

The EEA NGO Programme and the controversy about civil society in Hungary

NORVÉG CIVIL
Támogatási Alap

ICELAND
LIECHTENSTEIN
NORWAY
eea
grants

norway
grants

Chronology 1.

The “blacklisted” Hungarian NGOs are the following:

Transparency International Hungary (www.transparency.hu/)

K-Monitor (<http://k-monitor.hu/>)

Asimov Foundation (<http://atlatszo.hu/>)

Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (<http://tasz.hu/>)

Roma Press Center (<http://romasajtokozypont.hu/>)

Kréta Kör Foundation (<http://kretakor.eu/>)

NaNe Women’s Rights Association (<http://www.nane.hu/>)

Foundation for Democratic Youth (<http://www.i-dia.org/>)

Hungarian Women’s Lobby (<http://noierdek.hu/>)

Labris Lesbian Association (www.labrisz.hu)

PATENT – Association Against Patriarchism (<http://patent.org.hu/>)

LiFE – Association of Young Liberals (<http://liberalisfiatalok.hu/>)

Szivárvány Misszió Foundation (<http://budapestpride.hu/>)

- **„Blacklist” of 13 civic organizations was announced, and names of evaluators of the NGO Programme were leaked to media.**



WHY DOES THE #HUNGARIAN GOVMNT FEAR CIVIL SOCIETY?

OMCT
SOS-Torture Network

World Organisation Against Torture

Global network fighting against torture
and other human rights violations

Home

Activities

CAT

OMCT Network

OMCT Europe

About OMCT

Contacts

Urgent campaigns

Assistance to victims

Human rights defenders

ESCR

Rights of the child

Violence against

[Human rights defenders](#) / [Urgent Interventions](#) / [Hungary](#) / [2014](#) / [June](#)

 Save as PDF

 Print version

Hungary: Attacks against civil society must stop

Paris-Geneva, June 12, 2014. *As the Hungarian Government meets today representatives from Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein to discuss the European Economic Area Grants, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, an FIDH-OMCT joint programme, expresses its deep concern that the Hungarian government is alarmingly shrinking the space of civil society by hindering their access to funding, conducting unexpected inspections and blacklisting prominent human rights organisations.*

source: omct.org

Hungary: Stop targeting NGOs

Amnesty International calls on the Hungarian government to stop targeting NGOs and civil society groups but ensure that they can exercise their right to freedom of association and freedom of expression without intimidation.

The organization is concerned at what appears to be an attempt by the newly reelected government in Hungary to silence Hungarian NGOs that are carrying out vital human rights work and threatening the rights to freedom of association and expression.

source: amnesty.eu

Stop Targeting

NORVÉG CIVIL
Támogatási Alap

Chronology 3.

- **June 2014**: The audit report of the previous Programme (2008-11) was leaked. The Government announced that they might file a criminal investigation for „organized criminal activity” and embezzlement.
- **GCO audit went on with threatening to implement sanctions for non-cooperation.**
- The Operators submitted all documents, except confidential and sensitive information.

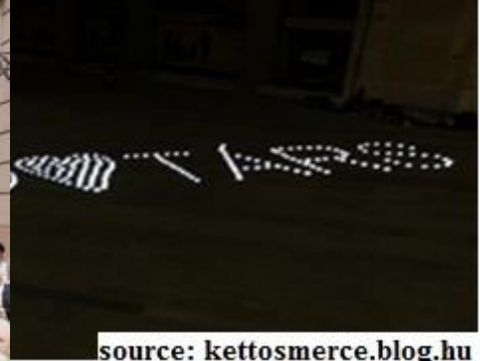
Chronology 4.

Criminal accusations

„NGOs are paid political activists serving foreign interest”

(Viktor Orbán, PM, HU)

- August 2014: The Inner City Police Department requested documents from the Fund Operator.
- Media revealed that **an official investigation was launched** by the National Bureau of Investigation **against suspects unknown** in an **embezzlement case** related to the NGO Programme; later the **offence was changed to misappropriation**.



ening, and



source: fb.com/Blacklisted-Hungarians

Several pres

- Human Ric



source: fb.com/#állj



source: artemisszio.hu



source: autonomia.hu

Battle at co

- September
registrati
- Appeals w
numbers,
- October 2
 - containi
 - some of
 - includin
 - misapprhowever
names, (

STATE AUDIT OFFICE

File Registration Number: 23-463/578/2014

AUDIT REPORT

Audit of the institutional system of EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms and of the beneficiaries of the Financial Mechanisms and the funding received from the Financial Mechanisms, and of the application of other domestic and international funding paid out to management organisations

Norwegian Civil Fund

15 October 2014

the tax

tax
use.

,

ping,

a, or

source: kehi.kormany.hu •

Chronology 7.

- January 2015: The Operator foundations filed law suits against the suspension of their tax numbers.
- Tax inspections at 7 NGOs supported by the NGO Programme were launched.
- **Court decision said that house search against the Operator was illegal.**
- The proceeding court sought the opinion of the Constitutional Court, whether the tax number suspension conflicted the Basic Law (Constitution).
- October 2015: The Constitutional Court effectively referred the decision back to the district court.

Chronology 8.

November 2015: Agreement reached between the Donors and the Hungarian Government regarding the use of funds in the 2009-14 period; this reiterates that the Hungarian Government has no responsibility or oversight concerning the NGO Programme.



Thank you!
norvegcivilalap.hu/en

NORVÉG CIVIL
Támogatási Alap

