



MAGYAR BÍRÓI EGYESÜLET ELNÖKE

Hungarian Judges Reject the Attacks Directed against the independent judicial body in Hungary

The Association of Hungarian Judges (AHJ / MABIE), a professional organization representing more than 1.600 judges out of the total 2.800 judges registered in Hungary, rejects with outmost determination the press release of Mr Gergely Bárándy, the politician of the Hungarian Socialist Party dealing with issues related to justice, that has been published on the 6th of January, threatening the independent judges of Hungary with future sanctions, accountability and dismissal from their present position.

It is indeed an unprecedented event in the history of the last 20 years of the Hungarian democracy that a Member of the Hungarian Parliament, who is at the same time a former member of the National Judicial Council, dares to call the judges, whose independence is granted by the law, as "political commissars", and - on the pretext of the safeguard of justice - threatens to hold them responsible.

The Association of Hungarian Judges calls on the Members of the Hungarian Parliament to reject the declaration of Mr Gergely Bárándy and to call upon fellow MPs to refrain from any further insult or emotional outburst expressed towards the independent judges of Hungary.

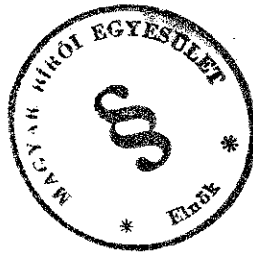
At the same time, the Association of Hungarian Judges (AHJ) calls on the political parties and on the representatives of the media to promote an objective, truthful dissemination of information concerning the issues mentioned above, in harmony with the objective of ensuring the safeguard of public confidence in the professional work exerted by the judges and the judiciary. In order to promote this, the AHJ proposes to all stakeholders to make use of the professional forums available for the discussion of different views, instead of sending impersonal messages through the mass media.

On the basis of the strategic agreement concluded with the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, the Association of Hungarian Judges has taken an active part in the long lasting process of elaboration of the different laws on the organization and administration of the Courts, on the legal status and remuneration of judges, and in the entire process of the judicial reform in general. The AHJ has organized public conferences dealing with these issues, and duly transmitted the professional observations and proposals to the national legislation. Taking into account the professional views expressed by the judges,

the AHJ has drafted a number of concrete proposals in several domains, and a considerable part of these proposals has been integrated in the legislative acts adopted. Notwithstanding the fact that the Parliament has not taken on board all the proposals formulated by the AHJ, the legislative acts adopted satisfy the criteria of the rule of law.

On behalf of the Hungarian judges, the Association of Hungarian Judges calls on the International Association of Judges, the Member States of the European Union and the European Commission to grant a full consideration to the real safeguard of the independence of Hungarian judges, and to condemn the political attacks directed openly against them.

Budapest, 7. January 2012.




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