**Proclamation**

**by**

**Gábor Iványi**

**Today an Attempt Was Made to Cut Off Our Institutions From the Gas Network!**

The Hungarian National Public Utilities Company, owned by the Hungarian State, today turned up in Dankó Street, Budapest, at the centre of the Hungarian Evangelical Fellowship (Magyarországi Evangéliumi Testvérközösség – MET) and Oltalom Charity Society (Oltalom Karitatív Egyesület – OKE) where the homeless base, the hospital, the shelter, the nursery and John Wesley Theological College operates. They attempted to literally cut our institutions off from the gas network.

Our organisations have piled up an undoubtedly great sum of debt in the past 10 years since the ruling Fidesz-KDNP government consistently oppose the opinions and non-appealable decisions of the Hungarian Constitutional Court, the Venice Committee and the Human Rights Court of Strasbourg, which stated that the government are bound to restore our status as a church. The church status that they ceased on false grounds, the restoration of which they were postponing while violating the constitution and – twisting laws to and fro – created an evidently discriminative situation out of revenge. Our debts come from this situation.

The Hungarian State unlawfully stopped financing those jobs of ours that we took over from them knowing precisely that this will definitely make our activities, sooner or later, totally impossible. Their most recent move was to revoltingly reduce, on the pretext of the virus danger, the supplementary funds for our schools providing education for the poorest children. Now they are closing the gas tap, or switching off electricity, or stopping water to force us on our knees.

Europe and at long last the Hungarian people should wake to the fact that all these are the result of the vengeful campaign that have reached those who were protesting against unseen corruption, systematic quell of differing opinions and the total destruction of institutional autonomy.

There is dictatorship in Hungary and autocracy commands!

Europe must show they are on the side of those who committed themselves to European values not only up to the time of admission in the EU and who believed that this community have the intent, will and power to stop autocracy and guarantee European norms.

I issued this proclamation on behalf of MET, OKE and other institutions of ours encouraging everyone from those at high fora to the man-in-the-street to at last say no to the autocracy that is already threatening our existence.

Budapest, September 17th, 2020 Gábor Iványi

President