

Anti-Hungarian acts in Ukraine 2014-2018

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- During the 20th century population of Sub-Carpathia (Kárpátalja/Закарпаття) was forced to belong to a number of states, which, of course, had a positive impact on people's mentality and tolerance towards other nations.
- Following the gaining of independence by Ukraine, the situation of minorities – despite of economic difficulties – due to co-existence traditions of the Sub-Carpathian people and the specific development of Ukrainian politics, was satisfactory. That time century-old standards of peaceful co-existence, providing conflictless relations among nationalities, were prevailing yet.
- Although, since the beginning of the new millenium, we have witnessed the development of the Ukrainian national state, a process of nationalization, as a result of which many centuries-old customs were violated and damaged, arousing new co-existence problems in the region

Anti-Hungarian acts in Ukraine 2014-2018

- The following publication is part of the Minority Monitoring research launched by Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia (KMKSZ) and the Lehoczky Tivadar Social Research Center and aims to present the results of this research. During the research we wanted to document the manifestations and acts against the Hungarian community in Sub-Carpathia.
- Between 2014 and 2018, 426 cases of Ukrainian anti-Hungarian acts were recorded.
- Considering the anti-Hungarian statements, it becomes apparent that the Ukrainian state politics against Hungarians strives to assimilate and eliminate our minority community in a purposeful and consistent manner. In the context of these anti-Hungarian manifestations, in many cases the territorial executive bodies, as well as a wide range of political parties, communication bodies and Ukrainian nationalist forces either play a role or tacitly assist during the implementation of such acts.
- The applied strategy is simple, although very effective: the Ukrainian mass media - mostly owned by entities linked to political parties – runs a fierce campaign against the Hungarian community, which in fact constitutes 0.2% of the population and form the most organized national minority of Ukraine, Hungarian institutions and organizations, leaders of the community, thus affecting public opinion with false and unfounded theories and accusations, representing them as separatist, anti-Ukrainian and anti-state individuals. The hateful anti-Hungarian Ukrainian media campaign that has lasted for years, as well as recent events give undoubted grounds for concern.

In 2014, 7 anti-Hungarian acts took place. Four of these were organized actions, in which the events escalated.

The worst cases in 2014:

➤ 10.03.2014.

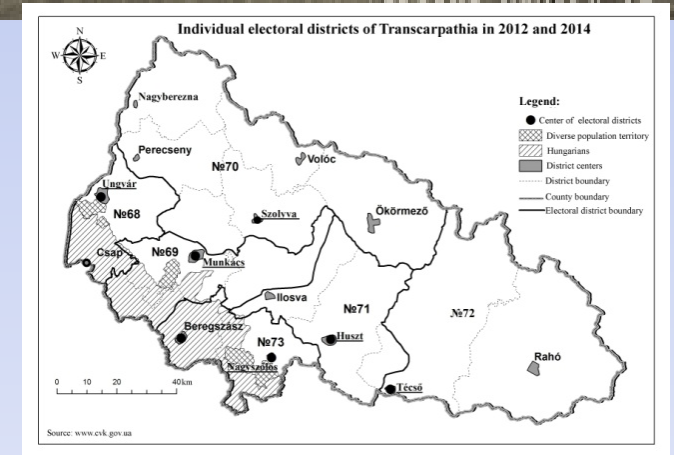
Two unknown perpetrators poured flammable liquid and set fire to the Verecke memorial.

➤ 29.08.2014.

In Berehovo, unknown individuals desecrated the national flag of Hungary on the Kerek Hill.

➤ 03.09.2014.

The Central Election Commission has not established electoral district with Hungarian majority in Sub-Carpathia, contrary to the statutory regulation.



In 2015, 18 instances of anti-Hungarian events have been reported, including 6 aggressive incidents.



The worst cases in 2015:

➤ 20.04.2015.

In many Hungarian-inhabited settlements in the Uzhgorod district, the Hungarian inscription of the village signs was painted with black paint. The Hungarian flag was also taken away from several settlements.

➤ 21.08.2015.

Unknown offenders damaged the statue of Sándor Petőfi in Uzhgorod and broke off the sword of the statue.



By 2016 the number of anti-Hungarian acts increased to 31. In this year 8 atrocities against Hungarians took place.

The worst cases in 2016:

➤ 13.03.2016.

„Knives to the throats of the Hungarians!” – approximately 300 members of the Karpatska Sich, the Pravy Sector and the Azov civil organization demonstrated on the streets of Uzhgorod. The activists of the extreme Ukrainian nationalist organizations have made harsh anti-Hungarian statements to encourage the extinction of the Hungarian ethnic group during their march in Uzhgorod. Following this case, investigations were initiated but no arrests were made.



The worst cases in 2016:

➤ 03.10.2016.

Koresspondent.net's blog page and zakarpattyia.net, which are both Ukrainian websites, informed readers that some board members of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia tried to falsify the results of the Hungarian referendum held on 2 October 2016 by unlawful means. The article mentioned the names of the members of KMKSZ abusing their personal data.

➤ 11.08.2016.

The statue of Sándor Petőfi in Uzhgorod was damaged again. The unknown offenders broke the sword of the statue.



➤ 25.11.2016.

In Uzhgorod, the memorial of victims of the Holocaust constructed with the support of the Hungarian government was damaged.



In 2017, the number of events against the Hungarian minority increased almost threefold compared to the previous years. 89 such cases have been reported by the press. Out of this, 26 were rampant.

The worst cases in 2017:

➤ 31.01.2017.

The activists of the Black Committee (Чорний Комітет) movement demonstrated in Kiev, capital of Ukraine, in front of the building of the Hungarian Embassy with the declaration: "We defend the ukrainization of Ukraine. The next step will be the ukrainization of Europe."

➤ 15.03.2017.

The Karpatska Sich organized an anti-Hungarian demonstration in Uzhgorod. They were repeating: Alien, remember, the Ukrainian is the boss here!



The worst cases in 2017:

➤ 05.04.2017.

On April 5, unknown perpetrators removed and damaged the Hungarian flag from the cross on the Berehovo hill.

➤ 19.05.2017

Provocative signs against local Hungarians appeared in the Berehovo and Vinogradiv districts. The reports published on Ukrainian news websites and taken over later on by Sub-Carpathian Ukrainian websites, stated that the placement of the signs was initiated by the Hungarians, alleged that the representatives of the Hungarian organizations made statements about the autonomy of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia.

20.06.2017.

In Khust, vandals poured green wound disinfectant on the Ferenc Kölcsey memorial plaque in the castle.

➤ 21.06.2017.

A Ukrainian newspaper published a report about alleged Hungarian separatism, in which the support provided by the Hungarian government was described as if it were to subordinate Sub-Carpathia to Hungary.

24.06.2017.

The leadership of the Lviv „Svit” Publishing House liquidated the Hungarian textbook editorial office in Uzhgorod.

➤ 21.08.2017.

The commercial news channel, 112.ua, provided a compilation of alleged separatism in Hungary and the dangers of dual citizenship.

➤ 25.09.2017.

Confusing, false leaflets were distributed in several Hungarian settlements on behalf of the President of the KMKSZ.



The worst cases in 2017:

➤ 01.10.2017.

A group of criminals from the Cherkassy region was captured. They had been planning to undermine and blow up the Verecke memorial in Sub-Carpathia.

13.10.2017.

There were demonstrations in support of the Ukrainian language law in front of the Hungarian Consulates in Sub-Carpathia. "Every Ukrainian is obliged to master the state language" – stated the protesters' banners.

10.11.2017.

The Ukrinform page referred to the Sub-Carpathian Hungarian Institute named after Ferenc Rákóczi II. as a separatist-training institution.

➤ 11.11.2017.

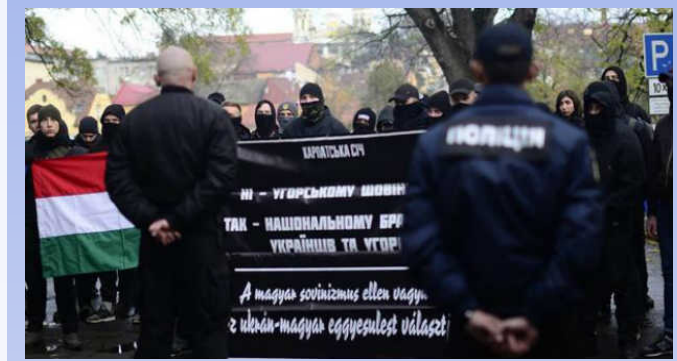
Posters stating „No to the Hungarian chauvinism, Yes to the Hungarian-Ukrainian national brotherhood” were placed in front of the Consulate of Hungary in Uzhgorod by the activists of the Karpatska Sich.

➤ 12.11.2017.

Ukrainian nationalists held an anti-Hungarian march on the streets of Berehovo, protesters behind masks threw smoke grenades and removed the Hungarian national flag from the wall of the mayor's office.

14.11.2017.

The statue of Petőfi in Uzhgorod was dishonoured. Someone put a dirty sweater on the statue of the revolutionist poet.



As of March, 2018, 27 anti-Hungarian acts were registered, one of which was a terrorist act, during which unknown individuals blew up the central office of the KMKSZ.

The worst cases in 2018:

➤ 02.02.2018.

„Bottles of flammable liquids were thrown at the head office of the Sub-Carpathian Hungarian Cultural Association (KMKSZ) in downtown Uzhgorod.”

➤ 27.02.2018.

Unknown perpetrators **blew up** the KMKSZ's office in Uzhgorod. As a result of the explosion, the lower floor of the building was completely burnt out. The case can be evaluated as an attack on the Sub-Carpathian Hungarians. This act provides further evidence that the anti-Hungarian measures of the Ukrainian government have encouraged aggressive nationalists, who are therefore undertaking brutal actions.

In the history of Sub-Carpathia, this was the first time when deliberate explosion took place against the headquarters of the organization which protects the interests of the Sub-Carpathian Hungarian community!



During spring of 2018 media has reported on anti-Hungarian actions **40** times. 6 of these articles were reporting on cancellation of the Act on Languages, 1 on an assault.



News need to be mentioned

➤ **March 1, 2018**

„The Parliament of Ukraine declared the Act guaranteeing the rights of national minorities to use their language unconstitutional.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2MAYz7jOmU&feature=youtu.be>

➤ **March 4, 2018**

„The police arrested three persons that may be involved in the bomb outrage against the head office of Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia committed on February 27 – said Serhyii Knyazev, Commander-in-Chief of the National Police.”

➤ **March 5, 2018**

„Those insisting on domination of anti-Hungarian spirit in Ukraine should address Moscow, the Kremlin and the Russian Federal Security Service – said Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin .”

Other events during spring of 2018

➤ March 15, 2018

The Ukrainian Security Service has stopped 29 persons traveling from the direction of Lviv to Transcarpathia equipped with baseball bats, brass knuckles and knives at the county border in Nizhny Vorota

➤ March 16, 2018

At night on March 15, unknown perpetrators broke the windshields of 8 cars and a microbus having Hungarian number plates. Cars with Ukrainian, Czech or German plates parking in the same yard remained undamaged

➤ April 5, 2018

Victor Baloga, head of the Edynyii Centr political party has registered a draft law prohibiting the use of any flag other than Ukrainian on buildings belonging to government and municipalities



During June 2018 we registered 20 anti-Hungarian acts, including two assaults

Major events in June

➤ June 5, 2018

The Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) started a criminal procedure against „Egán Ede” Economic Development Centre suspecting it in separatism

➤ June 6, 2018

The local organization of Svoboda organized a demonstration near the building of the Ministry of Education, because, in their opinion, the Government turns a blind eye to the acts of Hungarian separatism in Sub-Carpahia



➤ June 22, 2018

A Hungarian memorial place was disfigured near Uzhhorod. Hungarian tricolor was removed from one of the stone blocks in the Egán Ede memorial park located near the Kyiv-Chop road

➤ June 27, 2018

The cross on the Kerek Hill of Berehove was dishonoured again. Unknown people painted a red and black flag on the cross and wrote the text „Honour to Ukraine! Honour to the heroes!” on its side



The press informed about 14 Hungarian-related events in July, and 8 in August, two of them led to assault.

Major events in July:

➤ July 11, 2018

Representatives of Hungarian minority in Sub-Carpathia had a meeting in Kyiv with head of the Ministry of Education Lyliya Grinevich and experts of the ministry on actual issues of Hungarian teaching in Sub-Carpathia

➤ July 18, 2018

Member of the Parliament, President of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia, László Brenzovych asked Central Election Committee to form an election district with an ethnic Hungarian majority for parliamentary elections to be held in 2019

➤ August 8, 2018

The recently dishonoured memorial stone in the Egán Ede Memorial Park restituted by the Hungarian Consulate in Uzhhorod has been painted again to red and black

➤ August 29, 2018

A Hungarian flag was damaged during a burglary against St. Steven church in Solotvyno



In September, 2018 53 cases of anti-Hungarian character were reported by the media, two of them led to assault.

The most disturbing cases in September

➤ September 18, 2018

During crossing the border, officials of the Ukrainian State Border Service and the Ukrainian Security Service detain local council representatives, officials, public servants and journalists for an extended period of time (in some cases, up to six-eight hours), extensively searching their luggage and vehicles. They are subjected to body searches and interrogation-like investigation.

➤ September 19, 2018

Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin did not exclude the possibility of expelling a Hungarian consul from the consulate in Berehove following the leak of a spy cam video, where Ukrainian citizens take a Hungarian citizenship oath in the Hungarian consulate in Berehove.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_k-KjJ6Mu4

➤ September 21, 2018

Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin charges Hungarian community of Sub-Carpathia with tricking on separatist moods in the county, indicating that Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia are sources of separatism in the hybrid war against Ukraine due to Russia’s alleged influence

➤ September 22, 2018

The nationalist website Myrotvorets (Peacemaker) started to upload in its public database names, passport numbers and home addresses of Sub-Carpathians allegedly having a second, Hungarian citizenship

The most coarse events in September, 2018:

➤ September 24, 2018

„Patriotic” members of the Berehove branch of the Svoboda (Freedom) party organized a demonstration in front of the Hungarian Consulate in Berehove with the aim of „drawing the Ukrainian government’s attention to Hungary’s – in their opinion – anti-Ukrainian policies”



➤ September 26, 2018

Activists of the extreme nationalist organization „National Corps” demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kijev on Wednesday, requiring expulsion of the Hungarian consul in Berehove



➤ September 29, 2018

The extreme nationalist organization „Myrotvorets” (Peacemaker) included in its public database Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Péter Szijjartó for blaming President Petro Poroshenko in his statement for „oppressing Hungarians in Ukraine”

In October 2018 the media reported anti-Hungarian events 106 times, including 3 assaults

Most significant events in October:

➤ October 2, 2018

Budapest shall recall its consul in Berehove, otherwise Ukraine will expell him – said Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin

➤ October 4, 2018

Ukraine declared Hungarian consul in Berehove persona non grata – stated Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on its official website

➤ October 9, 2018

Authorities will screen hundreds of government officials and representatives of local governments as to their possible second citizenship on the basis of the list of more than 300 people published by the Myrotvorets website Monday evening about inhabitants of Sub-Carpathia allegedly having HUngharian passports – said Yaroslav Galas, Vice Governor of Sub-Carpathia responsible for human resources

➤ October 10, 2018

The Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has summoned the Ukrainian Ambassador in view of the fact that „Ukrainian anti-Hungarian politics has moved up to a qualitatively new level”

Other coarse events in October 2018

➤ October 10, 2018

„The Ukrainian state shall terminate Hungarian nature of Berehove via settlement of people” – suggested Victor Baloga, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament from Sub-Carpathia

➤ October 12, 2018

An initiative appeared on the website of the Ukrainian Parliament to collect signatures for deporting Hungarians from Sub-Carpathia

➤ October 13, 2018

Irina Farion, Ukrainian language scientist, political and social activist, called Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia „retarded” and compared them to dogs. According to the Ukrainian nationalist „there is no space for Hungarians in Ukraine”

➤ October 20, 2018

Billboards with the text „Let’s stop separatists” and photos of the leaders of the Hungarian community has appeared near the main roads in the area of Uzhhorod, Mukachevo and Berehove by Saturday morning



During November and December of 2018 further 3 anti-Hungarian acts were monitored, each of them may be considered as rough ones.

- 15 November, 2018
- „Ildikó Orosz, Rector of the Hungarian Institute of Sub-Carpathia was interrogated by the Security Service of Ukraine as to her speech during the central commemoration event at the House of Terrors Museum in Budapest on 23 October”
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- 22 November 2018
- „Mysterious billboards appear in Sub-Carpathia with the text „Let’s overcome fascism together!”, displaying photos of Ms. Ildikó Orosz, Hungarian Institute of Sub-Carpathia and Mr. Hennadyi Moskal, Governor of Sub-Carpathia
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- 26 November 2018
- „News website mukachevo.net, referring to unofficial information, published an article about a criminal procedure against Ms. Ildikó Orosz, Hungarian Institute of Sub-Carpathia, member of the county council. According to the information, published on the website, Ms. Ildikó Orosz is charged under Clause (1) of Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (Discrimination based upon race, ethnic origin, religion, deficiency and other characteristics)”

Legal actions against the minorities in 2019

- The legislative acts in Ukraine continue to result in a significant reduction in the rights of national minorities.
- There is no agreement with the minorities regarding the Law on Education.
- The Ukrainian Constitutional Court, due to formal reasons, has repealed the 2012 Law on the Use of Languages. The decision of the Constitutional Court has resulted in a regression of the language rights of national minorities.
- It is worrying that the Ukrainian Supreme Council is considering proposals for language laws that could lead to further restrictions.