



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 economic difficulties – due to co-existence traditions 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
- The following publication is part of the Minority Monitoring research project 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 many cases, these anti-Hungarian manifestations were either carried out or silently aided by official government offices, by executive organs both at the national and regional level, by political parties, by a wide range of news outlets, and by Ukrainian nationalist forces.

- The strategy they employ is simple but effective. It begins with heated attacks in the Ukrainian media – which are mostly owned by close associates of political parties – against the Hungarian community, their institutions and organizations. They accuse the Hungarian community and leaders with false and unfounded conspiracies, thereby poisoning public opinion against the Hungarians, who are presented as separatist, anti-state individuals who do not speak Ukrainian. Incidentally, the Hungarian minority makes up just two tenths of one percent of the population of Ukraine, yet is the country's best-organized national minority. The anti-Hungarian campaign of denigration and hate-mongering carried out by the Ukrainian media, and the anti-Hungarian attacks and events which have ensued, are clear grounds for concern.

In 2014, we recorded 17 cases of anti-Hungarian expressions.

Of these, four were concrete actions that took physical form

The most serious cases in 2014 were the following:

March 10

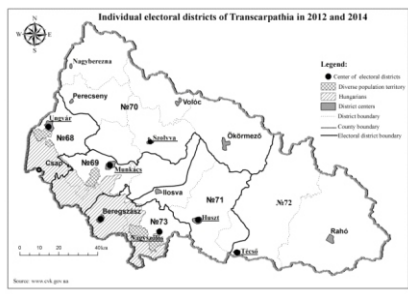
Two unknown perpetrators poured a flammable liquid over the historical Hungarian monument in Verecke, then lit it on fire

August 29

The Hungarian flag in Berehove is defaced by unknown perpetrators

September 03

The Central Election Committee of Subcarpathia, in violation of legal regulations, failed to create an election district with a majority-Hungarian population



In 2015, the media recorded 18 instances of anti-Hungarian manifestations, of which six were physical attacks

The most significant cases in 2015

April 20

In several ethnic Hungarian villages in the Uzhhorod region, the Hungarian-language place name sign was obliterated with black paint. In some places, the Hungarian flag was also stolen

August 21

Unknown perpetrators vandalized the statue of Hungarian poet Sándor Petőfi in Uzhhorod and broke off the sword



By 2016, the number of anti-Hungarian cases reached 31

The worst cases in 2016

March 13

"A knife to the Hungarians' throats!" About 300 members of extremist Ukrainian nationalist organizations – Karpatska Sich, Pravyi Sector and Azov – marched on the streets of Uzhhorod. They shouted anti-Hungarian slogans that urged the extermination of the Hungarian ethnic group. Prosecutors opened a case, but no one was arrested.



August 11

The statue of Petőfi in Uzhhorod was vandalized once again, when unknown perpetrators again broke the sword off the statue.

October 3

A Ukrainian report published on both the Korrespondent blog and the Zakarpattya.net website informed readers that the leadership of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Subcarpathia used illegal methods in an attempt to falsify the results of a referendum held in Hungary on October 2, 2016. The article included a roster of the names of the Alliance's leadership and their personal data, which is also a violation of privacy laws.

November 25

The Holocaust memorial in Uzhhorod, which was erected with the support of the Hungarian government, was desecrated.



In 2017, the number of anti-Hungarian incidents reported in the media rose to 89 cases - an almost threefold increase over the previous year. Of these, 26 cases involved physical attack

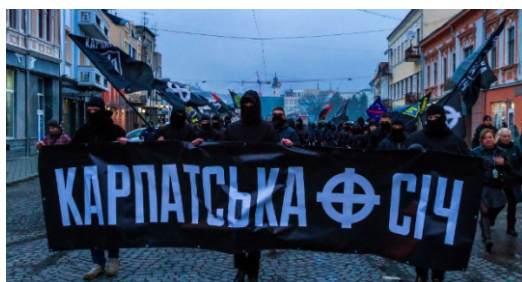
The most serious cases in 2017:

January 31

Activists of the so-called Black Committee movement held a demonstration at the Embassy of Hungary in Kiev. *"We want the Ukrainianization of Ukraine! The next step: Ukrain-ianization of Europe!"*

March 15

On this Hungarian national holiday, the extremist organization Karpatska Sich held an anti-Hungarian demonstration in Uzhhorod, chanting the slogan: *"Foreigners, get it straight: Ukrainians are in charge here!"*



Other cases in 2017

April 05 On April 5, unknown perpetrators removed and damaged the Hungarian flag from the cross on the Berehovo hill.

May 19 Anti-Hungarian signs appeared in several locations in near Berehove and Vinohradiv. News portals in Kiev, followed by Ukrainian sites in Subcarpathia, claimed that these signs were actually placed by local Hungarians. The reports also falsely claimed that local ethnic Hungarian leaders had made statements about ethnic autonomy.

June 20 Vandals in the town of Khust poured green-colored medical disinfectant over a memorial plaque at the local castle monument, dedicated to the Hungarian poet Ferenc Kölcsey.

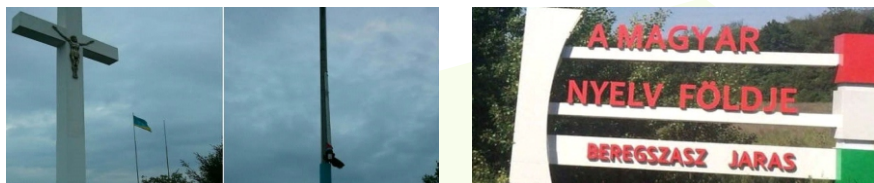
June 21 An influential central Ukrainian television station broadcast an alarmist report about the specter of separatism. The report insinuated that by providing aid to Subcarpathia, the government of Hungary is seeking to extend its influence over the region.

June 24 The "Svit" Publishing House of Lviv eliminated its Hungarian-language textbook publishing office in Uzhhorod.

August 21 The TV station "112" broadcast a report on alleged Hungarian separatism and warned of the dangers of dual citizenship.

September 5 The Ukrainian Parliament passed an Education Law which eliminates native-language education as of the fifth grade.

September 25 Falsified pamphlets containing confusing and untrue information are distributed in several ethnic Hungarian areas, in the name of the president of the Hungarian Alliance.



The worst cases in 2017

October 1

A criminal gang was arrested. Its members, who are from Cherkasy in central Ukraine, were plotting to blow up the Hungarian Millennium memorial in Verecke, Subcarpathia.

October 13

A group demonstrated at the Hungarian consulate in Subcarpathia in favor of the restrictive new Ukrainian education law. Their slogan: "All Ukrainians must learn the state language!"

November 10

On the webpage Ukrinform, the Hungarian College of Subcarpathia is referred to as a "training center for separatists".

November 11

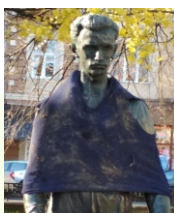
"Down with Hungarian chauvinism - Up with Ukrainian-Hungarian National Brotherhood," reads a sign placed at the Hungarian Consulate in Uzhhorod by activists of the Ukrainian extremist group Karpatska Sich.

November 12

Ukrainian nationalists held an anti-Hungarian demonstration in the streets of Berehove. The demonstrators, wearing masks, tossed sound grenades and smoke bombs, and tore down the Hungarian flag from the local mayor's office.

November 14

The statue of Sándor Petőfi in Uzhhorod was vandalized once again – unknown perpetrators dressed the statue of the revolutionary poet in a dirty sweater.



As of March 2018, Anti-Hungarianism reaches an unprecedented level with 27 actions. For the first time in the region's history, a deliberate bombing is carried out against the organization that represents the Hungarian minority

The worst cases in 2018

February 2

Unknown perpetrators toss a bottle containing a flammable liquid onto the headquarters of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Subcarpathia, in central Uzhhorod.

February 27

Unknown perpetrators blow up the building of Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Subcarpathia in Uzhhorod. The entire ground-floor premises are destroyed.



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 to be mentioned

March 1

The Ukrainian Parliament declares that the law guaranteeing language rights for national minorities is unconstitutional.

March 4

Sergei Knyazev, head of the Ukrainian National Police, announces the arrest of three individuals suspected of involvement in the February 27 bombing attack on the Hungarian Alliance headquarters in Uzhhorod.

March 5

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlov Klimkin states: *“Anyone who insists that anti-Hungarianism, or even an anti-Hungarian campaign is underway in Ukraine should take his complaints to Moscow, to the Kremlin, to the Security Forces of the Russian Federation”*



Other events in Spring of 2018

On the night of **March 15**, in Berehove, unknown perpetrators smashed the windshields of eight cars and one van having Hungarian license plates. Other cars parked in the same lot, with Ukrainian, Czech and German plates, were untouched.

At this time, 29 individuals traveling from Lviv to Subcarpathia, armed with baseball bats, brass knuckles and knives, were arrested by Ukrainian Security forces at the county border town of Nyzhni Vorota (Alsóverecke).

April 5

Viktor Baloga, leader of the political party Yedynyi Centr, submitted a parliamentary bill that would prohibit the use of any national flag except the Ukrainian on state and local government offices.



During June 2018 we registered 20 anti-Hungarian incidents

Major events in June

June 5

The Ukrainian Security Service filed criminal charges of “separatism” against the Egán Ede Economic Development Center of Subcarpathia.

June 6

The local chapter of the organization “Svoboda” demonstrated at the Ministry of Education in Kiev. Their protest: the government is ignoring the Hungarian separatist threat in Subcarpathia.

June 22

The Egán Ede Memorial Park near Uzhhorod was vandalized: a memorial stone painted in the colors of the Hungarian flag was spray-painted.

June 27

A stone cross on a hill in Berehove was vandalized: the perpetrators painted it in the colors of red and black, adding the following slogan: “Glory to Ukraine, glory to the heroes”



The press informed about 14 Hungarian-related events in July, and 8 in August,

Major events in July and August

July 11

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

July 18

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

The memorial stone the Egán Ede Memorial Park was again vandalized, just a month after it was restored following the previous attack. The stone, painted in the colors of the Hungarian flag, was now painted over in red and black.

August 29

Perpetrators broke into the Roman Catholic church of St. Stephen in Solotvyno (Aknaszlatina) and vandalized its Hungarian flag.



In September 2018, 53 cases of anti-Hungarian character were reported by the media,

The most disturbing cases in September **September 18**

On this date, Ukrainian border officials at the Hungarian border began ongoing harassment of prominent ethnic Hungarians - association leaders, local public officials and journalists - who are detained and subjected to extensive searches for hours on end, with no explanation given or reports filed.

September 19

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlov Klimkin said he would not rule out the expulsion of the Hungarian Consul from Ukraine – this after a hidden camera recorded a ceremony at the Consulate in Berehove, at which Ukrainian citizens who are obtaining Hungarian citizenship recite the oath of allegiance.

September 21

In an interview with the Ukrainian press, Foreign Minister Pavlov Klimkin accuses the Hungarian community of Subcarpathia of fueling separatism in the region. He insinuated that the Hungarians of Subcarpathia are a source of separatist threat that is aided by alleged Russian influence, in the context of the hybrid war being waged against Ukraine.

September 22

The Ukrainian nationalist website “Myrotvorets” (which means peacemaker) published a database of names and addresses of individuals in Subcarpathia who allegedly have Hungarian citizenship.

The most coarse events in September, 2018

September 24

The Berehove chapter of the organization “Svoboda” organized a demonstration at the local Consulate of Hungary. Its declared purpose: to alert the Ukrainian government to what they consider to be Hungary's anti-Ukrainian policies.



September 26

The extremist Ukrainian nationalist organization “National Force” demonstrated at the Foreign Ministry in Kiev, demanding the expulsion of the Hungarian Consul in Berehove.



September 29

. The Ukrainian nationalist website “Myrotvorets” added the name of Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó to its public database, claiming that Szijjártó accused Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko of oppressing the Hungarians of Ukraine.

In October 2018 the media reported on anti-Hungarian incidents 106 times

Most significant events in October

October 2. Budapest must recall its Consul from Berehove, otherwise Ukraine will expel him, declared Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlov Klimkin.

October 4. Ukraine has declared Hungary's Consul in Berehove to be „persona non grata”, according to the official website of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

October 9. Jaroslav Halasz, Vice President for Human Resources of the Government Administration in Subcarpathia, declared that officials would investigate several hundred individuals, including public officials and county representatives, based on the list of more than 300 persons deemed to have Hungarian citizenship, as published on the Ukrainian website “Myrotvorets”.

October 10. Hungary's Foreign Ministry summoned the Ukrainian Ambassador, due to Ukraine's escalating anti-Hungarian policies. The same day, Ukrainian Parliamentary representative Viktor Baloga declared: *“Ukraine should adopt a policy of relocating citizens to Berehove in order to eradicate its ethnic Hungarian character.”*

Other coarse events in October 2018

October 12

The website of the Ukrainian Parliament published an appeal for signatures in favor of deporting ethnic Hungarians from Subcarpathia.

October 13

Irina Farion, a Ukrainian linguist, political and social activist, referred to the Hungarians of Subcarpathia as “imbeciles” and compares them to dogs. According to the Ukrainian nationalist Ms. Farion, the Hungarians of Subcarpathia have no place in Ukraine.

October 20

“Stop the Separatists!” Billboards bearing this slogan, and the names and photographs of the leaders of the Hungarian community, appear along the main roads near the towns of Uzhhorod, Mukachevo and Berehove.



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

November 15

„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 October 23”

November 22

„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

November 26

„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

- In addition to these incidents, Ukrainian legal measures continued in 2018 which drastically limited the existing rights of national minorities.
- There is still no agreement on the provisions of the Education Law that pertain to minorities
 - Citing formal impediments, the Ukrainian Constitutional Court declared that the 2012 Act on the Use of Native Languages is no longer in effect. This court decision is a significant step backward for minority language rights.
- Another cause for concern: the Ukrainian High Council is now considering proposed laws that would further limit or eliminate national minority rights.

