



The American Hungarian Federation

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December 14, 2011

Honorable Christopher H. Smith
Chairman, U.S. Helsinki Commission
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
Co-Chairman, U.S. Helsinki Commission
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Co-Chairman:

On December 1, 2011 we submitted a letter and a memorandum with respect to our concerns relating to Slovakia's attitude and discriminatory practices toward its Hungarian minority, including that country's punitive citizenship law and how it had been applied to deprive Oliver Boldoghy of his Slovak citizenship.

Following our submission a case involving a 99-year-old woman came to our attention:

The Case of Mrs. Ilona Aladarne Tamas (in Slovak: Mrs. Helena Tamasova). The most recent anti-Hungarian incident involves the stripping Mrs. Tamas of her Slovak citizenship after she received Hungarian citizenship. Her case is particularly disconcerting. She was born in 1912 in Rimaszombat (Slovak name: Rimavska Sobota). Rimaszombat was then the seat of Gomor County and part of Hungary. Thus, Mrs. Tamas was born a Hungarian citizen. She never relocated, but as a result of the Treaty of Trianon, she became first a citizen of Czechoslovakia and then, with the breakup of Czechoslovakia, a citizen of Slovakia. As a 99-year-old ethnic Hungarian, she wanted to regain her Hungarian citizenship, while retaining her Slovak citizenship. Yet, seven months after she notified the authorities about having received her Hungarian citizenship, and her intent of retaining her Slovak citizenship, the Slovak authorities informed her that she lost her Slovak citizenship. With this, Mrs. Tamas became a "person without registered address."

These cases hardly evidence tolerance and a commitment to respect human and minority rights. We, therefore, respectfully urge the Helsinki Commission to address these cases and the other matters described in our prior submission.

Sincerely,

Frank Koszorus, Jr.
National President
Public Member of the U.S. Delegation of the 1989 Conference
on Security and Cooperation in Europe on the Human Dimension