

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
AND JUSTICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

**NPKI** | NEMZETPOLITIKAI  
KUTATÓINTÉZET  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



### Abolition of the Ukrainian language law is a step backwards

According to Secretary of State for Public Administration and Justice Bence Rétvári, Hungary does not and cannot recognize the abolition of Ukraine's language law, since this is an obvious step backwards for Transcarpathian Hungarians. This was one of the main points emphasized by Mr. Rétvári at the conference "Law enforcement in practice – from Szeklerland to Vojvodina" at the Magyarság Háza, Budapest. He recalled that the situation in Transcarpathia had never been idyllic, and the language law had only been practiced to a limited extent, but its abolition is an obvious step backwards. He added that Hungary is glad to support the expansion of democracy in Ukraine, but this process must not lead to the infringement of rights – especially rights acquired by other groups of people. Mr. Rétvári said that the freedom of the majority nation can only be fully realized if Hungarian minorities' freedom is complete.

### Hungary offers assistance

On Sunday the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Hungary will offer its assistance in furthering peaceful methods and talks to prevent the parties concerned in the Ukrainian crisis becoming involved in a further escalation of the situation towards armed conflict. In its announcement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on every party concerned in the Ukrainian conflict to avoid provocative steps that could lead to the growth of tension and the use of violence. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary said that such steps include decisions threatening the security and legal certainty of ethnic minority groups living in Ukraine – with special regard to the Hungarian community, which is extremely important for Hungary.



### RMDSZ joins the Romanian governing coalition

On Monday Hunor Kelemen, leader of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), said the RMDSZ is joining the Romanian governing coalition, and that the party will receive the post of Deputy Prime Minister and the posts of Minister of Environment and Minister of Culture.

Mr. Kelemen will become Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, while Attila Korodi will be Minister of Environment.

On Monday the RMDSZ General Council held a session, during which it had to decide whether or not to join the Romanian government after the National Liberal Party left it to join the opposition.

After the session, party leader Mr. Kelemen informed the Hungarian news agency MTI that "Romania needs government stability and the RMDSZ now has an opportunity to contribute to it." He emphasized that the RMDSZ will sign two agreements: a shorter one on joining the Government with Prime Minister Victor Ponta, and a longer document with the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the Conservative Party (PC) and the



National Union for the Progress of Romania (UNPR), with whom it will participate in the Government. These four later agreements will be signed by the party leaders.

Mr. Kelemen added that there will not be a new government program, as they will continue the one that had been voted by the Parliament in 2012.

Answering questions from MTI, Mr. Kelemen said that the political agreement includes the questions of the flag of Szeklerland and debates concerning the Hungarian Department of the Medical University of Marosvásárhely/ Târgu Mureș, and they will try to find solutions to these questions. He added that the RMDSZ will have 14 state secretaries and positions equal to state secretaries in the new government.



### Hungarians deprived of their Slovakian citizenship appeal to the Slovak government with a memorandum

On Wednesday 26 February, five Hungarians who have been deprived of their Slovakian citizenship as a result of acquiring Hungarian citizenship appealed to Prime Minister of Slovakia Robert Fico and Minister of the Interior Robert Kaliňák in the presence of the press. They did so together with the leader of the Council for Human Dignity Zoltán Lomnici, who has committed to defend their human rights. Aladárné Tamás (who is 102 years old), Erzsébet Dolník, Gyula Kassai, István Fehér and László Gubík deliberately submitted their memorandum with Mr. Lomnici on the day when the Constitutional Court in Košice /Kassa should have ruled on their case. They have requested the urgent abolition of the current “unconstitutional human rights situation”.



### VMSZ aims to aid the welfare of Vojvodina Hungarians in their native land

Ákos Újhelyi, VMSZ representative of the province of Vojvodina / Vajdaság, informed MTI on Tuesday that the aim of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) program for the aid of economic recovery and regional development is to help Vojvodina Hungarians to remain living in their native land. The first plan of the VMSZ election program is connected with Hungary's Wekerle Plan, which includes the growth strategy for Hungary's economy in the Carpathian Basin, and – according to the Government of Hungary – treats neighboring countries as equal partners and considers Hungarians living outside Hungary as strategic partners. The above-mentioned plan of the VMSZ focuses on the development of agriculture, tourism, trade, job creation and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. Mr. Újhelyi added that the main aim of the program is to enable Vojvodina Hungarians to remain in their native land and, in the long run, to attract emigrants back. He said that the job creation planned might attract back to Vojvodina those Hungarians who had left their native land and started to work abroad. He added that family and shared language are also important factors influencing people to remain in their native land.



## János Martonyi in Transcarpathia: “Don’t hurt Hungarians”

In Uzhhorod/Ungvár, Minister of Foreign Affairs János Martonyi has said that Hungary will leave no injustice unanswered. After his visit to Kiev and Donetsk, on Saturday morning Mr. Martonyi arrived in Transcarpathia. Mr. Martonyi attended a Holy Mass in Uzhhorod/Ungvár in Szent György Church, paying tribute to the victims of clashes over the past few weeks. In a speech after the Mass, he called on Hungarians in Transcarpathia to strengthen their unity, so that their community can remain and prosper in its native land.

In Uzhhorod Mr. Martonyi held talks with Chairman of Transcarpathia County Assembly Ivan Baloga, and laid a wreath at the statue of Sándor Petőfi. Following his Uzhhorod visit he travelled to Berehove/Beregszász, where he visited the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute. In Berehove, Mr. Martonyi met leaders of the Transcarpathian Hungarian community, with whom he reviewed the situation of the local Hungarian community and its relations with Hungary. Mr. Martonyi held an information session at the Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, in which he expressed his pleasure that – apart from small incidents – the atmosphere in Transcarpathia is completely different from that in Kiev. He said that the Government of Hungary takes responsibility for Hungarians living outside the country, since this is not just a constitutional but also a human responsibility of the kin-state.

## “Hunting” in Berehove/Beregszász

On Monday the far-right Pravy Sektor (Right Sector) broke into and violently interrupted Berehove City Council's general assembly and its public forum, looking for Party of Regions members. Berehove Mayor Zoltán Babják ordered an hour's break and shortly after it the extremists left the hall. For several days the Pravy Sektor has been hunting for members of the former government and for communists. The Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has condemned the intimidating action carried out by extremists and expressed its hope that in spite of the incident, national communities in Transcarpathia will continue to live together peacefully in the region.

## Right Sector orders military mobilization in Transcarpathia

The Transcarpathian Pravy Sektor (Right Sector) ordered mobilization for Sunday, waiting for volunteers in Uzhhorod/ Ungvár who have licenses for possession of firearms. On Saturday the central body of the Right Sector called for the urgent mobilization of every local organization in response to the Russian senate's approval to deploy its military in Ukraine.

News that appeared at the weekend about a general military mobilization in Transcarpathia has proved to be false. State Secretary at the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh claimed that there has not been any general military mobilization in Ukraine: the armed forces have only been put on combat alert, and



therefore Ukrainian citizens of Hungarian ethnicity do not have to fear military conscription.



### The report of the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia (GURS) is not bilingual

Last week nationality members of the Parliament of Slovenia Roberto Battelli and László Göncz appealed to the Prime Minister of Slovenia in a joint letter. In their letter they warned the Prime Minister that the gap between the rights on bilingualism in the Constitution and their legal practice is widening. The MPs said that the latest example of this is the monolingual report issued by the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia (GURS).

