



August 15, 2007

Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany
Prime Minister of Hungary
1055 Budapest Kossuth L. ter 1-3
Ferenc.Gyurcsany@meh.hu

Dear Prime Minister Gyurcsany,

On behalf of the World Jewish Congress and the European Jewish Congress, we write out of profound concern regarding a deeply dismaying development that represents a danger to the Jewish community of Hungary and to Hungarian society as a whole. We refer to the extreme right wing Jobbik Party and its impending creation of an armed guard, under the false guise of “sporting and shooting clubs”, with uniforms resembling those worn by fascists in World War II. Reportedly, these uniforms will carry the red and white Arpad stripes of the pro-Nazi Arrow Cross party whose members murdered thousands of Jews during World War II and oversaw the deportation of hundreds of thousands to the death camps.

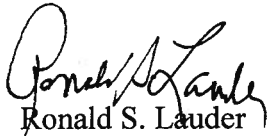
This is an extremely alarming development. Far from having been eliminated, anti-Semitism is on the rise today in Europe, resulting in attacks on Jews in many countries by extreme-right movements, among others. Anti-Semitism represents a danger for all democratic states and serves as an excuse and justification for violence. It splits the national community, pitting one ethnic or religious group against another. It constitutes a serious violation of human rights and a negation of the foundations of freedom and democracy. World leaders have an obligation to do all everything possible to counter this threat to the fabric of society.

Prime Minister Gyurcsany, on behalf of all the member communities of the World Jewish Congress, particularly Mazsihis, a long standing member of our organization, we respectfully call upon to do your urgent utmost to see to it that any political party which manifests expressions of hatred and bigotry, whether by speech, threats to arm, and other incitements to racial violence, is stopped. Hungary is an important full-fledged member of the European Union and, as such, has ratified all human rights conventions of the Council of Europe and of the European Union. It should fight against all forms of violence, anti-Semitism and extreme-right radicalism.

We urge you, Mr. Prime Minister, to immediately take all necessary legal steps to ban this threat which could become a danger to European democracy.

Please accept our warmest wishes for your success in this and all your endeavours and we respectfully look forward to the favor of your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Ronald S. Lauder

President

World Jewish Congress



Moshe Kantor

President

European Jewish Congress