



Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization  
and Other International Organizations in Geneva

No. 15/2023/HUMIS/GVA

Geneva, 7 February 2023

The Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with regard to the Joint Communication by Special Rapporteurs Ms. Nazila Ghanea, Ms. Irene Khan and Mr. Fernand de Varennes dated on 13 December 2022 (reference No. AL HUN1/2022) concerning the alleged unlawful dismissal of Mr. Gáspár Békés, has the honour to forward herewith the response of the Government of Hungary.

The Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Annex: *Response of the Government of Hungary to the Joint Communication No. AL HUN 1/2022*

***To the kind attention of: Ms. Nazila Ghanea, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ms. Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and Mr. Fernand de Varennes, Special Rapporteur on minority issues***

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Special Procedures Branch  
Geneva**



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF HUNGARY  
STATE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY POLICY AND ENERGY SECURITY**

**Ms. Nazila Ghanea  
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief**

**Ms. Irene Khan  
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of  
opinion and expression**

**Mr. Fernand de Varennes  
Special Rapporteur on minority issues  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**G e n e v a**

Budapest, 07 February 2023

Dear Special Rapporteurs,

First of all, thank You for the letter addressed to Minister Szijjártó concerning the alleged unlawful dismissal of Mr. Gáspár Békés.

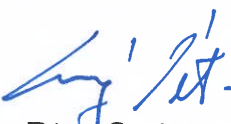
I would like to recall that Mr. Békés was dismissed by the Budapest Municipal Authority, not by any government body, thus I encourage you to turn to the Mayor's Office for detailed information on the factual and legal grounds for the dismissal.

Nevertheless, I seize the opportunity to emphasize that Hungary is strongly committed to the protection and promotion of the freedom of thought, conscience, religion and expression. The Fundamental Law of Hungary fully guarantees these rights, including the freedom to choose or change one's religion or other belief, and the freedom of everyone to manifest, abstain from manifesting, practise or teach his or her religion or other belief through religious acts, rites or otherwise, either individually or jointly with others, either in public or in private life. In Hungary, laws are upheld and enforced by the State, as it has happened in the case of Mr. Békés as well. His legal claims were thoroughly investigated by the relevant authorities and the decisions were made in accordance with the relevant provisions of the applicable laws.

Dear Special Rapporteurs, allow me, finally, to draw your attention to the fact that today four-fifths of people persecuted for their religion and belief are Christians, who are also ethnic, national or linguistic minorities in the places where they live, hence facing maltreatment and open violence. Therefore, I hope that in the future you will also take similar actions in this area as well.

I avail myself of this opportunity to wish You good health and continued success in discharging your highly responsible duties.

Yours sincerely,



Péter Sztáray