

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

23/2019



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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Astonishing provocation at the Úzvölgye military cemetery

A violent act of provocation occurred at the Úzvölgye military cemetery on Thursday afternoon. Nearly one thousand Szekler citizens and public figures had formed a human chain in front of the military cemetery to prevent an Orthodox religious service and wreath-laying ceremony at the crosses, which had been announced by the local mayor's office to mark Heroes' Day. The crowd of Romanian protesters who assembled for this purpose violently broke through the human chain and into the cemetery, desecrating Hungarian graves and committing acts of vandalism. Parliamentary State Secretary and Deputy Foreign Minister Levente Magyar told the Hungarian news agency MTI that "The Hungarian Cabinet has submitted a letter of protest to the Romanian Cabinet". He added that "In the letter, the Government calls on its Romanian counterparts to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the affair and to comply with the relevant international obligations". The State Secretary said that it is unacceptable that Romania tolerates such outrages, the "barbarism" of which recalls the most savage provocation against Hungarians in the past. Hungarian President János Áder has said that the incident in the military cemetery was blasphemous, a violation of laws and international agreements, and also deeply immoral. Mr. Áder was speaking to Hungarian journalists after attending the Pentecost Mass in Csíksomlyó (Șumuleu Ciuc). On Monday, Hungary's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade told the Hungarian news agency MTI that on Monday Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó had engaged in further talks on the telephone with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Meleșcanu. According to the statement, the Romanian Foreign Minister informed his Hungarian counterpart that the Romanian Ministry of Defense has taken control of the cemetery, and the Hungarian minister took note of the decision.

József Csaba Pál at the Csíksomlyó Pentecost Pilgrimage: "the world will admire us if we unite"

Pilgrims were in a pre-Pentecost mood on Saturday when they arrived at the traditional Csíksomlyó Pentecost Pilgrimage and gathered at Somlyó Hill, where a Papal Mass had been celebrated the previous Saturday. This was the second time in June that pilgrims had filled "the Saddle" among the hills. President János Áder and Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén were in attendance, as they had been for the Papal Mass the previous week. In his sermon, Bishop of Temesvár/ Timișoara József Csaba Pál stressed that if we listen to the words of our patron saint, the Virgin Mary of Csíksomlyó, the world will admire the Hungarian nation just as they admire Switzerland. He said that Switzerland is successful because it has followed the words of its patron saint Nicholas of Flüe and avoided all wars: "The world will admire not only Switzerland, but us too, if we unite."



Horseback pilgrimage for Hungarian families abroad

Nearly 150 pilgrims participated in the horseback pilgrimage to the Csíksomlyó Pentecost Pilgrimage; the event is closely connected to the “2019 – Year of Hungarian Children Abroad” launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. On Friday participants were presented with a medallion by State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi. He added that the State Secretariat supports the initiative to revive traditions and promote horse breeding, as equestrian sports and keeping horses have a strong role in building communities. In Tusnádfürdő/ Băile Tușnad the State Secretary himself joined the riding team arriving from Háromszék.



FUEN's 70th Anniversary Congress set to begin on Wednesday in Slovakia

At the initiative of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), the board of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) decided to hold its 70th jubilee congress from 12 to 16 June in Slovakia, in Pozsony/Bratislava and Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda. The congress will be co-organized and hosted by the Party of the Hungarian Community in Slovakia (MKP). FUEN is the largest indigenous national and ethnic minority umbrella organization in Europe, with over a hundred member organizations from thirty-five European countries. The increasingly dynamic organization, that has been present in EU forums, has raised attention with the Minority SafePack project, which is aimed at protecting European minorities.



Present for families with small children

As part of the “2019 – Year of Hungarian Children Abroad” in Csantavér/ Čantavir and Zombor/Sombor Last Wednesday, Head of Diaspora Department at the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad Judit Szabó-Pirityi presented baby packages to parents, whose babies were born last year and who applied for maternity benefits in the “Umbilical Cord Program”. President of the Hungarian National Council Jenő Hajnal and head of the Executive Committee of the Hungarian National Council (MNT) Anikó Jerasz participated in the event. Ms. Szabó-Pirityi added that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad has presented 6,600 baby packages for babies born in the Carpathian Basin.



The Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) names candidates for the early election in Ukraine

In Beregszász/Beregovo on Saturday the KMKSZ decided to nominate three of its leaders as individual candidates for Ukraine's early parliamentary election on 21 July



2019. At the sitting held in the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, the board of the organization unanimously decided to nominate President of the KMKSZ and member of the Ukrainian parliament, László Brenzovics and Vice-Presidents József Barta and Géza Gulácsy as candidates in constituencies with headquarters in Ungvár and Munkács. All three constituencies include municipalities with Hungarian habitants, but the proportion of ethnic Hungarian constituents is lower than Ukrainians. In his report about the political situation in Ukraine László Brenzovics said that KMKSZ has been negotiating with the parties “Servant of the People” and “Opposition Bloc – for life”, both of which support Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky about possible places on the list, but without success. Therefore the Hungarian organization has decided to stand its candidates in individual constituencies.

