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Hungary: A lesson about the importance of media work in relation to governments and society

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Dear leaders/ dear team,

I would like to share with you a recent incident, which happened in Hungary (May 10th), shortly after True Mother left Vienna:

The Hungarian national leader Tibor Krebsz called me on May 9th to tell me, that the national secret service summoned him for the next day at 1:30 pm for questioning. Knowing the situation of religious minority groups in Hungary, I got really concerned. As you may know, Victor Orban has de-registered over 200 small Churches in 2011. Also the status of our Church was downgraded. Recently PM Orban declared via the media, that he will investigate NGO's through the Special Service of National Security [SSNS](#).

What happened on May 10th:

There was one man and one women at the SSNS office who interviews Tibor from 1:30pm until 3:00 pm. They were somehow not unfriendly, but quite serious and concerned.

These were their main questions/topics:

- **Sanctuary Church:** Is the Hungarian Unification Movement in any way connected to the gun-cult in Pensilvania/USA? They have read our press release regarding our disclaimer (that we disassociate ourselves strictly from the Sanctuary Church and that we are a peace movement - totally against violence... Interestingly they admitted, that **they already knew about our position due to the press release**, which has been sent out through official news-agencies in Hungary. They just wanted to know if this statement was sincere (not just PR to cover possible bad intentions). After a while Tibor Krebsz could satisfy them. Without the Hungarian press release, this would have been extremely difficult, as you can imagine.
- **Are there any members of Sanctuary Church residing in Hungary?** That was their next question. Tibor could also satisfy them by answering to them that he is not aware of any Sanctuarians in Hungary.
- **They also knew about the Peace Starts With Me Rally in Vienna. Again they got this information through the press-release which our Hungarian HQ has sent out the week before the Festival.**
- **Finally they asked the national leader about our teaching, activities, etc.**

On conclusion, they seemed to have been quite satisfied. They liked the fact that we are transparent, dedicated to uphold family values and serve the country. It must be said, that the Hungarian leadership responded in an exemplary manner to the challenge of establishing a national media department. And they react usually very fast to any requests or suggestions from our regional office.

What can we learn from this? Definitely the importance of informing the public on a regular basis on all important matters and activities of our movement. In this sense Hungary is not so unique. All European nations are similar. Especially governments are afraid of secretive groups/cults from civil society. They treasure transparency.

Sincerely,

Peter Zoehrer

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