

## **Is Hungary still a democracy? There are political prisoners kept in jail**

Since many years, Human Rights situation in Hungary is very worrying. We expect from all citizens – and especially from those who care about Human Rights issues in Europe – to have a special attention on the events going on in Hungary.

### **Brutal police actions against demonstrators**

- In the Autumn of 2006, peaceful demonstrations against government and commemorations of Hungary's 1956 uprising were brutally attacked by the police, and hundreds of people – including teenagers or old people – were injured, and were forced to suffer arbitrary detention. Many of the policemen didn't wear any identification number on their uniform, which made them unrecognizable and their acts could remain unpunished. However a new government came to power a month ago following the former socialist-liberal government that abused the fundamental rights of people as freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of speech. The new government is trying to scrutinize these illegal actions but even today there are a great number of people who have not received any compensation from the state because of the suffered injuries and illegal detention. A lot of people who fought against the dictatorial power were punished by courts as ordered by the former government, they should get amnesty and all the politicians and policemen should be punished as soon as possible.

### **Show trials must be stopped and political prisoners must be released**

- On 17th of June 2009, one of most active political opponent of the social-liberal government **György Budaházy** – who became famous by organizing demonstrations against election lies and frauds of the Hungarian Socialist Party – has been arrested under fallacious reasons of "terrorism". 17 other people were also arrested and suspected to take part in a movement called Hunnia Csoport against the government, many of them were kept in arbitrary detention for couple of months. Up till now the public prosecutors delivered only manufactured evidences or evidences obtained in an illegal way. While waiting to be tried, György Budaházy is absolutely isolated. He is not allowed to give an interview to the press, nor is he allowed to communicate with anybody else about his case. Since 1 year, Budaházy's pretrial detention is extended every three months. Nobody knows when he may see his family and the light of the sun again. Even though he was subjected to 13 different kind of criminal and/or administrative proceedings during the past 8 years just because of his political activity.

### **Dissolution of Hungarian Guard (Magyar Gárda) in violation of the relevant human rights standards (right to association and right to assembly)**

- On 2nd of July 2009, the Hungarian Court of Appeal disbanded the **Hungarian Guard Movement**, a patriotic organization founded in August 2007 by **Gábor Vona** (president of Jobbik party), with the support of **Lajos Für**, former Minister of Defence (1990-1994), and **Mária Wittner**, a 1956 freedom fighter and deputy of the center-right party Fidesz in the Hungarian Parliament.

The Hungarian Guard never threatened anybody or acted against the law or the constitutional order of Hungary. They came in help to the population several times, by organizing food distributions to poor people, securing villages where criminality is so high that even policemen are afraid to go, or giving a significant help to the people during the recent floodings in Hungary. Exercising their rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of speech they expressed concern about shocking crime rates in the Hungarian countryside.

But as this movement was very popular in Hungary, a considered as a danger for the socialist government interests, it was finally sued and disbanded under fallacious arguments.

A request of Gábor Vona is being filed to the European Court of Human Rights today, in order to condemn Hungary for its non-respect of the Human Rights of assembly, freedom of speech, and setting up associations.

For the details please contact the largest Hungarian Human Rights advocacy group, the **National Legal Defence Service** that is network of almost 100 lawyers devoted to protect human rights and struggle for rule of law: [www.nja.hu](http://www.nja.hu) ; [nisz@nemzetijogvedo.hu](mailto:nisz@nemzetijogvedo.hu)