

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE HUMAN RIGHTS HUNGARIANS CENTRAL-EUROPE

“An old Flemish man is denied service at the city council of a Flemish community, because he does not speak French”.

“At the entrance of Frisian cities signs are placed, stating that Dutch is the only official language, speakers of the Frisian language are bullied by the government”

“Swedish speaking autonomous Finns are molested on the street, because they speak their mother tongue. They are subject to ruthless violence.”

“The south Tyrolean police speaks Italian only. German speaking inhabitants of south Tyrol, experience serious problems based on their Italian language skills. In fact, because of the language barriers, they have fewer rights as citizens “

These scenarios were unthinkable in the Benelux, in Europe or in the society in which I was raised. Although I was born and raised in the Netherlands. My mother tongue is Hungarian; this is because my mother is Hungarian speaking. I also spent most of my time in Hungary till the age of 5 years.



(This sign at the entrance of Kolozsvár Cluj-Napoca, states that Romanian is the official language.)

At the age of fifteen, during the tumultuous nineties, I was in the search of my own identity, just like any teenager would be. This is why I spent a small year in Hungary and I attended school there. The iron curtain

was fallen; the wall of Berlin just disappeared. (November 1989) In Hungary the transition took place. The red star above the Hungarian parliament was being lighted anymore as of November the 23rd. Although I could not really understand these political changes, I noticed the changed mood of people and concluded that these days were exiting days. In those days the Romanian revolution started, because of the brave acts of the ethnic Hungarian priest László Tőkés in Temesvár (Timisoara). That summer went to Romania in the same, to Transylvania (Erdély). I was the guest of people that lived in Mezőpanit, near the city of Marosvásárhely. In this city almost 50 % of the population is Hungarian speaking.



(Hungarian community in Bözödújfalu destroyed during the Ceauseșcu regime, all that remains is the skeleton of the church.)

Some months earlier a pogrom against the Hungarians. had been arranged in Marosvásárhely (Tirgu Mures) Many people got injured and some even got killed. As a result of these absurd events there was quite a hostile and horrifying atmosphere in this city. During a train trip I got a lot of garbage thrown at me by angry Romanians. The only reason for this was the fact that they overheard us speaking in Hungarian. My polite request for a post stamp for my postcard in a post office was answered by a high volume of yelling and unhidden disgust. I was confronted with a kind of aggression and anger that I could really not understand. All I did was very politely asking

for a post stamp, in a language, which is the mother tongue of 50 % of the inhabitants. The atmosphere that was ruling this city was indescribable. Hungarians noticing that I was not born in Transylvania came to me and expressed their fears and sorrows. With my Dutch set of mind it was incomprehensible, what these people had to go through. I was sixteen years of age and did not see much of the World yet. I was flabbergasted about what I saw. Upon my arrival in the Netherlands I noticed that only a very few people were aware of the peculiarities of the Romanian society.



(Native art of the szekler people Parajd, Hargitha.)

There was absolutely no interest for these problems in the Netherlands. Srebrenica had not occurred yet. The reactions to my story were all like “Those things occurred in Romania”, “it is another kind of World and it is not really of our concern”. Romania became a full member of the European Union since 1-2007 and Slovakia joined earlier in 1-2004. This led to a new kind of situation. These problems are now actually European problems and consequently not of Hungarian concern only, but in fact the concern of all European citizens.



(The autonomous languages of Europe are different from the political borders Source: Eurominority.org)

It is our duty to make sure that Europe becomes a society where the law rules and not the ghosts of the first and second world war. Europe must be a society where all people are equal and were discrimination based on race or ethnicity is banned.

More than 17 years after the collapse of the iron curtain a big part of the autonomous Hungarians is still living as second class citizens on the land where their ancestor's graves lay.

The limitation of their rights is mostly on the basis of the mother tongue. The foundation Human Rights Hungarians has the intention to engage activities that result to the compliance of the rights of the Hungarian speaking population in Central-Europe. These rights are written down in several international, European and bilateral treaties. The foundation will monitor these treaties and will not hesitate to report violations of these rights at the competent institutions of the European Union and the Benelux.

More information about the foundation can be found at the webpage of the foundation. By this way I would like to ask the reader to support our foundation. Supporting the foundation is tax deductible from your Dutch income tax. Each supporter receives a free copy of Hungarian Revival by László Marác; the book has a foreword written by László Tőkés.

Those who are interested can also buy this book on the website of the foundation Contact:

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