

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
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## Only strong, self-respecting nations can stand their ground against imperial threats

Marking the 171th anniversary of the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán issued a written message to Hungarians around the world. On the eve of 15 March – the day of the birth of Hungarian freedom – Mr. Orbán paid his respects to all his Hungarian compatriots and wished them an uplifting celebration. The Prime Minister wrote that “March the fifteenth 1848 is the symbol of our freedom, our national independence and our unity as a nation. Wherever in the world we may live, on this day our hearts beat together in unison, we wear the national colors on our lapel, and together we acclaim the ‘Youth of March’. We remember the heroes who bravely avowed ‘homeland before all else’, and gave witness of this on the battlefields in their fight for freedom.” Mr. Orbán added that 171 years ago these four words changed the fates of millions of Hungarians, and “have taught us ever since that we can only win if we proudly embrace our language, our culture and our national symbols.” He stated that “Just as in 1848, it is true today that only strong, self-respecting nations that act together for their future can stand their ground against imperial threats.

## Zsolt Semjén: the life path of the awardees is an example for the entire nation

Marking the anniversary of the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén presented state awards to the representatives of nationalities living in Hungary, Hungarians living abroad and representatives of church life. Speaking at the event, the Deputy Prime Minister stressed that a nation can remain only if its members “know that it is worth being member of that nation”, and they are proud to be members of that nation. Mr. Semjén stressed that these awards have “nation-preserving force” and their aim is to make Hungarians proud, awarding the most outstanding Hungarian achievements.



## Zsolt Semjén: the message of Arad is that Hungarians want to remain

Speaking at a commemoration in Arad marking the 171st anniversary of the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsolt Semjén stressed that the message of the 1848 Revolution was that Hungarians must survive in their homeland. Mr. Semjén added that while both the 1848 and 1956 revolutions failed, they brought Hungary recognition and changed the country’s future. The Deputy Prime Minister added that “without 1848 there wouldn’t have been a national revival or an Austro-Hungarian Compromise, and without 1956 there communism would not have fallen”. Mr. Semjén called March 15 Hungary’s “dearest and purest national holiday”.



After the commemoration in Arad, the Deputy Prime Minister took part in the central March 15 commemoration of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) in Nagyvárad/Oradea, held in front of the statue of Imre Szacsuvay. Addressing the event, Mr. Semjén stressed that the message of the heroes of the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution is to express our political will and protect our values and interests in Europe, adding that it is especially important today, before the EP elections.

### The heroes of the 1848-49 Revolution and War of Independence set an example of patriotism

In a statement to Hungarian news agency MTI on Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said that Mr. Szijjártó had sent a video message to Hungarians living outside Hungary, which was played at every embassy and consulate general at their events marking the March 15 national holiday. In the message, the Minister stressed that “the heroes of the 1848-49 Revolution and War of Independence set an example of patriotism. We must also draw strength from their example, as our security, Christian culture and national identity are under threat”. In his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade said that while paying our respects to the heroes of the 1848-49 Revolution and War of Independence, we can see that they knew how to decide and act. He added that “Their homeland occupied the first place in their hearts: they wanted to shake off imperial oppression, they fought for the country’s freedom and independence; and, if needed, they even sacrificed their lives for these ideals. Their acts of heroism changed history, and had an important effect on what we think about ourselves and what others think of us”. Mr. Szijjártó added that “If we do not fight for the country, if we do not protect Hungarian national interests ourselves, then others will not do it for us.”

### Péter Szijjártó: The Hungarian peoples have a future as a community that insists on its national identity and faith

“The pupils, teachers and parents’ association of the Roman Catholic Secondary School in Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureş are proof of the fact that the Hungarian peoples have a future as a community that insists on its national identity and faith.” These were the words of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó on Thursday, as he became the first person to receive the Rákóczi Award since the school was re-established last year. The school’s leadership bestowed the award on the Hungarian Foreign Minister for his role in saving and reopening the institution. In his laudation, director Zsolt Tamási thanked the Hungarian Government for its diplomatic efforts, which proved decisive in reopening the school, after a Romanian government decree and a lengthy legal dispute. In his speech to the institution’s pupils and teachers, Mr. Szijjártó underlined: “It was the duty of the Hungarian Government to stand up for the Hungarian Catholics of Marosvásárhely, who are insisting on their national identity and faith, and in support of the school’s teachers”.



### Zuzana Caputová wins the first round of the Presidential election in Slovakia

The candidate of the oppositional liberal parties Zuzana Caputová won the first round of the Presidential election in Slovakia, obtaining 40.57% of the votes. According to the final results of the first round of the election, Ms. Caputová managed to win in every county (eight counties). Maros Sefcovic took the second place, winning 18.66 % of the votes. Election turnout was 48.74%. Turnout in the southern regions of the country – where Hungarians live in a high number – was significantly lower than the national average. The candidate of the Most-Híd (Bridge) Slovak-Hungarian mixed party Béla Bugár received 3.1% in the election.



### Hungarians must not forego their role as equal partners

Speaking at the 15 March central commemoration in Szabadka/Subotica, State Secretary for EU Relations at the Prime Minister's Office Judit Varga stressed that the Hungarian people around the world must never forego their role as equal partners. Ms. Varga highlighted that Hungary respects states which hold views different from its own, and does not wish to interfere in what others do in their own native lands; but at the same time it expects to be allowed to decide itself on issues that fall within national competence. The state secretary stressed that "During its existence of a thousand years, Hungary has always been an integral part of the community centered on European values, and will remain so in the future." She added that "The history of our country is closely connected to the European identity, and we have been members of the family of Christian European peoples for a thousand years. We belong to Europe; this is beyond dispute, even if there are some who try to call this into question. Also according to our National Avowal laid down in our Fundamental Law, we are proud that over the centuries our people has defended Europe in a series of struggles and enriched Europe's shared values with its talent and hard work." Mrs. Varga added that "We also believe that our national culture is a rich contribution to the diversity of European unity". The State Secretary stressed that, as in 1848, today the Hungarian people stand up for their independence with words of reason, and call people's attention to the fact that "our security, our freedom and our Christian culture are in danger".



### Ukrainian President holds campaign events in Transcarpathia

On Friday Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko made an official visit to Transcarpathia. During his stay in the region, the President visited several towns, where he gave campaign speeches. In one of his speeches, the President thanked



Transcarpathian soldiers for taking an active part in the “suppression of Russian aggression.” In the afternoon, the President held a campaign event at Petőfi Square in Uzhhorod/Ungvár. As a result of this, the local Hungarian community was unable to hold its traditional March 15 commemoration marking the anniversary of the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight, which is always held in Petőfi Square.



### Árpád János Potápi: Hungarians do not like being told by others how to live their lives

In Canada’s Edmonton and Calgary, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi took part in commemorations marking the anniversary of the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight. Speaking at the events, Mr. Potápi stressed that Hungarians do not like being told by others how to live their lives, and he described March 15 as “the birthday of Hungarian freedom.” Referring to the upcoming elections to the European Parliament, the state secretary said that in May Hungarians can decide whether “we can protect our sovereignty from oppressive European powers or have to implement a central plan”. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Potápi said that he had met local Hungarian leaders in Edmonton and Calgary, and visited churches and weekend schools. He said it was uplifting to meet young children who sometimes speak better Hungarian than their parents, and this was “partly thanks to the weekend schools operated with the support of the Hungarian government”.

### Péter Szilágyi: March 15 is a symbol of unity that transcends our differences

Speaking at a March 15 commemoration in Los Angeles, Ministerial Commissioner responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that “March 15 is a symbol of unity that transcends our differences.” A statue of King Stephen – who is considered to be the founder of the Hungarian state – was inaugurated during the event, which was held in a local church named after the King. In his speech, Mr. Szilágyi highlighted the participation in the American Civil War by Hungarian émigrés who fled after 1849. The ministerial commissioner stressed that Hungarians did not forget their roots and took an active part in the creation and prosperity of modern America.” Mr. Szilágyi stressed that many years ago Lajos Kossuth asked Hungarians to fight for Hungarian freedom with all their strength, adding that this request is still valid today.

### Katalin Szili attends Hungarian commemoration in Washington

Speaking at the central March 15 commemoration of the Hungarian community in Washington, Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili stressed that the aim of the current Hungarian Government is to have a Hungarian future in the Carpathian Basin in future years. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Mrs. Szili stressed that nowadays national commitment is very important. The Prime Ministerial



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Commissioner recalled the famous 12 points of the Hungarian Revolution, and stressed the great importance today of their first line: "Let there be peace, liberty and concord."

