

Embassy of the Republic of Hungary in Vilnius, Lithuania  
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LT-01116 Vilnius, Lithuania

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania  
J. Tumo-Vaižganto str. 2  
LT-01511 Vilnius, Lithuania

Embassy of Lithuania in Budapest, Hungary  
Deak Ferenc utca 15.  
1052 Budapest, Hungary

To:  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius,  
YE Ambassador Zoltán Pecze,  
Chargé d'affaires Giedrius Galkauskas

We, the undersigned chapter of Transparency International, write to you about the recent troubling events in Hungary concerning the free operation of civil society organisations and local media. We would like to kindly draw your attention and ask for your support in helping to urgently address these matters in order to ensure the protection of civic rights and civil society space.

Working as a non-partisan anti-corruption movement with local chapters in 26 out of 28 member states of the European Union – and more than 100 national chapters globally – respecting and upholding key civil society safeguards is essential for our work and that of other civil society organisations in creating a constructive debate on how to achieve more open, accountable and effective governance.

We believe that every government, irrespective of political affiliation, should uphold the rights of citizens in a democracy to freely monitor and evaluate public institutions as well as office-holders. We understand that Hungary, a European Union member, is obliged to this duty as well. We would like to kindly draw your attention to the fact that as a signatory to international conventions such as the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (esp. Articles 8 and 11), the United Nations Convention against Corruption (esp. Article 13), as well as according to the provisions of its own Fundamental Law (esp. Article VI, IX and XXXIX), Hungary committed itself to ensure freedom of expression and information, the free and unobstructed functioning of an independent civil society, the freedom and diversity of the press, the protection of personal data, and the unhindered access to public information.

We call upon the Government of Hungary to uphold these commitments made to the international community as well as its own citizens. We further call upon the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, to work with the institutions of the European Union and the Government of Hungary to ensure that these international norms and guarantees are respected and the current actions against civil society and the media are immediately stopped.

Yours sincerely,

Sergejus Muravjovas

Executive Director  
Transparency International Lithuanian Chapter  
11 June 2014, Vilnius, Lithuania

