



## AHF STATEMENT

12/28/2006

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### AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FEDERATION CRITICIZED FOR SPEAKING OUT IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRACY

The article, "Az Amerikai Magyar Szövetség botrányos nyilatkozata," published in the November 5, 2006 edition of *Amerikai Magyar Nepszava Szabadság* ("*Nepszava*") is punctuated with inaccurate, unsubstantiated and malevolent assertions. *Nepszava* criticized the Federation for expressing its concern over reports of alleged police brutality directed against peaceful demonstrators on October 23, 2006 and for supporting an impartial investigation of those allegations. *Nepszava* also called upon readers who agreed with its editorial position to write letters which it promised to publish. (The Federation is not familiar with the practice whereby journalists or publications solicit letters in support of their editorial positions).

As the assertions made by *Nepszava* are incredible, far fetched and lack a factual basis, the Federation will not address them. Instead, the Federation reaffirms its October 31 statement (which speaks for itself) and underscores the essence of that statement: "E súlyos és nagyon nyugtalanító események, amelyek aláássák a demokráciát és a jogrendet, továbbá megsértik a magyar törvényeket és az emberi jogokra vonatkozó nemzetközi szabályokat is. . . . A Szövetség szilárd meggyőződése, hogy az itt felsorolt vádak teljeskörű és időben elvégzett vizsgálatnak kell követnie, amelyet egy független-, hitelt érdemlő vizsgálóbizottságnak kell elvégeznie. Amennyiben a vádak bizonyítást nyernek, mielőbb a megfelelő intézkedéseket kell meghozni."

Objective and knowledgeable observers understand that an impartial and timely investigation of the allegations surrounding October 23 is the best policy to help restore Hungary's reputation and to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law. Perhaps these considerations will convince *Nepszava* to suspend its partisanship temporarily and join Americans of Hungarian descent – conservatives and liberals alike -- to urge such an impartial investigation. A non-partisan and credible investigation -- not scapegoating -- would advance the true interests of all Hungarians irrespective of political affiliation and promote democracy and respect for the rule of law.

The Federation appreciates the attention *Nepszava* has given to its statement.

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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 to Benjamin Franklin. Kovats, known as 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 is celebrated annually by US 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 beginning. 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."

*Fidelissimus ad Mortem!*

"Hiven Mindhalálig!" - "Faithful Unto Death!"  
- Colonel Michael Kovats de Fabriczy,  
in his letter to Benjamin Franklin,  
Commandant of the Pulaski Legion,  
Father of the US Cavalry and fallen  
hero in the American Revolution,  
died in battle, Charleston, SC, 1779

All are encouraged to join. Tax-deductible donations are also welcome on our Website or mail. See [www.americanhungarianfederation.org](http://www.americanhungarianfederation.org) and [www.hungary1956.com](http://www.hungary1956.com)

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