

25
Jun 2020

⚠ Lvl. 2

State replied

Hungary

n° 53/2020

Alert created on: 11 May 2020

Threats of Legal Action against Cartoonist Gábor Pápai




SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ Non-state

CATEGORY  ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, RSF

László Toroczkai, leader of the Hungarian far-right political party Our Home Movement, and the ruling Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) have announced that they will sue cartoonist Gábor Pápai for alleged blasphemy. Pápai had published a cartoon in the opposition daily Népszava on 28 April 2020, representing Cecilia Müller (Chief Medical Officer at the National Centre for Public Health and member of the Government's "Coronavirus Task Force") at a press conference during which she faces Jesus crucified and says: "...His underlying condition caused dependence". The sentence refers to previous statements by Cecilia Müller who allegedly stated on several occasions that Covid-19 deceased were "predisposed" to die due to pre-existing pathologies. The cartoonist told Cartooning for Peace that he has been facing a campaign of threats and intimidation since the announcement of the lawsuits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

-  [Cartooning For Peace Press Release: "Alert Hungaria: Gabor Papai"](#)
-  [News report in Hungary Today: "KDNP to Launch Lawsuit for "Blasphemous" Caricature"](#)
-  [Threats from László Toroczkai, published on his own blog \(in Hungarian\)](#)
-  [Gábor Pápai's explanations on his Facebook profile \(in Hungarian\)](#)

STATE REPLIES



25 Jun 2020 | Reaction from the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

 [Reaction from the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

