

Protests against the Benes decrees

On September 20, 2007, the Slovakian parliament declared the Benes decrees, and consequentially offences against universally valid human rights, to be inviolable. Thus the theft of lands, homes and all other possessions were legitimized, compensation ruled out for the victims and also protected the still living war criminals against prosecution. No international outcry against this outrageous act could be heard.

What kind of Europe, what kind of democracy do we want to live in? Which path is this Union taking? Are only political and economic interests going to play a role, has our democracy become the prey of parties and bureaucracies? Are the refugees, dispossessed, raped and murdered to be sacrificed for a consensus, which attributes all guilt to the losers?

Rightfully, National Socialist criminals were condemned, but the condemnation of the crimes of communism is missing until this very day. The nationalistically motivated crimes of the victors also remained unpunished and such as those of the Slovaks, who only changed sides at the last possible moment!

Barring the fact that no Nazi criminal remained unperturbed in Czechoslovakia until the end of the war in order to be expelled from their homes, and even the argument that the Benes decrees is a consequence of National Socialism, is by far not the whole truth. In reality Benes and his accomplices planned these ethnical cleansings at the latest as of 1916. But even this is not the issue!

If the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as members of the European Union, get away with declaring the Benes decrees to be inviolable, then the acceptance of collective punishment of predominantly innocent citizens will remain a permitted method within democratic societies in the future!

If we leave this act unchallenged, it will mean Sudeten Germans, Karpaten Germans and Hungarians have acknowledged their guilt by remaining silent! Do we want to do this to the victims, do we want to do this to our children? No and Again No!

On April 19, 2008 we will hold demonstrations in front of the Slovakian consulate in Munich, Vollmannstrasse 25d at 11 o'clock and before Slovakian representations in major cities around the world. On April 22nd, at 13:30 o'clock, our Petition, with now almost ten thousand signatures, will be handed over to representatives of the European Parliament in Strasbourg with a simultaneous demonstration in front of the Parliament.

We ask you to follow the call of your hearts and consciences and support our protest against the concept of collective guilt by signing our petition which can be found on the following Website:

www.vilagmagyarsag.com/benes

Or for more information please write to the following address:

hunnia.baratikor@gmail.com.