

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE
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The Hungarian government will finance the reconstruction of Szekler martyrs' monument

Speaking at a commemoration on the 251st anniversary of the Massacre at Madéfalva (Siculicidium) on Wednesday, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian government would finance the reconstruction of the memorial of Szekler martyrs in Madéfalva/Siculeni (central Romania). The state secretary highlighted that 251 years ago the most important political aim of the Szeklers was the same as today: self-determination and autonomy. He added that self-determination must also be "the framework and guarantee of permanence" today. Mr. Potápi said that "this is the reason why the Hungarian government supports the Szeklers' inalienable right to autonomy."

The Massacre at Madéfalva (in Latin Siculicidium "murder of Szeklers") was a mass murder committed against Szeklers by the Habsburg army in 1764, under Maria Theresa. In 1760 the Habsburg monarch Maria Theresa ordered the re-establishment of the Szekler border guards. The Szeklers complained that according to the new rules they would also have to serve abroad, under German-speaking control, and would not be able to regain their earlier fundamental freedoms for their military service. A 2500-strong group of Szeklers gathered in Madéfalva and adopted a petition of protest addressed to Maria Theresa. On 7 January 1764 the soldiers of the Habsburg monarchy stole into Madéfalva and massacred the Szeklers gathered in the village. According to official reports the number of victims was two hundred, while other sources claim it reached four hundred.

Hunor Kelemen remains the president of the RMDSZ

The current president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen has announced that he will reapply for presidency of the party at the assembly for re-election of party officials scheduled for April. Responding to journalists' questions, Mr. Kelemen said that he decided to apply for the position again after having consulted with his colleagues, and having evaluated both the achievements of the RMDSZ over the past 4 years and the party's future expectations. The RMDSZ assembly for re-election of officials will be held on 17-18 April in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca. So far Hunor Kelemen is the only candidate for the post.

László Tőkés would create a new Hungarian unity

At a press conference held in Nagyvárad/Oradea on Friday, the head of the Transylvanian Hungarian National Council (EMNT) László Tőkés initiated the creation of a strategic partnership between Transylvanian Hungarian political organizations and urged the establishment of a "new Transylvanian Hungarian unity." Mr. Tőkés said that the representatives of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP), the Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party (EMNP), the EMNT and the Szekler National Council (SZNT) who are committed to national self-determination "must take the courageous step of initiating



dialogue and reaching an agreement for the realization of their common national interest and aims.”



Local governments will receive the Hungarian translation of Slovak laws

Several Slovak laws on local governments will become available in Hungarian for Hungarian municipalities and their representative bodies in Slovakia. The printed translations of the documents concerned will soon be sent to ethnic Hungarian towns, due to an initiative by the Pro Civis civic association. Through its latest initiative Pro Civis intends to assist in the work of the local governmental bodies of Slovakia's Hungarian towns, while the association's long-term aim is for administration in the mother tongue to be common and natural practice in regions where Hungarians live. The president of Pro Civis Péter Őry said that 3200 copies of the material has been sent to 512 local governments, i.e. to the local council (formed after the municipal elections in November 2014) of every town in Slovakia in which Hungarians form at least 20 percent of the population.



Zsolt Semjén: Hungary will not be party to anything that endangers Hungarians living in Transcarpathia

On Monday Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin attended a ceremony for the inauguration of a statue of Maria Theresa in Transcarpathia's Ungvár/Uzhhorod. At a press conference held after the ceremony, the minister made an astonishing statement, saying that "Ukraine must soon fine Ukrainian citizens who cross the EU-Ukraine border as dual citizens." The minister said that Hungary and Ukraine would introduce joint passport checks on their common border and "the practice of dual citizenship would be ended." He added that "Everyone must respect the laws of Ukraine."

In reaction to the Ukrainian foreign minister's statement, Hungary's Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that "Hungary will not be party to anything that endangers the interests of Hungarians living in Transcarpathia."

The head of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) and member of the Ukrainian Parliament László Brenzovics has said that his party is not expecting changes concerning the issue of dual citizenship in Ukraine and they do not anticipate that Transcarpathian Hungarians who cross the EU-Ukraine border as dual citizens will be punished. Mr. Brenzovics added that "the issue of dual citizenship in Ukraine is a hotly debated one." He said that "We, the members of the KMKSZ – and many other people in the country – do not agree with the standpoint of the foreign minister, since we consider that neither the Constitution of Ukraine nor Ukrainian law prohibits or sanctions dual citizenship."