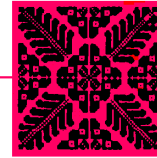


HHRF

HUNGARIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION



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October 23, 2019

Letter to the Editor,
New York Times

Re: "Hungary's Orbán Gave Trump Harsh Analysis of Ukraine Before Key Meeting" (October 22, 2019):

Your article states that Mr. Orbán's government has "pressured Ukraine over what it says is discrimination and violence against ethnic Hungarians living in the western part of the country."

The fact is, Ukraine is home to a small Hungarian national minority of about 150,000. This community seeks nothing more than restoration of their educational and linguistic rights, protection by Ukrainian authorities against acts of ethnic violence, and the freedom to maintain their cultural identity without being branded as internal enemies. These internationally recognized rights and duties are effective regardless of who is currently in power in Ukraine, or in Hungary. Protecting these rights would further Ukraine's integration into Western institutions – a particularly welcome outcome for the Hungarian national minority.

The Times would do well to spotlight this community's legitimate concerns and aspirations, rather than framing them as mere fodder for larger international crises.

Emese Latkóczy, Executive Director
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HUNGARIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION (HHRF)

Since 1976, a New-York-based NGO monitoring the human rights conditions of 2.5 million ethnic Hungarians living as minorities in Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Ukraine

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