



PLATFORM
OF EUROPEAN
MEMORY AND
CONSCIENCE



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To
Prime Minister Victor Ponta
Victoriei Square 1
District 1, Bucharest
Romania

Göteborg, 20 November 2013

Dear Prime Minister,

It has come to my attention that Mr László Tőkés, MEP, freedom of expression is being violated by the Romanian government.

Mr Tőkés faces the possibility of seeing his Honor Medal Star of Romania retroactively revoked as a punishment for a statement made in July 2013. The medal is a state decoration awarded by the President of Romania for Mr Tőkés' fundamental role in the 1989 revolution.

In my opinion this process and the potential retrieval clearly undermine Romania's standing in the European family. It seems as if the process is meant to tarnish Mr Tőkés' political merits and is intended to be an attack against his public image.

Romania, as a member of both the Council of Europe and the European Union, has obligations clearly stated in the Statute and the Treaties and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The persecution, legal or other, of a citizen, any citizen, even a Member of the European Parliament, for exercising his/her freedom of expression and opinion, is never acceptable.

Mr Prime Minister, I urge you to make sure that Romania respects and lives up to fundamental human rights, including the freedom of expression. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Göran Lindblad

President of The Platform of European Memory and Conscience
Former MP
Former Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
Former Chair of the Political Affairs Committee of PACE

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Siwecova 2 ■ 130 00 Praha 3 ■ Czech Republic ■ tel.: +420-221 008 508 ■

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Bank account EUR: No. 4977492, Česká spořitelna, a.s., Czech Republic
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