt one that only includes street names in Romanian. Meanwhile, Mayor Gábor Kereskényi won a lawsuit against the Civil Commitment Movement (Cemo), which would have tried to oblige the local government of the town in the Partium region to install bilingual street signs. The mayor of Szatmárnémeti said: although it is not true that the decision was not published in the press, but it is still not possible to withdraw it.

5 January 2018

■ **The President of the National Liberal Party (PNL), the most powerful party of the Romanian right-wing opposition, firmly rejected the common autonomy claim formulated by the leaders of the Transylvanian Hungarian parties.**

■ According to Ludovic Orban, putting the initiative into practice is completely in vain. The party leader recalled, referring to Romania as a basic and indivisible nation state, that some constitutional requirements could not be amended. The principle of local autonomy is enshrined in the constitution, but it cannot be linked to ethnic conditions, which, as far as territorial autonomy is concerned, "this concept does not exist in democracies". On Monday, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Transylvania (RMDSZ/UDMR), the Hungarian Civil Party (MPP/PCM) and the President of the Hungarian People's Party in Transylvania (EMNP/PPMT) confirmed in a joint resolution the need for autonomy of the Transylvanian Hungarians, an aim that has been around for a quarter of a century. In order to create community autonomy, the leaders of the Hungarian political units in Transylvania requested support from the Romanian majority. "One hundred years after the declaration in Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), we are ready for a new beginning: for the development of the country, for our common future, to find solutions to the issues that divide our communities. Our goals do not violate the rights of the Romanians, but we also know that we can only achieve our aspirations with the support of the majority - we recommend partnership and respect," wrote Hunor Kelemen (RMDSZ), Zsolt Biró, (MPP) and Zsolt Szilágyi (EMNP).

9 January 2018

■ **The National Coalition for the Modernization of Romania (CNMR) calls on the central authorities of Romania (state government, government, parliament) to provide incentives and support for Romanian capital investments in Hargita (Harghita), Kovászna (Covasna) and Maros (Mureş) counties, which create jobs and re-establish the affected counties with Romanians and Hungarians.**

■ According to President Alexandru Cumpănaşu: "The study conducted by CNMR shows massive depopulation in Hargita (Harghita) and Kovászna (Covasna) counties, which is a national security problem. Consequently, the CNMR begins to provide the widest possible public interest representation in all institutions of the Romanian state in order to protect its investments in Romanian capital and to declare the counties concerned a National Security Zone."

26 January 2018

■ **An injured young sportswoman was humiliated in Timişoara at a shopping mall in Temesvár (Timişoara) for not speaking the Romanian language well. The child's parents were contacted by the Imre Mikó Legal Aid Service which is going to report to the National**

Anti-Discrimination Council and bring the case to international level.

■ According to coach Alpár Farkas, the humiliation continued after the hospital in the hotel where the girl was also asked to speak fluently Romanian. Farkas finds it shocking that the incident happened in the vicinity of the Hungarian border in a city famous for being home for more nationalities. In February 2016, a doctor in the Pediatric Hospital of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) humiliated another Szekler girl because she did not speak well Romanian. The 17-year-old girl from Covasna county participated in a poetry and folk song contest in Kolozsvár, where a bus passed across one of her feet. She could not speak to the hospital staff in her mother-tongue, and the on-call doctor was hurting her and her companion because of her poor Romanian language skills.

16 February 2018

■ The Covasna County Police warned the Hungarians of Kovászna (Covasna) county that the celebration of the Wass Albert commemoration in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) could be considered a criminal offense because the writer was sentenced to death in his absence by the Communists for alleged war crimes.

■ Journalist Zoltán Bedő, the initiator of the commemoration, has stated to the Chronicle that this is clearly an intimidation attempt. The organizer pointed out that he was prepared for attempts of the leading power to prevent the commemoration, even more so that they tried to find out who the organizer was at Székely Hírmondó (Szekler Gazette). Bedő took a copy of the prosecutor's decision issued in 2013, in which the prosecutor's office in Gyergyószentmiklós (Gheorgheni) closed the investigation of the Wass Albert commemoration there, claiming that provisions of the Emergency Government Decree cited could not apply to the Transylvanian writer, whose many novels also appeared in Romanian.

20 February 2018

■ In Kolozs (Cluj) county there are 85 settlements according to the government decree, which states where the names of the settlements should be indicated in the language of the given minority.

21 February 2018

■ In an open letter, Balázs Izsák, president of the Szekler National Council, asked Carmen Dan Minister of Home Affairs to remove him and all the other voices of autonomy claims from the list of registered persons.

■ In recent years, the chairman of the Szekler National Council has experienced the attention of the border police in countless cases when he crossed the border of Romania. Occasionally, the vehicle in which he traveled was arrested, in other cases the border officer withheld him on the pretext of computer breakdown until he received briefing on the person in question. It is clear from all this that he is a "registered person" in Romania.

The President of the Szekler National Council asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to remove him from the list of registered persons in the database of the Border Police, as well as all those who, because of their political convictions, enjoy the attention of the home affairs authorities.

28 February 2018

■ The pilgrimage of Csíksomlyó (Șumuleu Ciuc) is the largest Catholic pilgrimage in the Central and Eastern European region, and it would deserve Romania to stand up for it but the letter of senator Csaba Zoltán Novák, vice-president of the UNESCO Committee in the Parliament, did not even get a reply.

■ The history of the Whitsun pilgrimage to Csíksomlyó (Șumuleu Ciuc) dates back to the middle of the 15th century and after 1989 it started growing ever bigger, so today, besides the Transylvanian pilgrims every year, believers from Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany and even Australia are taking part. As a member of the UNESCO Committee in the Romanian Legislation, Zoltán Csaba Novák already wrote to the Ministry of Culture in December demanding explanation for why the Whitsun pilgrimage to Csíksomlyó (Șumuleu Ciuc) did not appear on the agenda of the World Heritage List.

1 March 2018

■ The bilingual Romanian-Hungarian name plate was installed and then removed within mysterious circumstances in Belényes (Beiuș).

■ A few weeks after the placement, the Hungarian name of the town of Bihar (Bihor) county was painted with white paint to the order of the prefecture. Local government law obliges local governments to place multilingual place name plates if the proportion of a given minority exceeds 20 percent in the settlement, but does not prohibit it in the case of a smaller community. Many Transylvanian towns have decided that they would install multilingual name plates – with Romanian, Hungarian and German inscriptions – even if the threshold value is not reached, such as in the case of Nagybánya (Baia Mare) (according to the 2011 census, it is 10.3%), in Zilah (Zalău) (15.41) or Nagyszeben (Sibiu) (Hungarian 1.47, German 1.06). In the ancient Hungarian town Belényes (Beiuș), that dates back to the era of Hungarian land-taking, today only 6% of the population is of Hungarian origin.

7 March 2018

■ The branch office of ASTRA announced that it would boycott this year's Festival of St. George Day, because the city administration "deprives the Romanian and Hungarian city dwellers of the beauty of Romanian folklore and folk costume".

■ The Civil Forum of Kovászna (Covasna), Hargita (Harghita) and Maros (Mureș) counties also announced that they agree with and would join the boycott.

9 March 2018

■ **Maros (Mureş) County Council was fined for installing bilingual signposts.**

■ It is not excluded that for the second time, bilingual name plates set up along the county road between Ádamos (Adămuş) and Küküllővár (Cetatea de Baltă) crossing the border between Maros (Mureş) and Fehér (Alba) counties will be removed. The traffic police imposed a fine because the tables were not authorized by the police.

9 March 2018

■ **Attila Dabis, the foreign affairs commissioner of the Szekler National Council, was banned from Romania after the Romanian authorities refused to let him enter the country.**

■ Attila Dabis was on his way from Hungary to the commemoration and festive deployment at Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureş) on the occasion of the Day of the Szekler Freedom when the Romanian border officers withheld him. An injunction was handed over to him in English, which contains no justification. Attila Dabis, who is also an international coordinator of the Minority Rights Protection Institute in Budapest, took part in the elaboration of the shadow report analysing the extent to which Romania fulfilled its international commitments on human and minority rights, submitted by the Szekler National Council, the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (EMNT), the Civil Commitment Movement (Cemo) and the Advocacy Group for Freedom of Identity (AGFI) to the UNO. He also worked as an expert in the development of the shadow report elaborated jointly by the Szekler National Council and the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania for the European Council analysing the extent to which Romania respects the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities.

9 March 2018

■ **The Prefect of Kovászna (Covasna) County urged the municipality of Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) to adhere to the law and, on March 15, fly the Romanian flag alongside the red-white-green flags on the lamp posts. Tuesday's announcement made by the Prefecture reminds us that, according to the law, the flag of any other country is only possible together with the national flag of Romania.**

■ Statement of mayor of Árpád Antal: "We celebrate the 15th of March in Transylvania, in the Szeklerland for 170 years. Since 1989, we have been displaying national symbols every year. It seems that this year, in the year of the centenary, some of us would have this right denied. According to Government Decree no. 20011/157, national minorities that have a national organization/association are allowed to use their own symbols on their own events. In this spirit, the local government of Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) placed the Hungarian national ribbons, rosettes and flags as usually."

13 March 2018

■ **The police initiated proceedings against suspected office abuses in the mayor's office in Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc). The investigation is into the legality of the public purchase procedure for the 15 March event.**

■ According to Mayor Árpád Gálfi, the police attempts to intimidate him and his colleagues before the holiday. On March 1st the police has already initiated the procedure against the city.

13 March 2018

■ **Árpád Antal, mayor of Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) was fined to 5,000 RON by the prefecture of Kovászna (Covasna) county for not placing Romanian flags on lamp poles decorated with Hungarian national coloured ribbons.**

■ Prefect Sebastian Cucu said that, as the mayor did not fulfill his call from a day earlier, for the Romanian flag to be placed next to the Hungarian flags under the 1994/75 flag law, he was amerced. Prepared for the March 15 celebration, the wrought-iron lanterns in the city center were decorated with Hungarian national ribbons, the main square with the Hungarian national flag and some streets with rosettes. The prefect summoned the mayor to place a Romanian flag next to every Hungarian national flag within 24 hours.

14 March 2018

■ **The nationalist oriented National Coalition for the Modernization of Romania (CNMR) is preparing to organize the "assembly of dignity" in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), protesting against the fact that the Hungarian mayor of the city refuses to fly the Romanian flag on the Hungarian national holiday.**

■ According to Alexandru Cumpănaşu, the president of the organization, the leaders of the Hungarian community deliberately violate the law to pose in the role of the victim. "The mayor of Sfântu Gheorghe is mocking the Romanians and the Romanian state institutions offering the explanation that the flags we all see in the pictures are in fact not flags," the president said, adding that the anti-Hungarian organization will organize an "assembly of dignity" in Sfântu Gheorghe in the near future.

14 March 2018

■ **Tibor Bokor mayor of Kézdivásárhely (Târgu Secuiesc) was also fined to 5000 RON by the prefecture for refusing to fly the Romanian flag next to the Hungarian national flags.**

■ The prefecture's statement in this regard has the same text as in the case of Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), only the name of the city has been changed. They were referred to the flag law and are informed that they have been fined to 5,000 RON. According to press information the Hungarian national flags were set in the town before the Hungarian national holiday so

they were not warned beforehand, and only received the notification of the fine imposed.

15 March 2018

■ **The Romanian national extremist Dignity in Europe Civil Society (ADEC) requests the court to impose forced implementation of its final decision to remove the Szekler townflags from the facade of the town's hall and from the vicinity of the cultural centre, as well as the Hungarian inscription Városháza (Town's Hall).**

■ In the last few years the court proclaimed decisions in four lawsuits in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc) concerning flags and inscriptions – all of those proceedings were initiated by ADEC – requesting the removal of the Szekler and city flags placed in the town hall council room, and the Hungarian inscription Town Hall from the facade of the building and near the town's cultural center. The association led by Dan Tanasă filed a further three petitions in February to the Court of Harghita (Harghita) County for imposing forced implementation for three final judgments requesting the removal of flags and inscriptions.

20 March 2018

■ **The Administrative Committee of the House of Commons rejected the Bill on the Autonomy of the Szeklerland without motivation. József Kulcsár-Terza MP stated that all this does not change the order of business, the statute precedes on the way of legislation.**

■ Members of the committee voted that, being present at the vote, Balázs Izsák chairman of the Szekler National Council, who drafted the statute, should hold a speech. In his speech he made a record of the negative opinion of the parliamentary legislative council from a few days ago. In addition to the autonomy draft, two members of the committee, Botond Csoma and Árpád Márton of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Transylvania (RMDSZ/UDMR) have also stood up, moreover, the latter suggested that the opinion should be discussed article by article, but the members voted against. At the time of the vote, only Csoma and Márton voted against the rejection, while the other 21 members voted in favor.

20 March 2018

■ **Anna Horváth, former deputy mayor of Kolozsvár (Cluj Napoca) was sentenced to prison for corruption. According to the basic judgement, the UDMR leader was condemned to 2 years 8 months, while Zsolt Fodor received suspended sentence of 1 year imprisonment.**

■ Anna Horváth was accused of abuse of administrative authority by the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA), which initiated the proceedings ex officio. Based on a secret intelligence interception, the prosecutor's of the Territorial Service of DNA in Kolozsvár (Cluj-

Napoca) initiated prosecution in October 2016 against the former deputy mayor of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) whose lawsuit began last spring after lengthy procrastination.

23 March 2018

■ **Due to a series of complaints and comments Facebook has made temporarily unavailable the page of blogger Dan Tanasă, infamous for his lawsuits against the use of the mother tongue of the Hungarian community and anti-Hungarian incitement.**

■ As it is well known, the blogger, who consistently refers to himself as civilian – and who presumably has secret service background and support – regards it as mission, to obstruct the use of the mother-tongue and symbols of the Hungarian community natively living in Transylvania, as often as he can. Therefore, on the one hand, he initiated legal procedures against the Hungarian inscriptions Town's Hall and Parish Hall on the public buildings, and on the other hand, he started a campaign against Hungarian emblems and Szekler flags, reporting on various local governments.

26 March 2018

■ **For reasons of national security, Attila Dabis, the Foreign Representative of the Szekler National Council (SZNT), was banned from Romania for three years.**

■ A document dated 9 March signed by Ioan Buda commander of the border police shows that his authority proceeded based on an article of the law that states that "the competent Romanian authorities" are allowed to restrict the free movement of EU citizens in Romania without a court judgment on the grounds of "public order, national security or public health issues".

3 April 2018

■ **The head of the Council of Kovászna (Covasna) county was amerced for not putting into practice a final court judgment requiring him to display the correct Hungarian translation of "palat administrativ" (Administrative Palace).**

■ The court proclaimed its decision on 29 March in the lawsuit initiated by the Civil Association for Dignity in Europe led by Dan Tanasă known for his anti-Hungarian manifestations and actions. According to the reasoning, the fine was imposed because the head of the county council refused to replace the Hungarian inscription "county house" with the correct translation of "palat administrativ" (of which the mirror translation would be "administrative palace"), as ordered by the final judgment of the court of Brassó (Braşov).

31 March 2018

■ **The Court of Maros (Mureş) County set the first trial on street nameplates in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) initiated by Lucian Goga, for April 24. The govern-**

ment commissioner is legally concerned about the two municipal decisions calling for the placement of Hungarian inscriptions alongside the Romanian names.

■ On 26 October, the Municipality of Marosvásárhely adopted two resolutions on bilingualism in connection to street names. The draft initiated by the Free People's Party (POL) prescribes the placement of a Hungarian translation of street names, and the draft submitted by the RMDSZ/UDMR would include the Hungarian name on the nameplates. The prefect who is engaged in constant hunt for the Hungarian inscriptions and national symbols, did not accept municipal decisions; he first called on the council to revoke the documents, and when he saw that it had not happened, he turned to the administrative court.

5 April 2018

■ **Ioan Aurel Pop, Rector of Cluj University, was elected new president of the Romanian Academy. Pop scored 86 votes in the General Assembly, with 56 votes for his second round opponent, Victor Voicu.**

■ The mandate of the president of the academy is four years, and a regular member of the academy can fulfill the position for maximum two cycles. Ioan Aurel Pop put heavy strain on Hungarian-Romanian relations. At the introductory event of the Laboratory of Information Warfare and Strategic Communication (LARICS), created by the Romanian Academy last spring, the rector of the UBB claimed that Romania "was at information and communication war with one of its neighbours, Hungary" and that Budapest "established a state department with its own budget called Trianon 100". Subsequently, the Romanian press labelled the Hungarian research group Trianon 100 as the "anti-Romanian propaganda department" of the Hungarian government. Ioan Aurel Pop practically "expelled" Hunor Kelemen from the country last August, after the president of the RMDSZ/UDMR said the Romanian majority community had to accept that the Transylvanian Hungarians would not want to and could not celebrate 1918. "If you do not recognize the Romanian national holiday, you cannot live in this country" the Romanian historian said.

6 April 2018

■ **The SRI could have deliberately created the Szekler terrorist accusations, the former colonel of the intelligence service said. According to Daniel Dragomir, the former colonel of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), the secret service created the terrorist accusations against the Szekler community based on forged interceptions and with the help of undercover agents. The statement of the former Chief Officer of SRI sheds a whole new light on the lengthy case. On his social media page Colonel Dragomir, who has left the secret services posted a comment saying that the Romanian secret services had "fabricated" the case of**

"Szekler terrorists" as well as other terrorist charges by means of secret service tools.

■ István Beke and Zoltán Szöcs are accused of planning to explode home-made bombs on the main square of Kézdivásárhely (Târgu Secuiesc) in 2015, during a military parade on December 1, organized for the Romanian National Day. According to the accusation, violent actions were taken to achieve the autonomous and revisionist goals of the Sixty-four Counties Youth Movement. Szöcs and Beke maintained their innocence all the time. They declared that the presumption that they would want to launch a bomb attack against Romanians in their own Hungarian majority town with some inadequate firecrackers, was ridiculous.

9 April 2018

■ **The House of Representatives in Bucharest polled the bill drafted by the Szekler National Council proposing territorial autonomy for the Szeklerland. The proposal submitted by the representative of József Kulcsár-Terza was supported by only twenty members of the House of Representatives.**

■ There were 238 compatriots present at the plenary vote of the House of Representatives, of which 218 voted in favor of the rejection of the Statute of Autonomy of the Szeklerland, and twenty – presumably members of the RMDSZ/UDMR fraction – supported its adoption. "The statute did not fail, it was only refused. It is Democracy that failed in Romania." Kulcsár-Terza said after the vote. "You cannot deny the collective rights that our community has. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe already made a recommendation in 1993 to ensure that the collective rights of national communities are safeguarded in the sense that a national community can organize itself on its own and to live its identity to the fullest. So Romania needs to move on from the level of individual rights towards community rights", pointed out the UDMR MP of Kovászna (Covasna) county. A passionate debate was formed about the draft in the House of Representatives that lasted for half an hour, that is longer than planned. While the three representatives of the UDMR fraction spoke about the legitimacy of the need for autonomy, the nine Romanian MPs and the non-Hungarian minority fraction argued for its unfoundedness and rejection. Speakers of right-wing opposition parties evaluated the bill as an open attack on the united Romanian nation state.

12 April 2018

■ **The mayor's office in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc) was forced to remove both the Szekler flag and the city flag from the facade of the town's hall following a final court judgment.**

■ The Civil Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) in its quality of protective organization of the rights of Romanians in the Szeklerland launched a lawsuit seeking

the removal of the symbols. In this case the court of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) issued an unfavorable judgment for the city in December 2016. The flags, however, remained in place last year, as the forced implementation procedure initiated by the executive agency commissioned by the applicant association was challenged in court by the mayor of Csíkszereda and it was cancelled.

13 April 2018

■ **The University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) and the Senate of the Petru Maior University adopted a decision on Wednesday to launch the process of merging of the two higher education institutions. The actual union will take place in autumn 2019.**

■ The community of Hungarian professors decided on the General Assembly not to support the union and to empower the Hungarian members of the Senate to decide, according to their own discernment, to vote against or, if they consider it a better idea, not to attend the meeting. Előd Nagy, Hungarian deputy rector of The University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Marosvásárhely said that they did not receive any meaningful answers to the concerns about how the university's multicultural character will be maintained. The national presidency of the Hungarian People's Party in Transylvania called the merger of the two universities in Marosvásárhely unacceptable. "In the established situation, we see a single solution, already formulated in the 1990s, as acceptable: it is necessary to ensure the independence of The University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Marosvásárhely, since it is a separate institutional system of the survival of our Hungarian community in Transylvania," the party writes in his statement. The political formation called on the Romanian government and its supporting group the RMDSZ/UDMR not to approve the union of the two universities until the independent Hungarian medical and pharmacy university was established.

18 April 2018

■ **The Committee on Human Rights, Religion and Minority Affairs of the Senate of the Bucharest Parliament issued a negative opinion to the draft law on territorial autonomy for the Szeklerland.**

■ According to the author, József Kulcsár-Terza and senator Ákos Derzsi, it is important that territorial autonomy should no longer be a taboo subject in the Romanian parliament, a constructive debate should be developed, the majority community should state what they think should be improved or modified on the draft, or what should be added to make it acceptable to Romanian politicians. According to the author of the draft, it is a major breakthrough that civilized dialogue on this issue can be pursued. "If we had started the dialogue twenty years ago, now we would be in a different situation, Romanian politics and society would

be much more open. But I am still optimistic, we are on the right track", the politician said.

4 May 2018

■ **The signboard of the road 113A which indicates the direction towards Saint Anna Lake in the Szeklerland was painted in black.**

■ In Transylvanian and Partium settlements with mixed populations Hungarian communities have become accustomed to occasionally encounter nameplates where the Hungarian name are painted or Hungarian public memorials are damaged. However, in regions with a majority of Hungarian population this type of vandalism is not typical.

10 May 2018

■ **The House of Representatives of Romania adopted a law amendment to extend the concept of terrorism. The amendment could give the Romanian authorities more opportunities to consider Hungarians as a threat to national security. The RMDSZ/UDMR fraction voted against the law.**

■ Initially the amendment is intended to implement the European Commission's anti-terrorism directive into the Romanian legal system to be able to punish conspiracies, training, travel and fundraisers linked to terrorism. Árpád Márton deputy leader of the fraction, fears that the inaccurate definition of the concept of terrorism will provide an opportunity for abuse against the Hungarian community by the Romanian authorities.

17 May 2018

■ **The management of the city created a poster advertising the Days of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) city and at the same time celebrating the union of Romania and Transylvania. The poster is in fact the careful reproduction of a postcard from the time of Hungarian government however the Hungarian inscriptions that should be visible on the buildings have been carefully removed. The Musai-Musáj Group speaks of history of counterfeiting and discrimination, and has made a complaint in court.**

■ On this year's Cluj-Napoca City Days, the Mayor's Office exhibited a huge poster in the western corner of the Main Square that is presenting the Status Palaces from the beginning of the 20th century. Sadly, it is pure falsification of history. Compared to the original version, Hungarian-related business names and inscriptions were removed from the city hall's poster, denying the city's historical multicultural identity – they wrote.

17 May 2018

■ **According to Dan Tanasă, Szekler players who have participated at the football world cup of CONIFA should be excluded from the Romanian Championships.**

■ In the CONIFA World Championship, national teams, minorities, or even countries that are not recognized by the world, and whose application request was rejected by FIFA are competing with each other. In connection to this, Dan Tanasă expressed his concern that although the event itself seems to be harmless at first glance, as the matches were held in London where teams play in stadiums with a capacity of approximately 3,000 people, we still need to pay attention to them, because it is only to promote the irredentist, autonomous aspirations that Hungary is pursuing in Romania. According to the blogger, athletes participating in the CONIFA World Championships should be excluded from the Romanian championships, as that would be in the interest of the country.

23 May 2018

■ **Marius Pașcan Representative of Maros (Mureș) County PMP addressed an interpellation to the Government of Romania, Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă and Minister of Foreign Affairs Teodor Meleșcanu in connection with the regular meeting of the Local and Regional Government Congress organized by the Council of Kovászna (Covasna) county.**

■ In the opinion of the representative, it is obvious that some representatives of the county administration in question make every effort to mislead, claiming that they do not respect and even violate the rights of the Hungarian minority in Romania, and argue against the provisions of the Romanian Constitution that the Hungarian language should be accepted as second official.” In this context, I would ask - write Pașcan - to inform Romania of its official position, which will be presented to the Local Government Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the European Council and the representatives of the Government appointed by the Government of Romania for this event.”

22 May 2018

■ **According to the 2017 report of Imre Mikó Legal Aid Service of the UDMR, anti-Hungarian attitude intensified in Romania in all areas of life. The report was presented on Friday by Erika Benkő MP, Head of the Legal Aid Service.**

■ According to the announcement of the event, the anti-Hungarian discourse has increased in the social media, traditional media, sport and politics. The Hungarian institutional system is under attack, primarily the Hungarian school network, the linguistic rights of the pupils are violated, the use of the Hungarian language in health care is optional and it is tied to persons, there is no written information in Hungarian, there is no reassuring case of Hungarian inscriptions, and the use of the Hungarian language is not secured in the judiciary.” explained Erika Benkő. Only in criminal proceedings are the Hungarian parties provided an interpreter, and

in the civil cases, the parties involved must cover the costs of interpretation. The organization stated that the issue of Hungarian symbols remains unsolved, that the Szekler flag and flags of certain counties should not be used, and that even the use of the Transylvanian flag was criticized by the authorities. Romania does not only fail in becoming a model country for minority rights, but also there are some retreats in this field”, the MP said.

26 May 2018

■ **Although the decision of the Council has been issued for a decade, the City Council of Nagyvárad (Oradea) rejected the placement of three-language street signs. For the time being, the small number of RMDSZ/UDMR fraction is slowly attempting to introduce Hungarian street names.**

■ The proposal is a supplement to a previous decision on the placement of bilingual Romanian and Hungarian street signs. The UDMR group suggested that in the historical centre of the city, besides the official street signs, there should be three-language signs – Romanian, Hungarian and English – with the historical Hungarian street names.

29 May 2018

■ **After the Chamber of Deputies in Bucharest, the Senate of the two-chamber Romanian parliament also rejected the bill that would provide territorial autonomy to the Szeklerland, and which was proposed by the Szekler National Council and presented by the representative József Kulcsár-Terza MP of Kovászna (Covasna) county.**

■ The special commissions of the Senate had previously filed negative opinion on the draft, and the speakers of all Romanian parties argued against it during last week’s plenary debate. The draft law – which would restore the chairs, regional decision-making and self-government, and make the Hungarian language official in the historical Szeklerland, which includes a part of the Hargita (Harghita), Kovászna (Covasna) and Maros (Mureș) counties – was voted unconstitutional by the speakers of the Romanian parties and some were even offended that such an initiative was presented in the year of the Romanian centenary (100th anniversary of the establishment of Romania). The Senate took the final decision on the draft law, confirmed the report of the commission rejecting the autonomy of Szeklerland with 96 votes against and 9 votes for the autonomy of the province. The draft was only supported by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR).

29 May 2018

■ **The Romanian MEP is annoyed by what has been said at the EC’s Szeklerland conference. According to Cătălin Ivan, the Romanian state was attacked from all sides at the meeting on minority rights.**

■ Representatives of the Hungarian community told half truths about minority rights at Bálványosfűrdő (Băile Bálványos), so those present at the meeting of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe entitled The use of various languages in local and regional authorities could not get an objective view of the situation, said the socialist MP.

31 May 2018

■ **Dan Tanasă caused scandal and accused the organizers of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe of stealing his books. The anti-Hungarian activist called the police to the meeting of the local council held in Bálványos.**

■ The issues of the situation of the Hungarians in Romania, the legal protection of minority communities, the problems of incomplete domestic and European legislation were all raised by the representatives of the RMDSZ/UDMR at the external meeting of the Local Government of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Local and regional government representatives from 47 member states of the Council of Europe met in Bálványos (Băile Bálványos), where Tanasă appeared uninvited and unexpectedly, trying to spread propaganda materials.

1 June 2018

■ **At the end of May, the General Assembly of Nagyvárad (Oradea) rejected the initiative of the four-member RMDSZ/UDMR fraction to install three-language street signs – Hungarian, Romanian and English – in the historic city center and the installation of similar pictograms elsewhere in the city.**

■ Despite the fact that many laws oblige the municipality of Nagyvárad (Oradea) to place multilingual street signs, there is a constant fight for their installation. There have been three-language information boards on the monumental buildings in Nagyvárad (Oradea) for years, and no one has ever protested against them. Similarly, the group asked for the placement of three-language street signs with historical Hungarian street names and the placement of trilingual pictograms, but the Romanian majority of the Council rejected the initiative. The national liberal management of the city is practically unwilling to cooperate with the UDMR being in collusion with the socialists.

5 June 2018

■ **The language rights of minority nations and their obedience were discussed at the meeting of the Equality of European Languages Network (ELEN) in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), hosted by the headquarters of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania.**

■ Tibor Kocsis welcomed the ELEN delegates on behalf of the Hungarian Consulate in Kolozsvár at the beginning of the board meeting of the 44 language

groups representing language rights, saying: Respect for language rights is an essential part of the survival of nations, especially if they live in a minority position. The consul also highlighted the vile fate of the Medicine and Pharmacy University of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș), and the case of the Catholic high school also in Marosvásárhely, which was till folded.

10 June 2018

■ **The notorious former mayor of Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), Gheorghe Funar, who says Jesus was a Dac, is back at the head of a new nationalist party on the national political scene.**

■ At the press conference held on the occasion of the formation of the Party Our Romania (Partidului România Noastră, PRN) at Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș), the former commander stated that their goal is not less than coming to power in Romania. The new political formation emerged from the ashes of the anti-Hungarian Vatra Românească Party and is the legal successor of two nationalist parties, the Romanian National Unity Party (PUNR) and the Grand Romania Party (PRM).

13 June 2018

■ **75 thousand RON worth of fines were imposed by the Court of Harghita (Harghita) county on Róbert Kálmán Ráduly mayor of Csíkszereda because he refused remove the Szekler flag from the flagpole in front of the Theatre of Csík despite the fact that a final judgement was proclaimed.**

■ The mayor was sued by the same Civil Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) for failing to remove the flag, which initiated the lawsuit in 2016 for the removal of the flag. The court of first instance, in its judgment of Wednesday, stated that Ráduly should pay a penalty fine of twenty percent of the national minimum salary for each day of delay and that this fine will now amount to 75,130 RON from the proclamation of the initial final judgment. In Romania, the prefects appointed by the Socialist Government of Victor Ponta launched court proceedings in 2013 against several mayors of the Szeklerland, who flew the Szekler flag on their office buildings. The procedures were later extended to flags in public spaces. Since 2014, ADEC has been specializing in Hungarian affairs in the Szeklerland, and has initiated more than one hundred lawsuits against Hungarian leaders in the province because of flags and Hungarian inscriptions.

20 June 2018

■ **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Bucharest accuses Hungarian deputy prime minister Zsolt Semjén of arrogance and disrespect regarding the Romanian people and their history, as well as for his statements regarding the union of Romania and Transylvania, and Trianon.**

■ The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regards the statements of Zolt Semjén about Trianon and Romania as provocation. In Bucharest, the deputy prime minister responsible for national politics shocked the audience by saying that we should mourn the Peace Treaty of Trianon, because it is one of the greatest tragedies in Hungarian history. Semjén labelled the events that took place in Versailles on June 4, 1920 as massive injustice.

22 June 2018

■ **Unknown perpetrators painted in black the Hungarian name of Tenke (Tinca) village in south of Bihar (Bihar) county at the entrance to the village from the direction of Körösmart (Râpa). The “invisibility” of the Hungarian inscription is a recurring phenomenon.**

■ The village of Tenke (Tinca) of Bihar (Bihar) county was a fully Hungarian settlement for centuries, one of the centers of the Hungarians living in the valley of the Fekete-Körös (Crișul Negru) River, but after a change of empires, it slowly turned into a Romanian village, especially after the decision of Vienna that granted the region to Romania. Hungarians today make up only 15% of the total population of the commune, however, it still exceeds 20% in the village center itself. Of the 4614 inhabitants, 877 declared themselves to be of Hungarian nationality during the last census, so the bilingual nameplate should definitely be installed at the four main road entrances to the village and the railway station of Tenke (Tinca). It seems that the perpetrators were not particularly interested in this fact.

27 June 2018

■ **The Court of Appeal of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) amerced Ferenc Péter, president of the Maros (Mureș) County Council to 42 642 RON, for refusing earlier to remove the Szekler flag from his office, as mayor of Sovata.**

■ According to the judgment, the president of the General Assembly was summoned by the Prefect of Maros County. In March 2016, the Maros County Court sued the mayor of the resort town for flying the Szekler flag. The court decision once again proves that Romania is using double standard, as, for example, in Bukovina (Bucovina), which is also a historical region and not an administrative unit, there is no penalty for using the historical flag of the region, while the Szeklers are fined for the same act.

4 July 2018

■ **The panel court dismissed the claim handed in by György Jakubinyi the Archbishop of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia), submitted by the Church after the restitution committee of the Romanian Government rejected the claims for restitution of church property formulated by the Catholics.**

■ The Batthyáneum of Gyulafehérvár, which among other things, is the subject of the claim, is the most valu-

able property and public collection that the Hungarian churches in Transylvania have demanded from the Romanian state. In November 2015, the Restitution Committee rejected the request of the Church for restitution, which concerned the Batthyáneum Library, the scientific collection, and the asterisk at its top level. In 2012, the European Court of Human Rights imposed a fine on the Romanian State for not informing the Church in 14 years about the decision taken on Batthyáneum. According to the Church, Bishop Ignác Batthyány left the public collection and the observatory to the Roman Catholic Church, and the Transylvanian Provincial Order, on the basis of which the Romanian State acted as legal successor, but in fact it means the Roman Catholic Diocese of Transylvania. In contrast, the Romanian state claims that the bishop has left the library not only for the church but also for the Transylvanian “province”, and Transylvania is now part of Romania, so the property belongs to the Romanian state.

5 July 2018

■ **More than 9,300 hectares of forest in Ratosnya (Răstolița), Gödemesterháza (Stânceni) and Palotailva (Lunca Bradului) were returned to the Romanian state, property which was restituted in 2007 to the heirs of Count Dániel Bánffy. The judgment proclaimed by Giurgiu County Court is final.**

■ The decision for restitution in 2007 was contested in 2014 to the initiative of Vasile-Liviu Oprea, former prefect of Maros (Mureș) County, referring to a document issued by the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives (CNSAS). In this document it is stated that Dániel Bánffy's assets were not unlawfully confiscated by the Communist regime, but as a result of a judicial decision in which the Count was convicted for crimes against humanity committed between 1940 and 1944. The Giurgiu County Court declared as unfounded and rejected the appeal of Bánffy's heirs against the judgments annulling the return decision. On 24 June 2014, the County Committee, defining the right of private ownership of the property in the county of Maros (Mureș), filed a protest against the decision for restitution, citing a CNSAS document. The document contains a criminal judgment of the Stalinist Court in Bucharest, dated 3 December 1952, according to which Dániel Bánffy is sentenced to 8 years of forced labor and 10 years of civil deprivation and complete confiscation of property for crimes against humanity.

6 July 2018

■ **The Romanian Social Democrat MEP Cătălin Ivan will open a representative office in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) to map the cases of discrimination against Romanians in the Szeklerland.**

■ The MEP signed a partnership with blogger Dan Tanasă. Ivan said he wanted to gather information on discrimination cases against Romanians in the

Szeklerland, in order to break down the “liar propaganda” of the RMDSZ/UDMR in the European Parliament. (Two months later he stepped out of his socialist fraction, since then he continues his anti-Hungarian campaign in the EP independently.)

7 July 2018

■ According to Gheorghe Baciú, the senator of the People’s Movement Party in Bodzaforduló (Întorsura Buzăului), it is outrageous that the government has rejected its proposals to amend the Penal Law. The politician would have liked to qualify as criminal offense the public violation of Romanian national symbols.

■ As the senator recalls, the violation of the Romanian flag, of the national holiday, of the hymn or coat of arms was considered a criminal offense until 2014, but was then excluded from the Penal Charta. Baciú now wanted to “correct” this, because, as he says, respect for Romanian national symbols needs “artificial respiration”. Romanian politicians have repeatedly attempted to criminalize the violation of the symbols of the Romanian state. Two years ago, the Social Democratic Party representatives initiated the modification of the Penal law. In this respect, the proposal would have penalized public violations of Romania’s symbols from one to three years. The reason for rejection was that there are citizens who consider Romania’s national holiday as a mourning day.

10 July 2018

■ The Civil Forum of Romanians of Kovászna (Covasna), Hargita (Harghita) and Maros (Mureş) Counties requested the Head of State Klaus Iohannis not to proclaim the recently adopted administrative law. Hundreds of self-proclaimed representatives of the Romanian community in the Szeklerland plan to go to Bucharest on July 29, protesting against the Code of Conduct on the extension of the use of mother tongue voted by the Parliament last week.

■ The Civil Forum of Romanians of Kovászna (Covasna), Hargita (Harghita) and Maros (Mureş) Counties famous for its anti-Hungarian resolutions, asked the President to receive his delegates during the demonstration. The organization is primarily concerned about the official status of the Hungarian language, not only in the counties of Kovászna, Hargita and Maros, but in a much wider area if the framework law comes into force in the form adopted by Parliament. The Romanians - mistakenly - claim that the Code abolishes the 20 percent threshold for native language use. According to them, the use of bilingual forms is unconstitutional, only translation is allowed in Hungarian, but it cannot be an official document, because that way the Hungarian language would automatically acquire legal status. They also find it outrageous that the knowledge of the Hungarian language will be compulsory among the em-

ployees of prefectures and the local public institutions subordinated to the ministries.

18 July 2018

■ In the first instance, the Administrative Court of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) annulled two decisions of the municipality concerning the placement of multilingual street signs.

■ The decisions were adopted by the City Council last October. One was presented by the Party of Free People (POL) that requires the placement of the Hungarian translation of street names, the other being presented by the RMDSZ/UDMR, as being different from the previous one by adding the translation to the official street name. The decisions were challenged by Lucian Goga, former Prefect of Maros (Mureş) in the administrative court, which annulled the two decisions on first instance.

25 July 2018

■ Following the disapproval of the Hargita County Prefect, after his complaints study was launched on the drawing of a map of Great Hungary by the students of Imre Palló Secondary School of Arts in Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Săuiesc) on the 4th of June, on the National Day of National Identity.

■ The control body of the Romanian Ministry of Education is investigating at the school in Székelyudvarhely, where students have allegedly drawn a map of Great Hungary on the 4th of June on the National Day of Identity. The prefect of Hargita had previously criticized the headmaster of the school for bringing the school’s students to a “political” event on the 98th anniversary of the signing of the Trianon Peace Treaty.

25 July 2018

■ The court of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) dismissed the restitution of the former building of the Marianum in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) to the Roman Catholic Church. The Church will formulate appeal against the verdict.

■ The Marianum was founded by the Roman Catholic Church in Kolozsvár, and it was registered as a monument in 1910–11, before the First World War, thanks to the efforts of József Hirschler in the downtown parish of Kolozsvár. The building was consecrated on 10 December 1911 by Bishop Károly Gusztáv Majláth. The building was expanded by the Church during the World War and after the change of empires. Educational institutions bringing together several facilities and targets (elementary and civil school for girls, commercial school, secondary school, teacher training institute, music school) were important: young people from Transdanubia regions also came to receive training here. Marianum has become one of the most important schools of the Transylvanian Hungarian minority. Church schools in this period represented retaining power, faith and hope. By Decree-Law No.

176 of 1948, the Communist State seized the building from the Roman Catholic Church. In August 2017, however, the Restitution Committee refused to return the Marianum. The Church turned to the court, trusting in the judiciary and in a fair trial. For the time being in vain.

26 July 2018

■ **Eugen Tomac, head of the Romanian People's Movement Party (PMP), expressed his disapproval of the participation and speech of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán at the Free University of Tusnádfürdő (Băile Tuşnad).**

■ The leader of the opposition body, continuously qualified below the parliamentary access threshold according to surveys, complained that, in the year of the Romanian centenary, Viktor Orbán celebrated at Tusnádfürdő "the greatest concessions which Romania has made for Hungary in the last hundred years".

28 July 2018

■ **The organizations protecting the interests of Romanians in the Szeklerland organized demonstrations in Bucharest in protest against the Romanian Administrative Codex containing advantageous provisions for the Hungarian community, voted by the Romanian Parliament at the beginning of July.**

■ Participants at the protest organized by the Civil Forum of Romanians in Kovászna (Covasna), Harghita (Harghita) and Maros (Mureş) counties and the Road of the Nation Association marched from downtown Bucharest up to the Romanian Presidential Palace. According to the organizers, with the adoption of the administrative codex, the Hungarian language becomes practically the second official language in the Szeklerland, and also in other areas of Romania, where the number of Hungarians is significant. Some of the protesters were dressed in Romanian national costumes, equipped with Romanian flags and even carried a stretched, painted, giant flag. The law contains important clarifications for the Hungarian community in connection to the multilingual inscription of street names, squares and parks, to communication with the authorities in mother tongue, and in the permissible interpretation of minority rights.

29 July 2018

■ **The fact that the funeral flag was flying on the town's hall of Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) on the day of the Romanian national anthem provoked violent anti-Hungarian manifestation on behalf of the head of the National Coalition for Modernization (CNMR) in Romania.**

■ The journalist activist Alexandru Cumpănaşu, who is renowned for his anti-Hungarian statements, associated these events with the celebration of the Day of the National Anthem in Romania on 29 July. "How mobbish

can you be? To what extent do you want to provoke previously unknown emotions from the Romanian people?! Today, the mayor's office in Sepsiszentgyörgy displayed a flag of mourning in honour of the Day of the Romanian National Anthem. I call for urgent intervention from the national police headquarters and the gendarmerie!" According to an RMDSZ/UDMR leader, the mourning flag was flown because one of the citizens of Sepsiszentgyörgy who was awarded the Pro Urbe Prize passed away. It has been a tradition for two decades to say goodbye in this manner to the departed personalities of the town.

29 July 2018

■ **The Romanian media considers it offensive that Viktor Orbán stated in his speech at the Summer Free University of Bálványos at Tusnádfürdő: the Romanian centenary (the 100th anniversary of the Romanian national assembly of Gyulafehérvár in 1918, which requested the union of Transylvania and Romania) is not a holiday for the Hungarians.**

■ However, in the days following the "Tusványos" forum, the commentaries on the ideological and foreign policy ideas of the Hungarian head of state were more nuanced. On the whole, however, it appears that the Romanian media has either been trying to silence the event in Tusnádfürdő in recent years, or to present it as an anti-Romanian manifestation.

30 July 2018

■ **According to the President of Romania, the prohibition of changing ethnic proportions violates the principle of local autonomy. Instead of proclaiming the law, Klaus Iohannis raised constitutional protest against a draft law that would prevent the changing of the administrative boundaries of counties, cities and municipalities in a way that would modify the proportion of national minorities.**

■ The Head of State argues that it would violate the constitutional principle of sovereignty and local autonomy if such prohibitions were to restrict the right of the population of an administrative unit to decide, by economic, social, cultural, or environmental considerations, to change administrative boundaries by referendum. Amendments to the so-called county law of 1968 regulating the administrative division of the country were initiated, among other things, by the legislators of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the National Liberal Party of the opposition (PNL) in the government to standardize or correct the various types of writing or in the official list of annexes to the law incorrectly introduced settlement names.

31 July 2018

■ **Jean Adrian Andrei, prefect of the County of Harghita (Harghita), asked for written explanation from the heads of institutions who did not attend**

the celebration of the Romanian national anthem in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc).

■ The Prefect regarded the absence of the representatives of certain institutions at such an event as complete lack of respect in the year of the centenary, although the day of the national anthem is to be celebrated by all subordinate institutions of the government.

31 July 2018

■ It is incomprehensible and worrying that the Romanian Head of State would abolish minority rights that have been in force in international treaties for 17 years.

■ In the Constitutional Court, Klaus Iohannis challenged the new Romanian administrative codex to be proclaimed and, in his protest, raised a number of objections against the provisions clarifying or expanding the use of minority mother tongue. It is a matter of serious concern that while Romania regards itself as a model state in the field of minority protection, the President of the Republic raises objections to the rights to use minority languages in the Constitutional Court. Iohannis also objects to articles on minority rights that have been in force in Romania for 17 years.

2 August 2018

■ Romania would be cast back to the 90s in terms of the rights of national minorities if the Constitutional Court gave way to the protest of the head of state and restricted the language rights of minorities – stated ActiveWatch NGO in Bucharest in a resolution.

■ Civilians who prepared a comprehensive report on freedom of expression and the exercise of minority rights each year responded to the fact the Romanian President had challenged the new Romanian administrative codex to be proclaimed at the Constitutional Court and, in his protest, raised a number of objections against the provisions clarifying or expanding the use of minority mother tongue. ActiveWatch is concerned about Iohannis' move, as it contradicts the recommendations made by the European Council for Romania on the application of the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minorities.

2 August 2018

■ The mysterious institute called The Laboratory of Information Warfare and Strategic Communication Analysis transmitted the point of view of Ioan Aurel Pop, President of the Romanian Academy, who on Monday reacted to the statement of Zsolt Semjén about Romania and its national celebration.

■ The deputy prime minister of Hungary reminded the Romanians celebrating the centenary at Tusnádfürdő (Băile Tușnad) of the promise of autonomy for Transylvanian Hungarians and Saxons made in 1918. In his reply to a question at the National Political Forum of the Summer Free University at Bálványos, he said that he

respected that the Romanians celebrate the attachment of Transylvania to Romania and asked them to respect in return that there was nothing to celebrate in it for the Hungarians. The President of the Romanian Academy argues that the word "autonomy" appears twice in the text of the Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) Declaration, but first refers to the temporary self-administration of Transylvania, Banat and Partium, which the territories would enjoy until the country had a new constitution. Secondly, the right of self-organization of religious denominations, both to minorities and to majority. As far as the Transylvanian nationalities are concerned, they have only been ordered to administer and judge in their mother tongue by their elected representatives, as well as to propose proportional representation in the Romanian Parliament. The proclamation itself decided only one thing - as Pop says, the union of Transylvania, Banat and Partium, and all the other points are only visionary directives for the future of the newly established Romanian state. Thus, the Declaration of December 1, 1918 has no binding force, but merely made a series of suggestions for the subsequent constitutional process, to which Romania could have given the rights that have been in line with contemporary Western liberal nationalism. And, since then, Romania has already given these rights to its national minorities, more or less broadly.

2 August 2018

■ In spite of the political bargains, there is only partial or no application of Ministerial Decree No. 2815 of 2014 on multilingual inscriptions of monument buildings in Romania.

■ Many municipalities are ignorant of the regulations issued by the Minister Csilla Hegedüs (RMDSZ/UDMR) during her short mandate, or the process is getting stuck in practice. The regulation states in detail that monument buildings should be labelled in two foreign languages of international circulation and in minority languages as well, in addition to the official language of the state. The latter must not only be realized if the community in question exceeds 20% of the settlement's population, but also in three other cases.

9 August 2018

■ The association famous for the series of lawsuits issued against the use of Szekler symbols and Hungarian inscriptions, led by Dan Tanasă, initiated a new administrative court procedure at the Hargita (Harghita) County Court. This time they want to force the mayor of Szépvíz (Frumoasa) village to terminate the situation they consider illegal. This would also mean the abolition of the Hungarian inscription of Parish Hall.

■ According to the appeal to the Hargita (Harghita) County Court, the mayor was first called on in April to remove the Hungarian inscription, the two Szekler flags on the façade, and to place the Romanian version above

the Hungarian language inscriptions on the signs of the Local Council of Szépvíz Village because the official language of the country is Romanian. The summons was not fulfilled, so a lawsuit was initiated.

16 August 2018

■ **Marius Pașcan MEP, is calling on Romanian citizens who observe Hungarian or Szekler flags on public buildings to call the 112 emergency number.**

■ The nationalist MP in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) encourages people to call emergency number 112 immediately if they notice a Hungarian or Szekler flag in one of the public buildings. The politician came up with this shocking idea after he discovered that József Varga, mayor of Gyulakuta (Fântânele), had set the Hungarian flag next to the Romanian and EU flags in honor of the official delegation from the mother country to the village days.

20 August 2018

■ **The latest work of Ioan Lăcătușu entitled Public life in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Viața publică din Sfântu Gheorghe – Covasna, 1919–1989) contains 692 pages and was published as the nineteenth volume of the book series The Great Union Centenary (Centenarul Marii Uniri).**

■ The presence of Romanians is overwhelming on the pages of the book, as the vast majority of the chapters only process data related to Romanians settled in the last hundred years at the county seat of the Kovászna (Covasna). It is an insurmountable insult to the Hungarian reader that the author, who appears in several extremist nationalist organizations, besides the introduction of local Romanian cultural life, almost neglects the events and personalities of Hungarian cultural life. The whole work is interrupted by the frequent voices of Hungarian hatred, the alleged nationalism of the Hungarians.

23 August 2018

■ **In less than a day, the Facebook post shared by Krisztina Sándor, managing director of the Hungarian National Council in Transylvanian (EMNT/CNMT) on her timeline, disappeared. In her post she announced that she, together with László Tőkés, and Csilla Beke visited István Beke and Zoltán Szőcs, detained in prison in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc) due to a supposedly planned terrorist attack.**

■ “Someone may be very frightened by both the victims and the supporters of the fake threat of the Szekler terror,” EMNT wrote in a statement. According to Krisztina Sándor, EMNT’s managing director, it is outrageous and at the same time astonishing that forces are playing to stigmatize the two innocent people – and the whole Hungarian community with them.

24 August 2018

■ **The Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC) calls for another fine for the mayor of Madéfalva (Siculeni)**

as they consider that the mayor did not execute a final court order for the removal of the Municipal House.

■ The fourth lawsuit was issued by Dan Tanasă’s association against the mayor of Madéfalva (Siculeni), the problem being that the name of the building in the village hall can still be read in Hungarian. This time the ADEC asks the court to make the mayor of Madéfalva, pay an amount equal to 20 percent of the gross national minimum wage for each day of delay, as he has not executed a final court ruling on the removal of the Hungarian inscription, according to the provisions of Act No. 554 of 2004.

27 August 2018

■ **Sándor Tóth, mayor of Nyárádszereda (Miercurea Nirajului), was sentenced to 70 thousand Ron for not removing the Szekler flag from the facade of the headquarters building – informs the press office of the RMDSZ/UDMR of Maros (Mureș) County.**

■ “Neither as a civilian nor as mayor, can I digest what is happening to us. According to Klaus Iohannis, we can speak of an exemplary Romanian minority model, but in the festive year of the Romanian centenary, there is constant fining of the national minority if they want to live with their right to use their national symbols. Not only do they prevent us from expressing ourselves, but they also apply fines. It is incomprehensible that this could happen in an EU Member State in the 21st century,” Sándor Tóth pointed out. The mayor recalled that national and regional minorities and their symbols enrich Romania, which is why it is incomprehensible that the state considers them to be a threat.

29 August 2018

■ **Another anti-Hungarian manifestation took place in the Romanian football leagues: Botoșani fans waited for the Seps football team for a championship match with an anti-Hungarian banner.**

■ The sports meeting in the hometown of Mihai Eminescu was overshadowed by an undesirable incident: the fanatics of the football team of the town of one hundred thousand inhabitants stretched out a banner onto which the following slogan was written: “You sing in the language of the horses and dream of autonomy.” The term language of the horses was coined by the infamous ex-mayor of Kolozsvár (Cluj Napoca) and used by him as word of mouth for derogating the Hungarian language.

29 August 2018

■ **In a four-page encrypted submission, the prosecutor explained the reasons for expelling Attila Dabis from Romania in a lawsuit initiated by the Foreign Affairs Commissioner of the Szekler National Council (SZNT) requesting the annulment of the prohibition decision.**

■ On 9 March, the Romanian border police prevented the entry of Attila Dabis into Romania at the border crossing point Ártánd-Borș. The foreign affairs

commissioner of SZNT should have traveled to Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) for the next day's autonomy conference and demonstration organized on the occasion of the Day of Szekler Freedom. Attila Dabis's lawyer had no idea how the prosecutor representing the Romanian state justified the ban on the foreign affairs representative of the SZNT, which proves that the measure had no legal basis.

30 August 2018

■ **Sanctions have been proposed by the control body of the Romanian Ministry of Education against the management and teachers of Imre Palló Secondary School of Arts and Professions in Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc) because of the commemoration of national unity.**

■ The Imre Palló Secondary School of Arts in Székelyudvarhely is liable for sanctions after the prefect of Harghita (Harghita) County criticized the school for allegedly drawing a map of Great Hungary on the schoolyard on June 4, the day of national togetherness. Péter Görbe, Chief School Inspector of Harghita (Harghita) County, stated that the Board of Control of the Ministry of Education in Bucharest found the event to be "politically separatist", in that it violates Article 7 of the Education Act, which states, among other things, that political events are prohibited in schools. The Székelyudvarhely School hosted its sister school from Hungary in the framework of the Program called Borderless, and on 4 June it was one of the students' task to draw the European territories where a significant number of Hungarian population lives. According to the Chief Inspector, the map of the historic Hungary was drawn.

19 September 2018

■ **The mayor of Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc) has to pay the fine imposed through the final decision in the lawsuit issued by the Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC).**

■ According to the judgment of the County Court of Harghita (Harghita), the mayor has to pay more than 75 thousand Ron worth fine for failing to immediately remove the Szekler and city flags from near the Municipal Culture Centre. Róbert Kálmán Ráduly filed an appeal against the first-instance judgment, but the Regional Court of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) dismissed the appeal. Thus, the judgment of the County Court of Harghita (Harghita) on fines became final.

25 September 2018

■ **After the process of merging MOGYE and Petru Maior University has been completed, the Medicine and Pharmacy University of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) is now officially recognized as the Medicine, Pharmacy, Scientific and Technical University of Marosvásárhely (UMFST).**

■ The Rector of the University emphasized that a higher education institution retains its multicultural character. "There is no reason to worry about the position of UMFST in the ranks of medical universities in Romania, nor about good education in Hungarian language" said Leonard Azamfirei, who moved from Moldova to Transylvania under the Ceaușescu regime.

24 September 2018

■ **Dan Tanasă has reached his goal: Hungarian and English inscriptions must be taken off the facade of the Town Hall of Tusnádfürdő (Băile Tușnad).**

■ The court judgment concerning the removal of the inscriptions on the town hall of Tusnádfürdő in Hungarian and English has become final, so they must be removed from the facade of the building.

3 October 2018

■ **In a final judgment, the Bihar (Bihor) County Court dismissed the claim of the Roman Catholic parish of Olaszi in Oradea, in which it claimed the restitution of the property built by the Roman Catholic Church, where the Imre Szacsvey Primary School operates today.**

■ The property was taken from the Catholic Church by the communist Romanian state. In the course of the litigation, the parish claimed to be the legal successor of the Szent László Beggar's Care and Boy Shelter Association founded by the Catholic bishopry, and as such requested the restitution of the building. The property in the parish area was seized from the Catholic Church by the communist regime. The Szent László Beggar's Care and Boy Shelter was founded by Bishop József Winkler who also donated 10,000 Crowns for its operation costs in 1886. The institution was administered by the Vincentian Sisters of Charity in one of the corner buildings of the former Ūri Street. The institution overgrew its old headquarters in 1900, so a new building was built in the former Szaniszló Bishop Street, according to the plans of the architect Ferenc Sztarill in eclectic style, as well as a neo-Gothic chapel in the courtyard. The Vincentian Sisters could continue here their earlier activities for the poor, the fallen, the elderly, and the orphans, until in 1949 when the communists dismissed the church order and began the free robbery called nationalization.

8 October 2018

■ **Unknown vandals cut off and removed the memorial plaque set up by the friends of Zsolt Erőss Hungarian mountain climber at the top of Oltárkő in the Békás Strait (Cheile Bicazului) in July 2013, one and a half months after the climber had disappeared in the Himalayas.**

■ The 1135 meter high altar is the most spectacular rock formation in the Békás Strait. Harghita (Harghita) and Neamț counties could not agree on which county

the Altar stone belonged to. The almost vertical cliff walls rise about 350 meters above the surrounding valleys and gorges. Spending his childhood in Gyergyószentmiklós (Gheorgheni) Zsolt Erőss gained his first rock climbing experience here. The memorial plaque installed on the 6th of July 2013 contained part of the poem A message home written by Albert Wass: "The Message to Home Mountains (...)" The water runs, the rock remains, / The rock remains. ... " Péter Kiss and Zsolt Erőss disappeared on May 21, 2013 during the descent after the conquest of the 8586 meters peak of the Kanchenjunga on the border of India and Nepal.

10 October 2018

■ **According to the final judgment of the Appeal Court of Brassó (Braşov) the Szekler, Hungarian and the county flags must be removed from the council hall of the Kovászna (Covasna) county, but the German, Israeli and American flags donated with them may remain.**

■ The Hungarian and Szekler flags were donated to the county council in November 2016 by the József Kulcsár-Terza, the head of the Hungarian Civil Party, together with the American, German and Israeli flags after the older Hungarian and Szekler flags he had previously given had to be removed from the boardroom on the grounds of a court decision. The donation was received by the General Assembly in January 2017 after heated debate.

11 October 2018

■ **Lacking permission for assembly, Facebook group called Justice for Political Prisoners put off the demonstration with candles planned in front of the building of the prison in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc)**

■ The organizers wanted to call attention to the fact that István Beke and Zoltán Szőcs, convicted for terrorism, spend their hundredth day in prison, despite the fact that the court has still not published the official justification for the sentence. "When the demonstration was announced, the official bodies said (...) the organization of the demonstration was not possible in any form." the group said.

11 October 2018

■ **The Hungarian inscription was changed from Lóna to Szászlóna (Luna de Sus) that is, to the official name of the settlement in Kolozs (Cluj) County.**

■ The UDMR adviser considers the measure ridiculous and silly. The name of the village was shown differently on the new nameplates: instead of Lóna, Szászlóna is listed under the Romanian name (Luna de Sus). Until 1899, the village was indeed called the village of Szászlóna, but since then it has entered the public domain under the name Magyarlóna, and it was also registered in 1913, so it is called by all the locals and no one uses the former name of the settlement.

17 October 2018

■ **The court of Brassó ordered the mayor of Sfântu Gheorghe in a final judgment to remove the Hungarian inscription from the entrance of the Mikó Székely College.**

■ This has happened, but Árpád Antal told the Chronicle: they put back the text, which, if necessary, will be written in another language. Due to the text of the Reformed Székely Mikó College, the Civil Society Association reported on the dignity registered in Europe by the infamous Dan Tanasă.

22 October 2018

■ **The Appeal Court of Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) rejected the restoration of the building of the former Count Majláth Gusztáv Károly Grammar School to the Roman Catholic Church.**

■ The application for the restoration of the property of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Gyulafehérvár was rejected by the National Restitution Committee last November, and this decision was challenged by the Church in the panel court. The Gyulafehérvár Church School was never the legitimate property of the Romanian state.

23 October 2018

■ **Jean Adrian Andrei, prefect of Harghita County, applied a fine of five thousand RON for the mayor's office in Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc) because of the red-white-green ribbons with which the office decorated the streets of the city by 23 October.**

■ The prefect committed a violation of the Government Decree no 1994/75 on the use of Romanian national symbols and its implementing regulations. He complained that in the public area of Székelyudvarhely, the flag of Hungary was set for the celebration without the flag of Romania. In the minutes, the prefect noted that the mayor's office in Székelyudvarhely was a recidivist offender and therefore set the upper limit of the fine to be imposed. The prefectures of Kovászna (Covasna) and Harghita (Harghita) counties also fined several towns in the Szeklerland, in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Secuiesc) and Kézdivásárhely (Târgu Secuiesc) for the red-white-green ribbons set on March 15 this year. Proceedings for cancellation of fines are pending. The punished municipalities defended themselves saying that they in fact used very long and 1 meter wide, Hungarian "national-colored ribbon" that was not the same as Hungarian national flag.

24 October 2018

■ **The Senate of the higher education institution formed by the union of the Medicine and Pharmacy University of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) and the Petru Maior University adopted the university charter of operation in absence of the representatives of the Hungarian section.**

■ At the end of September, the board of the Hungarian section decided that, as a sign of protest against the union of the two universities against their will, Hungarian employees would not hold office until a reassuring decision was made to secure the future of Hungarian-language education within the university. Thus, the Senate's Hungarian members did not participate in the discussion and adoption of the university Charter. Rector Leonard Azamfirei firmly refused to renounce the multicultural nature of the school within the united university. He stated that the amendments did not affect the Hungarian section, and even some suggestions coming from the Hungarian side were incorporated into the operating rules. The rector regarded the criticism from the Hungarian side as political and stated that the university was not place for politics. MOGYE was founded as a Hungarian-language institution in 1945, and Romanian section was introduced in 1962, under the instruction of the Communist Party leadership, which gradually suppressed Hungarian medical training. In recent years, the University's governing bodies have operated with two-thirds of the Romanian instructors and sought to get rid of the Hungarian section.

24 October 2018

■ **The Civil Association for Dignity in Europe (ADEC), founded and lead by anti-Hungarian blogger Dan Tanasă, would also like to see the removal of the Hungarian plaque with the name of the Székely Mikó College in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe) from the facade of the educational institution**

■ The subject of the trial is the inscription on the facade of Mikó College. Last week, as a result of a final court ruling following ADEC claim, the Hungarian inscription Reformed Székely Mikó College was removed from the entrance of the school. Otherwise, the Supreme Court postponed the proclamation of the final judgment in the restitution proceedings involving Székely Mikó College buildings for 8 November by.

25 October 2018

■ **Judicial proceedings against the common property of Ozsdola (Ojdula) may prove unprecedented, with the financial authority trying to annul the title-deed - representatives in the local government from the Hungarian People's Party in Transylvania expressed their concerns.**

■ There is a risk that, if the lawsuit ends unfavorably for the common property, a general re-nationalization process might be launched for forest areas as well. Considering that there is common property in most of the Szekler villages and a large part of the population obtains firewood in this way, for example, the abolition of property rights would be a serious economic shock, and for many, the change of state of common property may cause financial problem.

29 October 2018

■ **Raoul Weiss, Alsatian linguist and reporter living in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) was unexpectedly banned for five years from Romania. On October 10 Weiss traveled to the Frankfurt Book Week to negotiate copyrights with foreign publishers at Alexandria Publishing House.**

■ On return at Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) airport he tried in vain to enter the country, he was prevented by the authorities. He presented his French identity card at the passport check point and the system signalled during control. The airport authorities informed him that he would not be allowed to enter Romania for five years under an expulsion order dated 11 September. No specific justification has been added to the ban, he was only told it had to do with national security risk.

29 October 2018

■ **In the report of the government inspection held at the town hall of Kovászna (Covasna), the city flag, which has been in use for several years, was declared illegal.**

■ The municipality has recently been obliged to remove the flag from the mayor's office and its subordinate institutions, and the mayor of Kovászna has complied with the decree. In the early 2000s, the local council of Kovászna adopted the flag of the city. As a result of a lawsuit, the Kovászna (Covasna) County Court and then the Appeal Court of Brassó (Braşov) labelled the city flag as illegal. This is the fate of the county flag and many other the flags of several settlements in the area. The persecution mainly affected the settlements of Kovászna and Hargita (Harghita) counties, while at the court hearing, the flag of Brassó was flying on the public building and nobody was bothered by it.

31 October 2018

■ **At this month's meeting of the Kovászna (Covasna) County Council, at the request of their Hungarian colleague, the Romanian national representatives refused to pay a minute's silence in honour and memory of the victims of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence.**

■ It is outrageous, as thousands of Hungarians have given their lives to put an end to communist dictatorship and alien invasion, and hundreds of thousands have become poverty-stricken. But there were also a good number of Romanians who joined the anti-communist resistance and therefore paid their lives or spent years in prison or in labor camps. Their descendants owe their freedom to those victims, nonetheless, they would refuse to honour them, the initiator said.

31 October 2018

■ **Romanian analyst considers the mother country support for Hungarian football teams in the Szeklerland a hybrid war element.**

■ Several Bucharest publicists and bloggers have been worried that Hungary would support the teams in the

Romanian football league, more precisely the football teams of the Szeklerland. In the articles the activity labelled as subversive by Romanian nation state ideologists was also quoted as: “arrogance by Hungary in the heart of Romania”.

1 November 2018

■ **Kovászna (Covasna) County Prefecture sanctioned the management of the village of Nagybacon (Băţanii Mari), because a black braid appeared on the Romanian national flag flown on the village hall.**

■ The black ribbon was in fact showing compassion for a deceased person. The deceased was one of the employees of the town hall, but the mayor was nonetheless fined for this action because the national flag cannot be allowed to be laid out like that, said the prefect.

20 November 2018

■ **Representatives of the common property in Ozsdola (Ojdula), do not understand why the Ministry of Finance, acting on behalf of the Romanian State, has filed an action for the annulment of a title-deed for the ownership of 2900 hectares of forest, and are fearing re-nationalization. The people of Ozsdola hired a lawyer, but they are confused about the situation, as their rightful property has been returned for 16 years.**

■ The Ministry of Finance in Bucharest put its eye on the forests of Ozsdola, returned to the Kovászna (Covasna) county for a decade and a half. According to many, the case may create a very dangerous precedent for re-nationalization, as tens of thousands of people in the Kovászna region, more than one hundred thousand people in the Szeklerland are involved in the operation of common property. “The obvious mischief that the Romanian state wants to follow is not a legal issue, but an attempt to enforce the political will of the invisible forces,” said the referent of the common property.

20 November 2018

■ **The Civil Forum of Kovászna (Covasna), Hargita (Harghita) and Maros (Mureş) counties issued a multi-page announcement detailing that the Hungarians are guaranteed “all rights” in Romania, while in the three counties with Hungarian majority “Romanians are suppressed”.**

■ A forum led by Ioan Lăcătuşu Moldavian-born archivist, known for his anti-Hungarian manifestations, states that in Romania, all institutional and legal frameworks are provided for minorities to preserve their linguistic, cultural and religious identity. And because it is typical for Hungarians to have political organizations and vote based on ethnicity, the local administrations in the three counties will only be lead by Hungarians. (Which is verifiable fact). The announcement calls upon the leaders of the Hungarian community and opinion formers to acknowledge that Romania has fully com-

plied with the “overly generous” statement in Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) and its international commitments.

21 November 2018

■ **Dan Tanasă, the “professional” informer attacked the Romanian theatre of Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), because on the 1st of December, on the centenary, it performs a comedy about the year 1918, based on the text of playwright Csaba Székely.**

■ The performance at Sepsiszentgyörgy is not the only one that has recently drew the attention of anti-Hungarian elements. Marius Paşcan, who became famous for his anti-Hungarian invectives at the beginning of November, criticized the poster of the drama “Mihály vitéz”, presented by the independent 3G Theater in Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureş), which depicts a pork-clo d resembling the map of Romania on a barbecue grid.

23 November 2018

■ **Dan Tanasă also filed a lawsuit against the inscription on Pro Urbe prizes awarded by the Municipality of Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureş). Not surprisingly, the court gave way to his appeal. One of the award-winners Attila Puskás, is already protesting against the decision, and the city management will also seek legal appeal.**

■ This time the notorious complainer calls attention to the fact that the language of the diploma is only Romanian in the case of the Romanian winners and only Hungarian in the case of Hungarian winners. The court passed the action of the “civil association” established by Tanasă on a first instance level and stated that the diplomas should only be issued in Romanian; after all this, it is not much of a relief that the court rejected the withdrawal attempt of the original diplomas and their resiiuing in Romania.

29 November 2018

■ **Despite the eight thousand signatures of enthusiastic civilians aiming to set up the statue of King Szent László in the redesigned main square of Nagyvárad (Oradea), the erection of the statue is not only uncertain in the main square, but also in the castle as a result the low-principled politics of RMDSZ/UDMR.**

■ From 1892, the bronze-cast work of István Tóth on the main square of Nagyvárad commemorated the founder of the town, but in 1923, the Romanian local government moved the statue from the main square to the garden of the bishop’s palace of the Roman Catholic Church. In his place, the statue of Romanian king Ferdinand, was erected, which was retrieved by the Romanians themselves after the Vienna decision of 1940. The statue was moved to Belényes (Beiuş), where it disappeared. After the fall of the Ceauşescu regime, the Romanian army set up on Szent László Square the horse statue of Michael Voivod of Valachia, who had nothing to do with Nagyvárad.

1 December 2018

■ In Kovászna (Covasna) county, three settlements have been left without mayors, and other local management employees are to follow. Due to an erroneously interpreted law, the National Integrity Agency (ANI) and the court continues beheading rural local governments.

■ A conflict of interest procedures were issued for the mayors concerned, as they had a family-owned, often inherited estate that they were working these properties with a private entrepreneurial license (PFA) as they needed such an authorization to apply for and receive EU financing for agricultural activity.

6 December 2018

■ “Happy birthday Romania, may you live long without Hungarians and Gypsies!” – these words were chanted by the crowd at Gyulafehérvár (Alba Iulia) celebrating the centenary of the annexation of Transylvania.

■ A scandalous December 1 case was also filmed. You can see a crowd of young and old, men and women, civilians and military officers marching equipped with the national flag chanting a chauvinist slogan: “România la mulți ani, fără unguri și țigani!”

7 December 2018

■ The traffic police imposed a fine on the mayor's office in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc) because, according to them, two new indicators placed at roundabouts do not meet the standards. The town hall did not pay, but filed a lawsuit.

■ According to the spokesperson of the Harghita (Harghita) County Police Headquarters, fines were imposed by the traffic police because the bilingual signs at the intersection with roundabouts do not comply with the relevant standards. The spokesperson noted that the problematic signs had been installed without the license of the traffic police, although this would have been required according to the regulations.

9 December 2018

■ Unknown perpetrators painted the Hungarian inscription on the nameplates of Kisszentlőrinc (Lăurenii), administratively belonging to Nyárádszereda (Miercurea Nirajului).

■ According to the information provided by the municipality, the citizens informed the mayor that the Hungarian inscription was painted in red paint on the village nameplates at the exit towards Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș). The bilingual name plate was set up by the officers of the Maros (Mureș) County Council. So far, there has been no similar manifestation of ethnic tension in the Hungarian majority Nyárádszereda and its associated settlements, representative of the local government declared on the Facebook page of the municipality.

11 December 2018

■ A so far unidentified young man placed an anti-Hungarian inscription on the freshly painted fence of Ady Endre High School in Bucharest. Such thing had not happened so far in the history of the only Hungarian school in the capital.

■ The masked culprit wrote the message “Urâm bozogrii” (“We hate Bozgors” –bozgor is a pejorative term used for the Hungarians, meaning homeless) on the wall. The young man was drunk, so much that he didn't try to escape when the school's headmaster took a photo.

13 December 2018

■ During the night from December 29 to 30, the Hungarian national-colored flag was once again vandalized at the headquarters of the Bihar (Bihor) county section of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ/UDMR), in the downtown of Nagyvárad (Oradea), in the passage of the Black Eagle Palace.

■ This time they didn't try to tear the flag like in the previous three cases, but to burn it, but finally it did not catch fire, while the perpetrators were disturbed by passers-by. Somebody made a cell phone recording of the incident, but the surveillance cameras also worked on the spot. Still No one would be surprised if the authorities were not be able to identify the offender who, according to the video appeared in social media, was member of a group of young Romanian people, and, as it is visible, is a lady.

31 December 2018

THE STRUGGLE OF FERENC RÁKÓCZI II ROMAN CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL HIGH SCHOOL IN MAROSVÁSÁRHELY (TÂRGU MUREȘ)

■ The Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) is only a few steps away from dissolution: in lack of a headmaster, the educational institution is unable to hand in its schooling plan for the school year 2017/2018, while the local administration has not yet carried out a vote in connection to the schooling network of the municipality.

■ Zsolt Tamási, who was under official supervision for another 60 days, succeeded in the exam for the post of director organized in autumn, the chief school inspector of Maros (Mureș) county refused to appoint him to the institution. Nadia Rață argued that the educational institution established by the Roman Catholic Status was not part of the school network of Marosvásárhely. This is solely the competence of the local government, but mayor Dorin Florea did not summon the December meeting of the council. The Civilians for the Catholic School Parental Initiative drew the attention of the

competent authorities to the fact that the deadline, until which the institutions may submit their enrollment plan to the school inspectorate expires on 11 January. A blocked situation was created, said Deputy General Inspector Ildikó Illés, who informed the ministry, the director of the mayor's office responsible for schools, and the local and Senate representatives of the RMDSZ (UDMR). "I only know if the council does not vote for the Catholic High School to be included in the school network, we can no longer talk about the enrollment plan, because there is no further move from there," she said. Gabriella Horváth, member in Maros (Mureș) county of the Association of Hungarian Teachers in Romania (RMPSZ), has recognized that their professional organization in this case is helpless. "We can only help our colleagues with advice, but the solution is in the hands of the local government, the chief school inspector and the ministry," she said. She added that the decision on the enrollment plan had to be taken by the school management board, but the document could only be signed by the director. On Monday, Balázs Izsák, chairman of the Szekler National Council and Gábor Cseh, vice-president of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvanian issued an open letter underlining: Inspector General Nadia Rață seriously violated the interests of education and pupils by refusing to appoint Zsolt Tamási to the position he earned by exam. As we have already reported, the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) has extended by sixty days the coercive measures in connection to Zsolt Tamási headmaster of the Roman Catholic High School of Marosvásárhely; he is not allowed to go to school, to contact those involved in the case and should seek permission from the prosecutor if he wants to leave the country. According to the prosecutor's office, Zsolt Tamási and Ștefan Someșan School Inspector General of Maros county facilitated the operation of the high school, knowing that the school did not have the necessary licenses for that. However, no one understands what has the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) to do with a presumed administrative malpractice.

10 January 2017

■ **The School Inspectorate of Maros (Mureș) county postponed the final decision on the enrollment plan for the Roman Catholic Theology High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) to 23 January.**

■ The draft was presented by the members of the board of teachers on Wednesday. The representative of the parents was also present at the delivery of the documents, and, as it turned out, Rodica Rânja, the responsible for school enrollment plans at the school inspectorate, was only willing to take over the Catholic school's enrollment plan after several hours of negotiations and to the pressure of the parents. Csengele Csíky, spokesperson of the organization Civilians for the Catholic School said, while the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Roma-

nia (UDMR) in Maros county represents the theoretical and political side of the case, they are dealing with the practical part. "It is not possible to operate a school only with political pacts, it is only possible to solve this situation in a lawful way, not by political means. In many things, the UDMR is helpless: they are waiting for a court decision, but the institution must continue to function until the legal procedure is terminated", Csengele Csíky said. According to civilians, the biggest problem is that the school does not have a headmaster.

13 January 2017

■ **The representatives of the RMDSZ (UDMR) in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) announced at the extraordinary meeting of the Council that they would not vote on the enrollment plan because the Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic Theological High School is not included. The conditions in which the school was established are examined by DNA.**

■ Claudiu Maior, mayor of Marosvásárhely, assured the parents that the situation of Roman Catholic Theological High School will be discussed next week at a meeting to which the representatives of the school inspectorate will be invited. "I can assure everyone that the mayor's office in Marosvásárhely has no interest in generating unjustified tension. We're working to find an acceptable solution for everyone", he said.

13 January 2017

■ **The case of the Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) could not be removed from the deadlock at the negotiations at the beginning of the week. Participants will continue to negotiate in the middle of the week.**

■ The case of the denominational school in Marosvásárhely discussed in the office of mayor Dorin Florea, was not removed from the deadlock. At the private meeting, the mayor tried to find a solution to the delicate matter the school found itself in, but the former Chief School Inspector of the county Dumitru Matei and Nadia Rață took a different position. The two leading teachers from the Liberal Party were proposing different solutions; the former, for example, suggested that the school that was founded a year ago should be reunited with the Romanian Unirea High School or assimilated into the Reformed College. "There is only one solution from the point of view of the RMDSZ/UDMR, namely that the school will continue to exist and operate individually", said Zsolt Csíki, local government representative.

17 January 2017

■ **Dorin Florea Mayor of Marosvásárhely, calls for the re-nationalization of the school building in Klastrom Street, which was restituted to the Church, and in which a Romanian high school is operating.**

■ According to the mayor, the only viable way would be to re-nationalize the Klastrom Street complex

regained by the Roman Catholic Church and the possible compensation for the loss of the building for the Church: "I repeat what I have already said five years ago, given that the Romanian Unirea High School is operation in the building is should be transferred to the city. The current owner, the Roman Catholic Status, could claim compensation under the laws in force." He suggested that the historic church give up the building in favour of the city. Florea argues that the local authority does not change its position on a school of national interests, as is sometimes the case with the church. As it is known, the Unirea High School occupies part of the building returned to the Roman Catholic Church under a lease contract. Dorin Florea, known for his political maneuvering, in the first half of the 2000s, without the knowledge of the municipality, tried to prevent the return of church buildings on its behalf. His initiative failed at that time, but it was good for time-consuming and creating tension. Eight years ago, he said that the Church should not deal with schooling but with churching. "The time has gone when the Church was at the center of everything. This went on during the Inquisition, but now we are living in a different world, the priests should understand" he argued in 2009 when he became a mayor. According to him, the restitution of school buildings served only individual ambitions, from which the community has absolutely no benefit. At that time, Florea promised to initiate the renationalisation of school buildings soon.

20 January 2017

■ **The three parents who had to present themselves at the headquarters of the DNA were interrogated about the establishment of the Catholic School in Marosvásárhely. Parents talk about intolerable abuse.**

■ After a couple of weeks of interruption, the prosecution of the parents of students studying at the Roman Catholic Theological School continued in the office of the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) in Marosvásárhely. In February, about a hundred parents were summoned to the special prosecutor's office. Csengele Csíky, spokesperson of Civilians for the Catholic School group speaks of intolerable abuse, and it is already apparent that Hungarian political organizations are unable to deal with this matter and are planning further civil action. According to Előd Kincses lawyer, it is evident that many people find that DNA, guided by secret services, does not listen to parents in order to find out the truth, but aims to frighten parents for preventing them from registering or sending their children to the Catholic school. The council of the Catholic school held an extraordinary meeting this day, but no tangible decision was made this time. After a three-hour meeting, the panel decided to set up a seven-member committee to find a legal solution for the school's operation until Thursday afternoon, and hold another extraordinary meeting afterwards.

20 January 2017

■ **Lucian Goga, prefect of Maros (Mureş) county found several procedural errors, including those related to the Roman Catholic High School, in a decision on the school network in the municipality of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş), and sent it back to the town hall.**

■ The decision was adopted by the representatives of Marosvásárhely at an extraordinary meeting on February 10, summoned by the advisers of the RMDSZ (UDMR) and the Free People's Party, because the school inspectorate was waiting for a decision on the school network, and it was important that the Roman Catholic Theological High School should be part of it. At the request of the City Hall, the prefect examined the decision before deadline, and the lawyers found several irregularities. Regarding the Roman Catholic High School, he complains that the DNA procedure is still going on and the situation is unclear. The Prefect also insisted that the representatives of the municipality of Marosvásárhely did not respect the legal deadline for convening and holding the extraordinary meeting. He also emphasized that the proposal on the school network should not be submitted by the council, but by the mayor's office to the school inspectorate, and then sent to the board when it is returned from the school inspectorate. Municipal representatives will return to the school network decision at their forthcoming meeting, and will accept it, taking into account the prefect's suggestions.

23 February 2017

■ **Parents are heard by the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) in the case of the Roman Catholic Theological High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş).**

■ DNA summons as witness those who have registered their children to the Roman Catholic High School two years ago. This is a clear intimidation by the special prosecutor's office, which is unacceptable in a state under government law. Registration is soon to begin, but at the moment four hundred Hungarian students do not know where they would start the 2017-2018 school year. In the absence of a judicial decision, there are attempts to make the operation of the Roman Catholic High School impossible, and it is unacceptable that with a simple decision taken by a prosecutor the school may be abolished. An unnamed parent complained that two policemen had called to their house summoning them to appear at the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office. He added that the procedure reminded him/her of the methods of the former Securitate, the Communist police. According to the portal, interrogation of one parent took one and a half hours, and the summoned persons were bound by confidentiality: they could not say what they had answered to the prosecutors' questions. He was interested in, among other things, what they know about the establishment of a Catholic school, why they registered their children to

the Catholic high school, whether voluntarily or on the suggestion of others.

24 February 2017

■ **According to the instructions of the Maros (Mureş) county School Inspectorate, the Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) cannot receive the registration of primary school students.**

■ Although the Catholic school appears on the list published on the homepage of the school inspectorate, there is no indication concerning which streets belong there based on circumscription. Instead, it is noted that this school cannot accept pre-enrollment for the 2017/2018 academic year. The National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) continued to annoy the parents, having heard already to more than a hundred parents. Előd Kincses who was present in the interrogation of one of the parents, said that DNA is clearly abusing of its authority. He added that the prosecutor's office was investigating an alleged violation of the law that would have taken place during the founding of the school, although the parents could in no way be asked about the circumstances of the institution, because they had nothing to do with it. He also made it clear that DNA, working beyond its remit, is attempting to intimidate parents, discourage them from sending their children to attend the Catholic high school. At the parents' request, the lawyer will turn to the National Judicial Council this week in connection to DNA bullying campaign.

28 February 2017

■ **The school inspectorate sent back the plan for the school network in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) to the local government. At the end of the two-hour meeting, Deputy Inspector General Ildikó Illés said: 26 schools were approved, eight schools – among them the Roman Catholic Theological High School – were not.**

■ The board of the educational institution, the parents' committee, and the representatives of the Civilians for the Catholic School group, set up by the parents, traveled to Bucharest, where they took part in discussions with András Király and Gabriel-Liviu Ispas, state secretaries of education. Csengele Csíky a member of the group who participated in the hearing, said: According to Király, the key to the solution lies with the local government, as a new school network should be established in Marosvásárhely, where the Catholic school is also present, and this falls in the authority and responsibility of the municipality.

29 March 2017

■ **The Prefecture asked the local government to withdraw the three council decisions aimed at solving the school situation on Monday. The RMDSZ (UDMR) is preparing to submit another decision at the Thursday meeting.**

■ According to the Maros (Mureş) County Prefecture, the three council decisions intended to settle the fate of the Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) are illegal. In the transcript sent to the local government, representatives of the government office state that all three decisions should be withdrawn, otherwise they will be challenged in the administrative court. One of them stipulates that the school inspectorate should amend the city school network plan for the 2017/2018 school year, including the Catholic school as independent legal personality. The second decision orders the correction of the decision adopted in 2014 that the council approves the establishment of a Catholic school. The third decision concerns the establishment of a committee to monitor the resolution of the school case. According to László Szövérfi, the notary of the City Hall, in the multi-page reasoning, the prefecture's lawyers draw the attention of the municipality to the fact that, according to the statutory provisions, a school can operate only with the permission of the ministry, and according to their interpretation this is missing from the documentation of the Catholic school. As far as the operation of the school is concerned and the creation of a committee for the control of its records is noted, it is acknowledged that not everything around the establishment of the school is completely legal, but there are shortcomings.

16 May 2017

■ **The impoverishment of the Roman Catholic high school is violating the human rights of the members of the school community in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) – said the Human Rights, Church and National Minorities Committee of the Bucharest House of Representatives.**

■ József Kulcsár-Terza, initiator of the hearing, said: a report is being prepared on the more than two-hour commission meeting, which will be sent to the Supreme Judicial Council (CSM) and the Ministry of Education to remedy the situation as soon as possible. "The school cannot be dismissed for the time of the prosecution investigation, the ministry has to find a practical solution to prevent the violation of the human rights to education, religion, free school choice during the legal procedure investigating the legality of the establishment of the school," said Csengele Csíky the spokesperson of the parents. She also added that now it seems certain that the school cannot start new classes this year, but at least they want to get continuity for the education in the already established classes and to sort out the legal status of the high school until the next enrollment period. Both the Hungarian political organizations in Romania and members of the Hungarian government have raised their voices against of the prosecution of the Roman Catholic community in Marosvásárhely, but the legal status of the school has not been clarified

ever since, while the educational authority and the local authority administering the school continue blaming each other for the situation.

8 June 2017

■ **In its first instance judgment, the Municipal Court of Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) has annulled the decision of the Maros (Mureș) County School Inspectorate, by which in 2015 the Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic Theological High School assigned the Hungarian section of Unirea High School to the Roman Catholic High School.**

■ In due time the decision of the school inspectorate was challenged in the administrative court both by the mayor's office of Marosvásárhely and by the parents' committee of Unirea High School. The court merged the two cases and gave way the applicants' claim. At the same time, it refused to allow a group of parents of the students who were transferred to the Catholic high school to join the case.

15 June 2017

■ **The Roman Catholic High School Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) came to the verge of dismissal after the court suspended the decision of the school inspectorate from 2015 that assigned the Hungarian section of Unirea High School to the Catholic High School.**

■ The situation of the Catholic High School was reported at the press conference of the parents of the children attending the school. Their statements were confirmed by Szilárd Székely, interim director of the institution. According to the data provided by the portal of the Romanian courts on 2 August, the Court of Marosvásárhely suspended the decision of the school inspectorate. On the basis of Wednesday's meeting with the Chief Inspector of Maros (Mureș) county, Szilárd Székely said that the Inspectorate is only waiting for the official dissolution of the sentence for the institution before he announces the dismissal of the school. Imola Zsigmond, who spoke on behalf of the parents, complained that the Romanian authorities misled those interested when, during the discussion with the papal nuncio at the end of last week he stated that new cycle classes could start in the school if there was a sufficient number of children. According to the mother, the parents who gave credit to the verbal promise of the Ministry of Education, were made fun of. Since the end of last week parents of 114 students gave declarations about their willingness to register their children to the Catholic High School. Parents learned from the Ambassador of the Vatican in Bucharest that they had been recruited to the school in vain, and that the institution was dismissed on the basis of a final court judgment delivered on August 2 but not yet published.

1 August 2017

■ **According to the Romanian Association of Hungarian Teachers (RMPSZ), the prevention of the operation of the school in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) is against Hungarian public education in Romania.**

■ The professional organization launched a call on Tuesday to invite responsible citizens to participate in a protest organized on Wednesday to settle the legal situation of the Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely. According to a resolution quoted by Botond Burus-Siklódi, head of the organization, it is regrettable and outrageous that the situation in the high school is still unresolved a week before the beginning of the school year. They recall that the right to education in the mother tongue, whether state or denominational, is guaranteed by the constitution of the country, and for the Hungarians living in minority, the institutions were and will be the centers for preserving and strengthening their identity. "The exercise of our minority rights is hampered by those who are hindering the implementation of all levels and forms of mother tongue education. The prevention of the operation of the Roman Catholic Theological High School in Marosvásárhely is against the public education of the Hungarian minority in Romania," states the RMPSZ. The organization invites every person sympathising with Hungarian public education in Romania to take part in the announced demonstration of the Roman Catholic Status Foundation in Transylvanian on the square in front of the Maros (Mureș) County Prefecture building equipped with a candle. The Szekler National Council believes that the cessation of the Catholic school in Marosvásárhely is an obvious example of state persecution against the Hungarian community in Romania. According to the organization, supporting the high school is the duty of every individual and organization thinking in the community and struggling for its benefit, therefore the Szekler National Council encourages all Hungarians in the Szeklerland to take part in the Wednesday demonstration and any action that promotes the school's legal operation.

6 September 2017

■ **Marius Pașcan Member of Parliament, initiated a review of the restoration of buildings hosting Unirea High School and the classes of the Catholic School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș). The church decides on Saturday the fate of the contract with the municipality.**

■ Marius Pașcan stated that he had asked the prefect Lucian Goga and mayor Dorin Florea to submit a request for a review of the restitution for the benefit of the Roman Catholic Church, as the institutions they led were competent to act on the matter. The representative referred to the position of the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA), which, based on a 2014 report, found that the restitution committee had illegally returned the school buildings in Marosvásárhely to the Roman

Catholic Archbishopry of Gyulafehérvár in 2004, but DNA also added that the case had lapsed and members of the restitution committee are no longer liable for questioning. In the main building of the former Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic High School today the Unirea High School, a Romanian language elite school is operating and its annexes are occupied by the classes of the Roman Catholic High School, operating under the umbrella of the Farkas Bolyai High School, and which were dismissed last week. The Roman Catholic Status Foundation, a church institution entrusted with the maintenance of the building, recalled that according to the 2014 lease contract signed with the Mayor's Office in Marosvásárhely, a Catholic school must also operate in the building complex. If this does not happen, then the lease with the local government will be terminated, which cannot be of use to anyone. The General Assembly of the Transylvanian Roman Catholic Status Foundation decides on Saturday whether the lease contract with the Municipality of Marosvásárhely following the dissolution of the Roman Catholic Theological School. The church trust institution recently pointed out that the decision of the Maros (Mureș) County School Inspectorate leading to the dissolution of the educational institution ensured the right of children to education – as the classes were transferred to the Farkas Bolyai Theoretical High School – but the parents did not have the right to free school choice. The status also complains that, to the suggestion of the Ministry of Education, the Maros County School Inspectorate incorporated the classes of the denominational school one by one into Bolyai High School rather than as a subunit.

15 September 2017

■ **The Regional Unit of the National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) summoned Constantin Șerban Iosifescu, the Head of the Romanian Quality Education Assurance Authority (ARACIP), Monica Cristina Anisie, the former Secretary of State of the Ministry of Education and some ministerial department leaders in connection to the establishment of the Roman Catholic High School in Târgu Mureș.**

■ According to sources close to DNA, the new case was separated from the legal procedure in which Ștefan Someșan, former Chief Inspector of Maros (Mureș) county, and József Tamási, former Director of the High School, were involved in connection to the establishment of the high school. According to the ARACIP survey, all the conditions were fulfilled for the establishment of the high school, although at that time only the decree of the then Chief Inspector Ștefan Someșan existed. In connection with the establishment of Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic Theological High School, DNA began investigation in November 2016, when it initiated criminal proceedings against Ștefan

Someșan, then Chief Inspector of Maros county, with suspicion of misbehavior and misconduct in office matter, and Zsolt József Tamási, Former Director of the Roman Catholic Theological High School. In June 2017, the Administrative Court of Maros County annulled the decision of the School Inspectorate to establish the High School. The decision of the administrative court has been appealed, but the decision that suspends the verdict of the school inspectorate remains in force until the final judgment. For this reason, at the beginning of the school year, the classes of the denominational school were transferred to the Farkas Bolyai High School.

6 November 2017

■ **The Maros (Mureș) County Court has annulled certain parts of the indictment in a lawsuit initiated by the DNA against the illegal establishment and operation of the Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș) by Zsolt Tamási, former school director and Ștefan Someșan, Maros County Chief Inspector.**

■ In the case of Zsolt Tamási and Ștefan Someșan, the court found the measurment dated November 3, 2016 unlawful and ruled out from the indictment.

6 January 2018

■ **The extremist nationalist Romanian politician Marius Pașcan, a representative of the People's Movement Party, said the "principles of local autonomy" are violated by the re-establishment of Ferenc Rákóczi II High School.**

■ Meanwhile, he and his companions at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș), relying on university autonomy, hinder the creation of an independent Hungarian section, and thus consciously and systematically seek to discourage Hungarian medical training – says the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș), which protests against this anti-Hungarian manifestation and points out that the right to education in the mother tongue is granted for everyone.

12 February 2018

■ **The National Liberal Party (PNL) raised constitutional protests against the draft law on the re-establishment of the Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureș).**

■ The Senate, as decision-making chamber, supported the re-establishment of the Hungarian-language institution abolished by the local authorities, supported by the social-liberal government majority, which was submitted to the Parliament by the RMDSZ (UDMR). According to the right-wing opposition party close to the head of state, it violates the basic law if the parliament acts as a founder of the school. Ludovic Orban

PNL chairman argued that, according to the Education Act, schools are based on a ministerial decision on the proposal of local authorities. In fact, what RMDSZ was unable to achieve in Marosvásárhely it tried to achieve from the “reds” in Bucharest.

13 February 2018

■ **The Constitutional Court of Bucharest approved the protest of Romanian opposition parties against the law establishing the Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş). According to the body, the law contradicts the constitutional principle of local autonomy.**

■ Valer Dorneanu, Chairman of AB, explained the decision by referring to the fact that the Parliament can only legislate in general terms and not regulate specific cases by law. “The Parliament cannot adopt a law that has legal consequences for a single legal entity, but this is the case here.” According to the Constitutional Court, the constitutional principle of local autonomy is contradicted by the decision of the re-establishment of the Roman Catholic High School; additionally the law also contradicts the principle of separation of powers, equality of laws and the role of the parliament in the Basic Legislation.

20 March 2018

■ **The ministerial decree on the re-establishment of the Catholic school in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) was published.**

■ The high school will operate as an independent legal institution from the 2018/2019 school year with the previously started classes, which – during the prosecution procedure on the legality of the establishment of the school in 2015 – were assigned to the Farkas Bolyai High School.

10 August 2018

■ **The People’s Movement Party is attacking in administrative court the decree of the Ministry of Education announced the re-establishment of the Ferenc Rákóczi II Roman Catholic High School in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş) – announced Marius Paşcan head of the organization.**

■ According to the representative, the ministry re-established the Catholic school in an unconstitutional manner and by disregarding the powers of the local government, ignoring the fact that a law with similar content adopted by Parliament was previously considered by the Constitutional Court to be in conflict with the Basic Law. The PMP will do its utmost to challenge the decision in the administrative court as soon as possible, and is ready to bring the case back to the Romanian Constitutional Court.

11 August 2018

■ **The Rákóczi Ferenc II Roman Catholic High School opened the school year in the Church of St. John the**

Baptizer, and then in the courtyard in downtown Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş).

■ The archbishop of Transylvania, György Jakubinyi, told us at the opening that it was only through international political pressure that the Roman Catholic High School could be re-established. He recalled that after 1989, Roman Catholics in Transylvania hoped to live in freedom and under the rule of law. Compared to this, they were disappointed that only twenty years later the church managed to regain the school buildings of Marosvásárhely nationalized in the communist dictatorship, and only two years later it was possible to start the Hungarian Roman Catholic school, which, however, was abolished shortly after its establishment. The Archbishop pointed out that Transylvanian Hungarian Catholics are minority both as Hungarians and as Catholics, but still insist on their rights. Unfortunately, the Church must always be ready for disillusionment – he said. According to Zsolt Tamási, headmaster of the school, there are ongoing “good-hearted” attempts to cause the school difficulties, but they have to put up with it. According to him, the aim of such action is to awaken the feeling of fear and uncertainty in the community. As for the school and the Roman Catholic Church, Marius Paşcan, Executive Director of the People’s Movement Party, made further accusations over the weekend, saying that the removal of the Romanian Unirea High School from the building returned to the church is being planned. Paşcan’s accusation relies on a letter in which the Catholic Church asks the City Hall to provide the students who study in Unirea with the right conditions for learning – specifically the building wing. The Senator’s statement was denied by both the town hall and the church.

September 11, 2018

■ **Although the Rákóczi Ferenc II Roman Catholic High School operates smoothly, its director, Zsolt Tamási, fulfills his duty as culprit after the abuse of Romanian law enforcement authorities.**

■ “Whatever can happen, we do not know what to expect,” said Csongor Gogolák, lawyer of Zsolt Tamási to press enquiry. The National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) initiated proceedings against Zsolt Tamási for the establishment of a Roman Catholic school. The accusation is, among other things, that the school was illegally established with his involvement thus causing damage to Unirea High School and to students enrolled in the Catholic school. Although parents have already stated on several occasions that they do not consider themselves and their children to be insulted, the court has not taken this into account. The case of Zsolt Tamási is going on in the second instance of the Appeal Court in Marosvásárhely (Târgu Mureş), and he does not know what outcome, if any, 2019 might bring.

28 December 2018