

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Call for applications for Transcarpathian Hungarian journalists

On Tuesday, at a press conference held in Budapest, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi announced that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad invites the applications of Transcarpathian Hungarian journalists working in printed or electronic media and staff assisting in journalists' work, providing them with an opportunity to receive financial assistance from Hungary. The state secretary stressed that it is of crucial importance that news affecting the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia are published by the press in order to inform people living in the region. Mr. Potápi highlighted that in the recent period, the Hungarian Government stood up for the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia very firmly, and has been making every effort to help them financially as well. As examples, the state secretary mentioned financial support Hungary ensures for Hungarian school and kindergarten teachers, teachers of music schools, Hungarians working in the field of health care, as well as priests and catechists. Speaking at the press conference, government commissioner István Grezsa said that Transcarpathian Hungarian journalists can apply with newspaper articles or TV/radio reports which were published or broadcast between 1 April and 31 October 2016. He added that about 160 Transcarpathian Hungarian journalists are expected to participate in the program.

## Hungary commemorates the fourteen martyrs of 6 October 1849

On Thursday morning, 6 October 2016, the Hungarian national flag was hoisted with full military honors at Kossuth Square in front of Hungary's Parliament building in Budapest on the anniversary of the 1848-49 Revolution and War of Independence and the Memorial Day for the Martyrs of Arad. The flag remained at half-mast throughout the national day of mourning as a sign of respect. The commemoration was attended by diplomatic guest and country officials, including President of the Republic János Áder and General-In-Chief of the Hungarian armed forces Tibor Benkő. Later in the day, at a commemoration in Budapest, President János Áder said that the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence remains the purest source of Hungarians' national identity.

On this fall day Hungarian communities across the Carpathian Basin and the world commemorate the thirteen martyr generals of Arad and the country's first Prime Minister, Lajos Batthyány, who were all executed in 1849 as a result of the brutal reprisals that followed Hungary's revolution and war of independence in 1848/1849. The generals were captured by the Austrian army and executed to make sure that Hungary will never again rebel against the Habsburg realm.





### “We must strengthen the culture of freedom!”

On 6 October, several commemorations were held throughout Transylvania, remembering the 167th anniversary of the cruel suppression of the 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence. The central commemoration – similarly to the past years – was held in Arad. The program of the commemoration began with a holy mass at the Roman Catholic Church of the town, which was held by archpriest and parson Péter Kovács. After the mass, the participants marched to the Statue of Liberty. The main speaker of the commemoration was the head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen, who said that every European nation had to fight its own war of independence. He stressed that “the process of becoming a nation and the desire for freedom – which led to freedom fights – went hand in hand during the history, especially since the French Revolution.” The president of the RMDSZ added that Hungarians were not an exception. Mr. Kelemen stressed that the precedent of the 13 martyrs of Arad is still “topical” for the Hungarian minority living in Transylvania.

### “Our symbols are the most important expressions of our identity”

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a székelykapu (“Szekler gate”) in Transylvania’s Felsősfalva/Ocna de Sus, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Dr. Péter Szilágyi said that “Today our symbols are the most important expressions of our identity, and by preserving them, we do not just preserve our past, but also express our belonging to our community.” The deputy state secretary said that the preserved, renovated and newly built Szekler gates express the special culture of Szeklers within the Hungarian culture. The building of the Szekler gate which was inaugurated on Saturday, was initiated by the National Association of Transylvanian Circles and the Tolna County Association of Transylvanian Hungarians. The building was financially supported by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office.

### Court’s final decision annuls a fine on the mayor of Erdőszentgyörgy

The Court of Justice of Maros/Mureş County abolished a fine of RON 5,000 (EUR 1,110) which was imposed last year by the prefecture on the mayor of Erdőszentgyörgy/Sângeorgiu de Pădure for placing the Hungarian and Szekler flags on the façade of the headquarters of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) in the town. The fine was imposed on the mayor and local board member of the RMDSZ Attila Zoltán Csibi in January 2015, because he did not obey and did not remove the Hungarian and Szekler flags from the façade of the building. The building in which the RMDSZ operates its office, is owned by the church. The representatives of the prefecture wrote in the fining protocol that by hoisting the “flag of the Szeklers and Hungarians”, the mayor of the town violated Romania’s government resolution on the use of the Romanian flag.



## MKP: Slovakia's decision is a serious step back in the field of court language use

According to the legal experts of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP), Slovakia violated an important international committal when it decided that instead of the state, the members of national minorities should pay the costs of the translation of written evidence during civil proceedings. With regard to language rights, the legal experts of the MKP draw the attention of the representatives of state authorities – especially Slovakia's Minister of Justice – to the fact that the members of the Hungarian community living in Slovakia pay taxes to the state just like any other Slovakian citizen, therefore, they pay for the costs of the translation. The MKP found Slovakia's decision appalling and compared it to anti-minority measures which were adopted during the Fico-Slota-Mečiar government.



## Statue of military general and martyr Ernő Kiss unveiled in Vojvodina

On the memorial day of the Martyrs of Arad, a commemoration was held in Vojvodina's Elemér. As part of the commemoration, a requiem mass was held at the Saint Augustine Church, followed by different programs. As part of the ceremony, a recently erected statue of military general Ernő Kiss was unveiled. Ernő Kiss was one of the 13 martyrs who were executed in Arad on 6 October 1849. On behalf of the kin-state, Ambassador of Hungary to Belgrade Dr. Attila Pintér delivered a speech. On 6 October, Hungary's national day of mourning, commemorations were held in several other towns and villages of Vojvodina as well.



## Hungarians in Transcarathia commemorate the Arad martyrs in Nagyszőlős

Speaking at the central 6 October commemoration of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia held in Nagyszőlős/Vinohradiv, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the example of the Arad martyrs has a clear message for us, Hungarians of the 21st century: "if we want to survive and want to preserve our freedom, we have to act." The central commemoration in Transcarpathia was held at the secondary school of Nagyszőlős, which is named after a famous Hungarian politician who was born in the region, Zsigmond Perényi. Mr. Perényi was the Speaker of the House of Magnates in 1849 and was also executed that year because of his active participation in the Hungarian revolution and war of independence. In his speech, the state secretary stressed that "the heroes Hungary



remembers today were of different ethnicity and background, but all of them had Hungarian hearts.” Mr. Potápi added that while 167 years ago Hungarians had to fight with weapons, today they have with actions. He stressed that the Transcarpathian Hungarian community is excellent in this 21st century fight.



### Árpád János Potápi: Áron Márton is a role model for the entire nation

On Saturday, an exhibition presenting the life and work of Transylvanian Hungarian Catholic Bishop Áron Márton was open at the Hungarian House in Innsbruck. Speaking at the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that “Áron Márton firmly believed that he bears responsibility for his nation.” Mr. Potápi said that in December 2015, his state secretariat decided to launch the Áron Márton Memorial Year with the aim to present the exemplary life of the bishop for widest possible circle. He added that during the various programs of the memorial year, they felt several times that the bishop “is still working today: he is able to connect Hungarians living in different parts of the world.” Mr. Potápi stressed that with the memorial year they would like to encourage the beatification and canonization of bishop Áron Márton.

