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**Anti-Hungarian intemperance in Vojvodina
(January – November 2008)**

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Short summary of the atrocities and infringements committed against the Hungarians

The data indicated are related only to the documented cases as in many cases it does occur that the victims do not dare to report the attack committed against them, or simply - because the bad experience – they consider it senseless.

On 25 January 2008 in Újvidék (Novi Sad) a television journalist called Gyula Mirnics was attacked. The three Serbian nationality aggressors hit and kicked him for minutes. He managed in some degree to defend himself, but anyhow, he had sustained several injuries. Prior to the attack, the victim dictated the news through his mobile phone to the office (of course in Hungarian).



On 19 February 2008 the demonstrating Serbian young people were yelling chauvinist slogans in Szabadka (Subotica). The group that was made up of approximately 300 Serbian secondary school students went to the djami, throw stones at the establishment and yelled chauvinist slogans on the account of the Albanians, Hungarians and Croatians.

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On 20 February 2008 at early dawn in several places in Óbecse (Bečeji) malicious graffiti have appeared in the following content: "Albanians now go to your own country as long as we don't f...k your mothers, Hungarians as well."; "The independence in Kosovo is a European dependence"; "Delije – Kosovo: Death to the Albanians, Serbia is the Serbs', minority - out of the country".



On 15 March 2008 a university student with dual citizenship (Serbian-Hungarian) from Szeged (Hungary) was attacked in Szabadka (Subotica). The Hungarian boy and his girlfriend were attacked by two 25 years old Serbian young men – obviously because they were talking in Hungarian. The

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attackers – while they kept yelling: “*Hungarian, Hungarian*” tried to throw the boy to the ground and kick him but thanks to his presence of mind – fortunately – he escaped unscathed. The boy made a declaration about this case in the police station but the policemen – on the basis of the boy’s report – did not handle the case with due foresight.

On 20 March 2008 a serious, ethnic motivated incident occurred in Szabadka (Subotica) in front of the Technical High School’s (MEŠC) building. The Serbian students group attacked a Hungarian student who attains the second class in the MEŠC. He left the school building alone when the Serbian young people attacked him, they began to beat and kick him while they were blaming his Hungarian mother; at this point turned up the boy’s classmates who have come to the rescue of the victim. The Serbian attackers probably thought that they would succumb during a possible bovver, therefore they quickly scattered. The victim’s mother told us that to the best of her knowledge several Hungarian pupils were abused recently by their Serbian fellows, but the parents affected usually do not dare to report these cases because they are fear of reprisal.

On 21 March 2008 in Szenttamás (Srbobran) on the road to Újvidék (Novi Sad) and Turia (Turija) hitherto unknown persons repainted the Hungarian device of the place name panel.



On the early dawn of 19 April 2008 in the centre of Szabadka (Subotica) a 19 year old Hungarian boy became the victim of knife stab after a minor quarrel. Attila Komjáti and his girlfriend were abused on national basis by two Serbian young men, who later on have also attacked them. One of the attackers seriously wounded Attila Komjáti with a knife, who went to ask help to the ambulance with bleeding stomach.

The intervention took one and a half an hour, according to the head surgeon of the surgical ward if the knife reached the artery the victim most likely would have died from the wounds.

On the last weekend of April 2008 two Hungarian young people were beaten in Temerin. They were attacked by 6-7 Serbian nationality young men in the city in front of a fast-food restaurant (during the

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attack they have also caused damage with beer bottles). The attackers threatened and also reviled the Hungarian boys ("We are killing, we are murdering you"). The seriously wounded Hungarian boy was taken to the hospital on the same evening; his scalp had to be sewed on various occasions.

During the first half of May 2008 an anti-Hungarian contretemps took place in Törökkanizsa (Novi Kneževac). Two Hungarian young was walking by the biggest – known to be visited by Serbs – pleasure-ground, while 4-5 Serbian young people beat them so much up that one of them suffered concussion. The other one, who did not suffer such serious wounds, took his friend home. On his way home, he passed again before the pleasure-ground and was beaten again. According to our information, the police have found the suspects and charges had also been made.

11 May 2008 László Toroczka, the honorary chairman of the movement called Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom (Sixty-four County Youth Movement) was beaten in Szabadka (Subotica). The complainant was taken into the hospital with injuries recovering over eight days (he has suffered concussion, teeth break off and cracking of the rib). Toroczka was drawn out from his car by five men, who were shouting in Serbian, they mugged and then kicked him.

On the night of 14 June 2008 at about one o'clock in Temerin two Hungarian men walking in the street peacefully (Roland K. and Viktor K.) was unexpectedly and seriously assaulted without any reason. The former one was mugged with a beer bottle, kicked so much that he required urgent surgical intervention in the hospital of Újvidék (Novi Sad) (his eye has been operated).



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On 17 June 2008 the inhabitants of the Railway Street and the customers of the neighbouring lumberyards in Temerin noticed this graffiti that incites against the Hungarians: "For the Serbs Serbia, for the Hungarians axe".



On 27 June 2008 a 16 year old boy in Temerin was the victim of atrocity. The two attackers began to follow him closely, and when they have caught up with him in near to his home, they have assaulted him as well. The parents have made charges on the police.

On 12 July 2008 the public opinion in Szabadka (Subotica) was shocked by the news, whereas the 19 year old Serbian man, who knifed a Hungarian young man at early dawn of 20 April in Szabadka's centre, was discharged from custody. Two days after the case, the attacker was caught and was taken into custody on the basis of aggravated assassination attempt, respectively with the charge of national, racial and religious intolerance. On 7 July the Serbian Supreme Court has decided about the release. The boy has spent somewhat more than two months in remand.

On 19 July 2008 there was a projectile impact on the Károly Szirmai MME building's glass partition in Temerin. The projectile which has perforated the massive glass partition of the association's building could have been fatal to those people who were standing in front of the building. On the same night the Hungarian label of the building was ruined.



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On the early dawn of 24 July in Fehértemplom (Bela Crkva) the non-Serbian labelled boards have been removed from several establishments. According to witnesses, the offenders were young men, singing Serbian nationalist songs.

24 July 2008 In the parish called Nagykikinda (Kikinda) the Hungarian representatives tried to tell their opinion in their native language. (The law enables the speech in mother tongue and also provides synchronous interpreter.) The representatives of the Serbian Radical Party, however, provoked in their speech, respectively had a good laugh at the representatives who spoke in Hungarian. They have been accused that they want to speculate by using the Hungarian language.

02 August 2008 In Szenttamás (Srbobran) on the road to Óbecse (Bečeј) and Turia (Turija) the Hungarian inscription on the place name panel has been ruined.



On 19 August 2008 at night around half past twelve in Topolya (Bačka Topola) two young men (both Hungarian citizens) and a girl from Topolya became the victim of an anti-Hungarian attack. They were assaulted by a group of 8-10 Serbian young people. Besides the mental shock, the girl did not get damaged; however the two boys were physically assaulted as well.

23 August 2008 Ildikó Árpási, the general editor of the Pannon Radio and Television received a short message to her mobile phone on 23 August 2008 at 12:51pm with the following text: "You Hungarian b...h. We have placed an explosive device to the technical premises of your God da...n radio that will explode at 14:23pm. Signature: the military police of General Mladić, 1991, Knin".



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04 September 2008 On 1 September the Kosztolányi Dezső Language High School received the arrivals with the sight of a smashed glass on the door, on 2 September with a smashed glass on the window, on 3 f September with the sight of a smashed glass on the door as well as on the window. (It is important to mention that in the High School the education is being carried out in Hungarian language.) The security camera of the school fixed all the three cases; even so the offender's identity is hitherto unknown.



23 September 2008 After four years, the Zeppelin Radio in Muzslya (Mužlja) ceased its broadcasting this night namely because the only one Hungarian radio station in Banat did not received wave-length from the Republican Broadcasting Agency. By its ceasing, the Hungarians of this region has suffered inestimable damage since the radio station in Muzslya brought the more than one thousand Hungarians living in Middle – Banat into connection, it gathered them up.

On 24 October 2008 in the centre of Szabadka (Subotica) at 8:00pm three adults was beating a 15 year old Hungarian child. The victim was just leaving with a lesser group a downtown fast-food restaurant when the three adult suddenly appeared and mugged the boy from behind. Despite the fact that the boy passed out, the attackers hit him further – they kicked him, then they have escaped from the scene of the incident.

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On 24 October 2008, at Friday night in Szabadka's (Subotica) downtown another beating of the Hungarians took place. A group consisting of twenty Serbian people beat a homeward-bounding family. Before a coffee-shop some persons from the group of ten Serbs all of a sudden attacked K.A. His father and brother immediately went to his relief but at this moment again ten young people were coming out of the coffee-shop, and then enclosed the family. After K.A. had passed out, K.R. overlaid on him to protect his brother, so he has received the most beat and kick. The father did not escape unscathed either. In the short run four policemen appeared, who – on the basis of the victims' report – were not doing anything worthwhile.



7 November 2008 "Death to the Hungarians!" and similar texts have appeared in Temerin on several Hungarian family houses, on the gate of a little church, as well as on a pleasure-ground window.



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10 November 2008 The police in Szabadka (Subotica) arrested V. Marko (22) local inhabitant with grounded suspicion of murder. As we have found out from the announcement of the police, the suspect stabbed aback his acquaintance Zsolt K. (25) on Friday night (07 November 2008) at about 11:30pm on the corner of Prague and Gál Ferenc Street because of their earlier affairs. After stabbing Zsolt, Marko has escaped from the scene of the incident. According to non-official sources, drug business is lying in the background of the rough matter. *(Note: we considered this case important to recite in spite of the fact that the non-official resources treat it as not ethnic attack – all of these are suggestive and unfortunate examples of the increasingly perishable public security situation).*

The summary had been made by the staff of the Human Rights Center in Szenttamás (Srbobran)

Sources:

Human Rights Center – Srbobran (www.humanrightscenter.net)

Magyar Szó newspaper (<http://magyarszo.com/>)

Árgus – Hungarian Minority Rights Civil Association in Vojvodina (www.argus.org.rs)

Vajdaság Ma Internet news portal (www.vajma.info)

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