

Statement by Hungarian Writers, Artists and Scientists

We, Hungarian citizens—writers, artists and scientists by profession—who live in the everyday life of our country and sense and bear the consequences of government decisions, have read and heard with increasing indignation the libellous statements made in the world press and media by certain political circles on the ‘democracy deficit’ in Hungary. We are aware that such allegations are also made by some Hungarian intellectuals—writers, philosophers, musicians and journalists—with affiliations to the present-day political opposition, whose names are known in the West and who are accorded wide publicity for incitements against their country.

It is imperative that we, intellectuals, belonging to the significant majority of the Hungarian society speak up and reassure those in the Western democracies who are concerned with Hungary’s future. We declare that the Hungarian Government has made no encroachments on the basic democratic rights, which the overwhelming majority of Hungary’s inhabitants themselves embrace, as they demonstrated in 1956.

Those Hungarian electors who, in 2010, voted the conservative political forces into government with a two-thirds majority, entrusting them with the improvement of social and economic conditions, which had severely deteriorated under the previous socialist administrations, feel especially great responsibility for their homeland. They therefore feel that Hungary should not break away from the democratic community of European nations and the Atlantic world.

The present Hungarian Government, despite external circumstances that have proved more difficult than expected, and despite a few errors they may have made, still enjoys the confidence of this majority. However, they have had to experience that by throwing in false news and lies and hiding behind democratic slogans, some forces aim to divest our people of the very essential democratic right they cherish: the right to judge the performance and the achievements of our Government at the ballot box.

We hope that the intentions that jeopardise Hungary’s freedom will be overwhelmed by unbiased public opinion in the Western democracies.

Presidency of the Hungarian Writers’ Association,
Presidency of the Hungarian Academy of Arts,
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