



VIOLENCE IN TRANSYLVANIA -- [FROM THE WASHINGTON TIMES, MAR. 21, 1990] (Extension of Remarks - March 22, 1990)

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HON. DON RITTER

in the House of Representatives

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1990

- Mr. RITTER. Mr. Speaker, we were all elated in December when the brutal Ceausescu regime in Romania was overthrown by the heroism of all the peoples of Romania: Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, and other nationalities. It was indeed a dissident Hungarian Reformed minister, the Reverend Laszlo Tokes whose arrest sparked the revolution.
- Reports of ethnic tensions in Romania reached us early February but it was on March 19 that violence raised its ugly head in Tirgu Mures--Marosvasarhely--in Transylvania where most of the 2.5 million Hungarians in Romania live.
- Mr. Speaker, I denounce these acts of violence and call upon our State Department to protest in strongest possible terms these terrible attacks. One cannot build democracy in Romania while ethnic or political opponents are beaten and clubbed to death. I would like the following article included in the **Record** outlining the grave situation facing ethnic Hungarians in Romania.

[FROM THE WASHINGTON TIMES, MAR. 21, 1990]

Tirgu Mures, Romania.--About 2,000 Romanians armed with scythes and clubs attacked 5,000 ethnic Hungarians protesters yesterday in this Transylvanian town, killing two persons and injuring about 60, police said.

Eyewitnesses said the Romanians charged the Hungarians and drove them from the central square, where they had occupied the town hall.

They reported seeing Hungarians clubbed to the ground, and Arad Kovacs, and official of the Hungarian Democratic Union party, said, 'I am afraid this is going to be a horrible night.'

But as night fell, seven army tanks formed a barricade between the rival groups.

The Hungarians had gathered yesterday morning to protest a Romanian attack on the Hungarian Democratic Union headquarters in Tirgu Mures the previous night.

Four persons in the building were seriously injured while police tried to escort them to safety.

They included Andras Suto, an ethnic Hungarian who is one of Romania's best-known writers. He was flown to the Bucharest military hospital suffering from eye injuries, broken ribs and a broken arm.

President Ion Iliescu visited Mr. Suto before he was taken to Hungary for treatment in Budapest to save his sight.

Tensions have been growing between Romanians and the 2-million-strong Hungarian minority in Transylvania since the December revolution in which communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was ousted and executed.

Romanian nationalists fear Hungarian demands for greater autonomy could lead to the creation of a separatist movement in Romania's richest province.

The Hungarian government has protested to Romania against 'grave atrocities' and said the Hungarian community had been subjected to 'pogromlike' attacks.

Hungarian radio said Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth sent a letter yesterday to Romanian Premier Petre Roman protesting the attacks.

The Hungarian government is particularly aggrieved over the fact that while all this was going on the Romanian forces of order remained inactive,' the letter said.

In Budapest, an estimated 70,000 Hungarians bearing torches and waving national flags rallied in the main square Tuesday protesting the attacks in Romania.

Gaspar Miklos Tamas, a leading Hungarian opposition politician who left Romania in 1978, urged Romania's leaders to act immediately against 'fascist gangs' in Transylvania, which belonged to Hungary before World War I.

'We can promise one thing,' Mr. Tamas told the crowd in Budapest. 'We will never stand idly by and watch our Hungarian brothers being maltreated in Transylvania.'



The American Hungarian Federation

FOUNDED 1906

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About AHF:

The American Hungarian Federation (AHF), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in 1906 in Cleveland, Ohio. AHF's Motto, "Faithful Unto Death," was taken from a letter written by former Hussar Officer Mihaly Kovats de Fabricy to Benjamin Franklin. Kovats, known as the Father of the US Cavalry, offered his sword in service to the United States and died in battle against the British in Charleston, S.C. in 1779. Just as Kovats' life and service are celebrated annually by Military Cadets at the Citadel, the motto reflects AHF virtues, and historically and inextricably ties Hungarians and Americans together while symbolizing Hungarians' contributions and sacrifices to America's beginnings. Among the oldest ethnic organizations in the US, AHF was established as an association of Hungarian societies, institutions and churches to "defend the interest of Americans of Hungarian origin in the United States."

All are encouraged to join. Tax-deductible donations are also welcome. Join and contribute through our website or mail. See www.americanhungarianfederation.org

Az AMSZ-ről:

Az Amerikai Magyar Szövetség (AMSZ) egy 501(c)(3) cikkelyű altruista szervezet. A Szövetséget 1906-ban alapították az ohioi Clevelandben. Az AMSZ jeligéje: „Híven a halálig”. Ez a jelige Fabricy Kováts Mihály huszárezeresnek a Benjamin Franklinhoz írt leveléből származik. Kováts, akit az Amerikai Lovaskatonaság atyjaként ismernek, amerikai huszártiszt volt, és 1779-ben a dél-karolinai Charleston védelmében esett el a britek elleni csatában. Fabricy Kovátsról évente megemlékeznek a charlestoni Citadel Katonai Intézet hadapródjai. Az általa kovácsolt jelige az AMSZ erényeit is tükrözi, történelmileg megbonthatatlanul összeköti az amerikaiakat és a magyarokat, azt jelképezi, ahogyan a magyarok hozzájárultak Amerika történetéhez. Az 1906-ban alapított Amerikai Magyar Szövetség az Egyesült Államok egyik legrégebbi etnikai szervezete. Az AMSZ a magyar egyesületek, intézmények és egyházak szövetségéként jött létre abból a célból, hogy „az USA-ban védje a magyar származású amerikaiak érdekeit”.