

The Union of Hungarian Students in Vojvodina

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to be here in this forum.

In the previous year, one could hear a lot in the news about Serbia, which was one of the countries crossed by a main traffic road of the migrants targeting Europe. However the public opinion should also notice the violation of the rights of traditional national minorities.

We represent the Hungarian minority from Vojvodina, the northwestern autonomous province in Serbia. The Hungarian community living in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina counts more than two hundred thousand people, representing 12% of the population in the province.

Although besides the Serbian, there are five official languages in Vojvodina, and one of them is the Hungarian, language rights are often not respected. As a student organization we would like to present an example of law infringements which is concerning university students.

Although the Faculty of Novi Sad is bounded by a governmental decision to organize entrance examinations in Hungarian language, the Faculty of Law does not respect this law. The Faculty of law of is the only one not allowing students to take their entrance exam in Hungarian. By breaking this law the Faculty discriminates minority students.

The Union of Hungarian Students in Vojvodina filed a lawsuit against the Faculty in December 2015. During the case the lawyer of the student organization was deprived, as a revenge, of his doctoral degree. Note that there are severe problems in the Hungarian public education as well.

We would also like to mention that the Serbian government makes attempts to change the ethnic proportions of the regions with Hungarian majority. Moreover, administrative districts have been re shaped in such a way that the Hungarian population become minority. Language rights in minority regions are often not respected.

It is worth to mention that rehabilitation and restitution processes are progressing very slowly. We would like to draw your attention to these serious violations of law, and would kindly ask you to watch closely the case.

Thank you very much for your attention.