



HUNGARIAN
HELSINKI
COMMITTEE

Smear Campaign Against the Members of the National Judicial Council

28/10/2022–31/12/2022

References to internal sources, implying objectivity and constitutional thinking

Title: Did Pressman call in two Hungarian judges?

According to our information, the case caused a conflict in court circles; our source assessed the case as gross interference in the Hungarian justice system. The reversed scenario is difficult to imagine: what a scandal it would cause if the Hungarian ambassador in Washington were to invite even a few judges of a state supreme court.

The leading American diplomat might not be aware of the fact that, in one of the NCJ's resolutions, it stated that, based on Article 1 of the Judicial Code of Ethics, „the judge acts without any influence during his judging activities, validating the principle of equal treatment of parties (...).”

Judges in Hungary must be aware that, according to the US State Department's records, its ambassador represents the interests and policies of the United States and in some cases openly politicizes, as we could observe in the case of Ambassador Pressman.

28/10/2022 [Tűzfalcsoport](#)

Repeated: 29/10/2022 [Mandiner](#); 30/10/2022 [888.hu](#)

Title: The Twitter post of the American ambassador shows that the official met with two Hungarian judges – Zoltán Lomnici Jr.: The government should not interfere in the functioning of the judiciary

It is incompatible with the constitutional principles of America as well that another branch of power tries to interfere in the functioning of the judiciary.

Their [Századvég's] source assessed the case as a gross interference in the Hungarian justice system.

Lomnici Jr. stated: Hungary is an independent, democratic state governed by the rule of law, where the executive power cannot interfere in the functioning of the independent judiciary. Századvég's legal expert reminded us at this point: the US State Department likes to comment — sometimes with more, sometimes with less justification—on certain decisions made by the courts of other countries.

28/10/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Repeated: 29/10/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Similar: 31/10/2022 [Hungarian National Public Television \(via Youtube\)](#)

Title: This is interference in our justice system – Parliamentary Committee President on the meeting between the American ambassador and judges

„I am concerned about the case. How is this possible? Our Fundamental Law clearly defines the independence of judges.

What happened is quite astonishing; this move can only be interpreted as interference in the Hungarian judiciary.”

Interestingly, even the NJC stated in one of its resolutions that, according to Article 1 of the Judicial Code of Ethics, „a judge shall act free from any influence in his judicial activities, upholding the principle of equal treatment of all parties. In the course of his work, he shall avoid even the appearance that he is favouring anyone or that his actions and decisions are biased or based on prejudice (...) A judge shall refrain from undue connections with the legislative and executive powers in a manner that is obvious to outsiders”.

[MP Imre] Vejkey told us that the issue is not on the agenda of the parliamentary body. It is true that the president of the supreme court will soon be heard on the report on the functioning of the Kúria last year, but that will be limited to the year 2021.

1/11/2022 [Mandiner.hu](https://mandiner.hu)

Repeated: 1/11/2022 [Origo.hu](https://origo.hu); 1/11/2022 bama.hu; 1/11/2022 [Kisalföld.hu](https://kisalfold.hu)

Title: Parliamentary Committee President to Origo: the two judges who consulted with the American ambassador are not impartial, they should resign

We do not have a specific task at the moment: it is now up to the NJC to deal with this matter. Every year, the Committee on Justice hears the annual reports of the NJC, the President of the Kúria, and the Prosecutor General, which are submitted to the Hungarian Parliament. The NJC's report is first discussed by the Committee on Justice, and based on that, a proposed amendment is submitted to Parliament.

At the moment, the 2021 report is being discussed, so we cannot ask a question on this matter, but we will certainly do so regarding the 2022 report.

3/11/2022 [Origo.hu](https://origo.hu)

Repeated: 3/11/2022 [Magyar Hírlap](https://magyarhirlap.hu)

Title: It is unfortunate to welcome judges at the embassy, but the USA is the world's number one power – expert on the Pressman meeting

At the same time, it is very unfortunate to receive non-executive judges at the embassy who are known to have conflicts with the leaders of the Kúria and the NOJ.

The ambassador should also be aware that the separation of powers and judicial independence are some of the basic pillars of Western-style democracy; this applies to America, the European Union, and our country as well, where the Fundamental Law also guarantees it. Such a meeting can cause serious concerns since we cannot know what was said at the meeting [or] whether something happened that would threaten the independence of the judiciary even to the smallest degree.

We must realize that the weight, influence, and advocacy ability of American ambassadors are greater than those of

their colleagues in general, and that they do take advantage of this.

8/11/2022 [Mandiner](https://mandiner.hu)

Similar: 14/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](https://magyar-nemzet.hu)

Implying the commission of the crime of abusing authority or the violation of international law

Title: There might be an investigation for abuse of authority because of the meeting between the American ambassador and Hungarian judges.

István Tényi filed a report with the Regional Investigating Prosecutor's Office, initiating an investigation on suspicion of abuse of authority against an unknown perpetrator based on an article published on Blogstar. The article by Tűzfalcsoport reported that the American ambassador met with two Hungarian judges, which caused a stir even in professional circles, as the case could be interpreted as blatant interference with the Hungarian justice system.

28/10/2022 [Pesti Srácok](#)

Repeated: 29/10/2022 [civilek.info](#)

Title: Could the American ambassador have violated international law?

The question may arise whether the American ambassador violated the Vienna Convention by ordering the two judges in.

Tűzfalcsoport believes that, in the meantime, Ambassador Pressman has read Section 41 Paragraph (2) of the Vienna Convention, which lays down the rules for diplomats concerning contacting officials, including judges.

The National Judicial Council was supported by the left-wing press as regards the scandalous meeting; even the propaganda blogsite 444.hu, representing the interests of George Soros, defended the ambitious judges, the useful allies of Brussels! On a different note, all credible public law officials condemned the ambassador's provocative meeting with the two Hungarian judges.

9/11/2022 [Tűzfalcsoport](#)

Repeated: 9/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#); 9/11/2022 [demokrata.hu](#)

Title: 444 has been busted, Benjamin Novak defends Pressman

Concerning the American Ambassador David Pressman, it has recently been argued that he may have violated Section 41(2) of the Vienna Convention, which lays down rules for contacts with public officials, including judges. Accordingly, an ambassadorial meeting such as the one in Budapest can only take place through the mediation of the foreign ministry of the country concerned.

The National Judicial Council has also enjoyed the support of the left-wing press in the wake of the scandalous meeting; even the propaganda blog 444.hu, which represents the interests of George Soros, has defended the ambitious judges, in whom Brussels also sees a useful ally...! On the other hand, credible public officials have, without exception, condemned the ambassador's provocative meeting with the two Hungarian judges.

So did „guest author” Benjamin Novak (aka Benjámin Novák, as exposed by Fidesz MEP Tamás Deutsch), who was recently embarrassed by an article seeking to discredit Hungary, [likewise defend the NCJ]. It so happened that the Soros blog 444 published a New York Times article, as if to complain that even in America they know how many problems there are in Hungary.

However, Tamás Deutsch noticed at the time that the article in question was written by a man called Benjámin Novák, who, incidentally, is an employee of 444.

So, according to him [Novak], the media took things to the next level when it comes to the ambassadors' meeting in question, when they referred to a violation of the Vienna Convention and even when someone dared to call Ambassador Pressman a „press man”.

11/11/2022 [Tűzfalcsoport](#)

Repeated: 11/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#); 11/11/2022 [Pesti Srácok](#)

Title: More leftist threads emerge among those who excuse the Pressman scandal

Tűzfalcsoport has drawn public attention to the case of the two Hungarian judges who were summoned by the American ambassador because it does not consider it right that, in flagrant violation of the Vienna Convention, the diplomat should have a confidential conversation with judges who, given the main activity of the courts, cannot in any way be considered the supreme representatives of the judiciary under the Hungarian constitutional system.

The case of this meeting, which was held in violation of international law, could be concluded with the sad lesson that two judges, whose task is to observe and enforce the legal provisions, were involved in the violation, which is a threat to the interests of our country.

Following Pressman's meeting with the members of NJC, the presidency of the judicial interest group firmly rejected „the untrue statements of fact and seriously defamatory statements about our fellow judges, which deeply insulted them in their judicial office, and which were partly based on an opinion piece published in an anonymous blog post”.

29/11/2022 [Tűzfalcsoport](#)

Cyncism

Title: Foreign influence might be dangerous – Miklós Szánthó: Hungarian judges must not conduct any political activity

Judges are mandated to apply the law, not to give political advice, stated Miklós Szánthó, Director General of the Center for Fundamental Rights. The two members of the National Judicial Council should consider resigning from their positions out of moral and ethical reasons, but at the very least [they] should consider a public apology.

The fact that the diplomat of the left-wing Biden administration invites Hungarian judges, who are members of an institution overseeing the administration of Hungarian courts, to a meeting disguised as a friendly conversation raises serious sovereignty problems.

Miklós Szánthó stressed that the „education” and „sensitization” of judges by foreign powers threaten the integrity of Hungarian public law bodies.

[...]

It could be extremely dangerous if it becomes common for Hungarian judges to attend regular ideological coaching sessions with representatives of foreign state interests.

30/10/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Repeated: 30/10/2022 [Kisalföld](#); 30/10/2022 [888.hu](#)

Title: Parliamentary Committee President to Origo: the two judges who consulted with the American Ambassador are not impartial, they should resign

"It's hard to say, but I can give you a personal opinion on this. If I had any case, and it was laid before these judges, especially if it was a case concerning Christian values, I would certainly declare bias, because I think that a judge who has consulted the American ambassador—who is a known follower of open society, by the way, [and] who is known to represent different values—would be unlikely to give an unbiased judgment on a case representing different values. For my part, I would declare an objection of bias, but how this [objection] would be assessed by reference to this [affair] is, of course, a different matter.

[...]

They [left-wing media outlets and NGOs] are well aware of the fact that ambassadors are political actors who carry out the orders of their own government, president, prime minister, etc. So they are silent because this is a very unpleasant situation for them."

3/11/2022 [Origo.hu](https://origo.hu)

Repeated: 3/11/2022 [Magyar Hírlap](https://magyarhirlap.hu)

Title: Open letter to the ambassador – Zsolt Bayer: What did these two judges tell you?

The point concerns the statement you issued after the public and public life in Hungary were shocked that you summoned/equipped/invited/commanded (underline the appropriate one) two Hungarian judges, who are also members of the National Judicial Council.

The Hungarian ambassador [to the US] will, of course, not call on the [American] judges in their official capacity—that would be so subordinate—[so] the two judges will go to the Hungarian Embassy, OK? There, they will talk to our ambassador, who will ask about the state of freedom of the press, freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion in the United States and will express his concern about the state of these freedoms and the independence of the judiciary (and the threats to it).

So that's all right, is it, Mr. Ambassador?

I ask you: why do we not know anything about what you discussed (had a conversation, a background conversation, an interrogation— underline as appropriate!) with the two Hungarian judges? It is also very important to know this because both judges, and one of them in particular, have already engaged in political activities incompatible with their judicial profession.

And why were these two judges brought before you? Is it because they have already expressed themselves politically and made it clear that they are anti-government?

Well, well, well... Doesn't it help bilateral relations if a section of the Hungarian public expresses an opinion about you? In that case, Mr. Ambassador, we have been at war for at least two years! Or don't you read what, and in what tone, the American press writes about the Hungarian government, the Hungarian prime minister, and us in general?

5/11/2022 bama.hu

Repeated: 5/11/2022 888.hu, 5/11/2022 [kisalföld.hu](https://kisalfold.hu)

Title: In recent years, direct foreign interference in the justice system is continuous

An internationally funded rights protection network—a network of political organizations—has recently tried to pressure and gradually disable the independent domestic judiciary with a false accusation of governmental attacks on the independent Hungarian judiciary.

6/11/2022 [Tűzfalcsoport](#)

Repeated: 6/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Title: Brussels puts union law in brackets to meet American demands – Hungarian statehood under attack

As far as the United States is concerned, it seems clear that the State Department, the representative of American diplomacy, is almost completely under the broad influence of the global NGO networks and legal and advisory bodies. They do not only act in human rights cases, but rather, they want to bring part or even the whole of the constitutional power of sovereign states under international control, as was shown by the consultation between the American ambassador in Budapest and two Hungarian judges, also members of the National Judicial Council.

The attempt of the United States to intervene in the Hungarian justice system is the exact opposite of the Western concept of the rule of law, and there is reason to suspect that America also wants to use the Western financial system to gain influence.

28/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Title: National Endowment for Democracy: names of Demszky and Kreko pop up

Péter Krekó emphasized the importance of the existence of NED and other similar organizations and that of international support. The practical realization of this [international support] can be seen in the financial support provided to the domestic liberal NGOs and the left-wing alliance, as well as in symbolic events such as Ambassador Pressman's meeting with the members of the government-critical National Judicial Council.

12/12/2022 [Tűzfalcsoport](#)

Pressure, anti-Americanism, vulgarity, and anti-LGBTQ speech

Title: Mr. Vasvári and Mr. Matusik should resign now

*Only the arrogant ambassadors and agents of the United States, inflamed by imperial pride, can afford to do this, and they behave as if they have sh*t on this land under us. For example, David Pressman, who has recently been appointed to Budapest, has caused so much trouble during his short stay here that one dares to walk towards the embassy at Szabadság tér only with one's nose shut, because something really stinks there. But let's leave Pressman alone; he's doing the job he was entrusted with. When was the United States interested in international law, in another country's sovereignty, or in diplomacy, when it came to its own interests? We can be happy not to wake up to missile explosions like many people have over the past decades.*

But there we have our dear judges, who run to the master's feet at the sound of a whistle and complain to him about all the dictatorship, the lack of freedom of the press, but most importantly, about the government pressure on the Hungarian judiciary, which of course they, the two of them, are resisting heroically, but if you're not sending missiles, dear Mr. Pressman, at least live up to your name and put pressure on the government, if you can, your majesty. But otherwise, if nothing else, they are happy to give advice to any NGO where some dollars roll in.

Wouldn't Mr. Vasvári and Mr. Matusik do better if, after explaining to the Hungarian people, on whose behalf they are judging, [they explained] what they were looking for at the embassy? I am convinced that many new opportunities would await them outside the judiciary. Open Society, Amnesty, Helsinki, TASZ, etc. The possibilities of the network are endless.

30/10/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Title: Two Hungarian judges who consulted with the American ambassador must resign, judicial independence demands it

The case caused a conflict in judicial circles. It is difficult not to evaluate the case as gross interference in the Hungarian justice system. Moreover, the two judges may have violated the Judicial Code of Ethics; therefore, the demand of many is justified: they must resign immediately.

30/10/2022 [Origo](#)

Repeated: 30/10/2022 [Demokrata.hu](#)

Title: The judge called in to the embassy for reporting attacks the government regularly – faithful leftist Csaba Vasvári

Csaba Vasvári, one of the judges who consulted with the American ambassador to Budapest last week, accused the government of suppressing the independence of judiciary. The member of the National Council of the Judiciary continued to profess his faith in the left after the events of autumn 2006, issuing several unsubstantiated rulings and later silencing [discussion of] his scandalous judicial activities on Wikipedia.

It is worth mentioning that Vasvári's participation in the meeting is not a coincidence, as his judicial activities after the events of 2006 were strongly linked to the left, and in recent years he has repeatedly attacked our country and government in the foreign press.

The fact that a left-wing diplomat of the Biden administration called in Hungarian judges who are members of a body that oversees the administration of Hungarian courts to a meeting disguised as a friendly chat raises serious sovereignty issues.

3/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Similar: 31/10/2022 [Origo.hu](#); 1/11/2022 [Origo.hu](#); 2/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#); 2/11/2022 [Karc Fm \(via Youtube\)](#);

Title: What was discussed between the American ambassador and two members of the Judicial Council? – The entire Hungarian press is speculating, but we have now obtained a leaked audio recording of the meeting

Although we cannot know more from official sources about what was discussed during the chat, we have an audio recording that gives us the most important details.

The transcript of the conversation is presented without changes:

- You see, although the translation of my name is purely coincidental, I believe in mutually beneficial collaboration based on common interests and goals. Hungary is an important partner and even friend of America, but it is very important that we strengthen our friendship even more going forward, if you know what I mean.

I'm not sure I understand what we can do for you, but I would like to make it clear first of all that the [Hungarian] jurisprudence is in line with the spirit of legislation and the Fundamental Law, even if I personally have my own opinion on this.

Of course, the most important thing is objective, independent, unbiased judicial work, and although I do not consider myself a political appointee, I am proud that the Biden administration has reduced the number of first- and second-degree convictions of LGBTQ people by 38.55% in the first two years! Let me pour you another glass, Your Honor!

Are you implying that your administration actively influencing sentencing practices at both the federal and state level?

Oh, no, please, where do you think... So we have an ethos of democracy and freedom of speech, and I think the more democratic and just judgments are made, the more the country benefits. I have brought you a brief, strictly confidential recommendation for your attention for the future... purely for interest, of course, but I would respectfully point out that we have already started to put it into practice with our Slovak and Romanian colleagues.

3/11/2022 [Kontra](#)

Title: Two Hungarys – The party is still on, which is why Judges Vasvári and Matusik were laughing in the Office of the American Ambassador – Briefing for the Viceroy

Fortunately, they're overdoing it again. The woke Bolsheviks in America sent this Pressman ambassador after us, and he has—with admirable good taste—got to work. Even before he got here, he declared that there were serious problems with democracy and tyranny in Hungary and that he will come down from the clouds and bring us sunshine and LGBTQ rights. And so it has happened.

He descended and, with a photo with his 'husband' and 'children', immediately greeted the Hungarians, who are such boorish bastards that they do not recognise marriage between men and the right to adopt, even though in the 21st century, at least according to people like him, this is a basic principle.

Well, that is why Mr. Pressman has come among us, to bring us Szittya Huns to our senses. We are, after all, at a rather low level of progress at the moment and not sufficiently receptive to the sacred achievements of liberalism. But rest assured, Pressman— nomen est omen— will squeeze us from his Szabadság tér bunker until we break in.

It is surely a coincidence that as soon as he arrived in our circles, protests started. He doesn't understand. Just like in the days of [André] Goodfriend, who himself, with deep affection, reinforced the rebels against the internet tax and the besiegers of Fidesz' headquarters with his presence. [There is n]o way he organised it [these events]; he was just on the spot, as a „psychological accomplice”, of course.

Now all sorts of „civil” activists have started protesting, allegedly for teachers' salaries. I'm telling you, it has nothing to do with Mr. Pressman's appearance. The Americans don't organise the overthrow of governments, velvet revolutions, Majdan coups—they don't have five billion dollars to spare for such things, despite Mrs. Nuland's blathering about it... A few days ago, the ambassador shared pictures on the Internet showing him rejoicing with two Hungarian judges, Tamás Matusik and Csaba Vasvári.

[...]

So now the party is on, which is why Judges Vasvári and Matusik were laughing in the office of the American ambassador, as if they were reporting to an anointed man of the empire. One thing is for sure: in the photos, the group is very cheerful, as if they were about to get married. What is also certain is that this could hardly happen the other way round, i.e., that the Hungarian ambassador in Washington would call in American judges to mourn local democracy.

But I suspect that we Hungarians would be better off if these Pressman, Vasvári, and Matusik types did not conduct their agendas in secret, within four walls, and negotiate the regulation of Hungary, but instead plastered the Internet with their plans.

Similarly, the way the pale-faced Márki-Zay boasts about the hundreds of millions of dollars he received from the United States for his campaign is to be laughed at.

I think we have no right and no reason to stand in their way as they deconsecrate themselves. Let them do it as often and as

loudly as possible, so that all Hungarians will be down in the dumps. They understand what the game is all about.

It's a stroke of luck that the enemies of sovereign Hungary, both at home and abroad, have been going the extra mile, that they have looked at Hungarians like fools and the country as a colony for twelve years. This is the reason why they are getting further and further away from power.

3/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Title: Viceroy Pressman sent a warning

In other words, David Pressman has turned the story upside down. He is not an attacker or an intruder—he is a victim because the „concerted” media attack on him intimidates his would-be negotiators. In such a case, freedom of the press and freedom of opinion, which the “pressmen” and “goodfriends” of the moment are so fond of worrying about, are no longer relevant. Everything matters only as long as their interests require it. And their interests now require them to hoodwink us, blackmail us, create internal political turmoil, and organise demonstrations, because we are not applauding loudly enough for their unipolar world order, which is collapsing. Either we fall in line, or they organise upheaval or in the end, Maidan, here too. As usual.

This is one of the reasons that the left-liberal judges are playing from a foreign score. The other is that the next episode of the anti-Hungarian campaign against the „intimidation” of judges here can be produced on the basis of the justified indignation of the Hungarians. It is all a lie; it is quite obvious. But when did reality and facts matter to them? It's the projection that counts. And then, on the basis of blatant lies spouted a thousand times in Politico and the New York Times, it will be possible to launch further proceedings in Brussels, to take away further resources that we are owed. As usual. These are our „friends”, our „allies”. History shows that it is worth paying them back.

4/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Title: The American ambassador seems to think that the natives should be educated

Why are the two judges who held a meeting with American Ambassador David Pressman not speaking out? From whom, for whom, and how does DK [Demokratikus Koalíció – an opposition party] collect donations? What does Péter Ungár think about the American support? These questions were discussed by Zsolt Bayer, László Néző, András Bencsik, and Ottó Gajdics.

6/11/2022 [Demokrata \(introducing a television show of Hírtv. via youtube\)](#)

Title: Briefing

With a few forceful slaps, the secretary brought the president to his feet, who looked around the Oval Office with a welcome smile.

It took him a few minutes to understand where he was. He looked to the secretary, who did not disappoint this time, for help.

“Viceroy briefing, Mr. President,” he said, gesturing with his head towards the unfamiliar man waiting patiently on the edge of the carpet.

“Viceroy?” Biden wondered.

- “That’s what we call the envoys we send to the colonies.” Like our friend Pressman.

“Pressman? Then he must have a good press...” - he laughed a little at his own joke, then fell asleep again. The secretary woke him up in the usual way. - „Nini, Pressman!” Biden was glad to see him again.

“He is to be the new ambassador to Hungary. It’s an important post, because it’s so near the war, and last time we didn’t succeed in replacing the government, even though we spent a lot of money on it.”

[...]

“Here are our men. Mayors, journalists, deputies, judges. They are the first to be consulted, and their knowledge of the place and the language can be a great help. One problem with them is that most are completely stupid.”

Remember,” continued the [secretary], while the president was grumbling, „whose interests you represent there, behind God’s back. The economy, arms, media, justice...”

Biden woke up.

“What time is it? I have to take my medicine! It’s here somewhere.” - He looked under the desk.

- “You see,” the secretary turned to the ambassador, „it’s a big responsibility. Our president has lost his medication.”

11/11/2022 [demokrata.hu](#) Repeated: 11/11/2022 [Mandiner](#)

Title: German newspaper: Biden's top gay diplomat takes on Orbán

Welt deals in a lengthy piece with American ambassador, David Pressman. According to the article, the United States has previously remained silent on Hungary's „democratic backwardness,” but this has changed with the nomination of David Pressman as ambassador.

“His very presence here is an affront to Orbán's culture war,” writes the author, who says that Pressman's activities so far—such as criticising [Foreign Minister] Péter Szijjártó's travels—have made him Budapest's „newest enemy.” The article says it is „undeniably interesting” that a „diplomat of an allied state has become public enemy number one.”

25/11/2022 [Mandiner](#)

Repeated: 25/11/2022 [Demokrata](#), 25/11/2022 [Origo](#)

Title: While preserving our sovereignty, we have increased our prestige in the world and, despite the difficulties, we have achieved economic success in 2022 – We have responded to the attacks of the globalists by improving our performance

US Ambassador David Pressman ordered two Hungarian judges to him. In the meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal severely criticizes the Budapest embassy for spreading the woke ideology promoted by Joe Biden. On October 31, András Zs. Varga, President of the Kúria, issued a statement in which he called the American ambassador's consultation with two members of the National Judicial Council “outrageous.”

12/31/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Quoting Wikipedia as an objective source; references to the 2006 riots, political affiliation

Title: Origo: The two Hungarian judges negotiating with the American ambassador must resign

The two Hungarian judges negotiating with the American ambassador must resign—this is what judicial independence demands. The two judges may have violated the Judicial Code of Ethics, which justifies their departure.

The meeting caused a clash in judicial circles. The source of this newspaper evaluated the case as gross interference in the Hungarian justice system.

Everything about the role of Csaba Vasvári following the 2006 Gyurcsány terror has disappeared from his Wikipedia page. The removed text recalled, among other things, that after the Budapest riots in the autumn of 2006 and in particular the siege of the MTV headquarters, hundreds of innocent people were arbitrarily detained on the basis of police statements.

After his arrival in Budapest, David Pressman basically threatened the government that if Hungary does not support Finnish and Swedish NATO accession, then Washington will not shy away from applying pressure.

The left-liberal Wall Street Journal described the American diplomat's expressions as elementary school behaviour, not those of a representative of American power.

30/10/2022 [Hungarian National Public Television \(via Youtube\)](#)

Title: Judge Vasvári, who visited the American Ambassador, adjudicated in favour of Gyurcsány in 2006

We know very well that an ambassador is very much an extension of executive power, and in this case, a power that serves foreign, and therefore non-Hungarian, interests. Vasvári's visit to Pressman has not only damaged the independence of the judiciary as written in the Fundamental Law but also the position of his own institution.

As days pass by, sadder and sadder connections are revealed on the left that should be enough to make those involved disappear from public life once and for all. However, they shrug off their responsibility like a dog shakes off water.

31/10/2022 [888.hu](#)

Title: Two Hungarys – The party is still on, which is why Judges Vasvári and Matusik were laughing in the Office of the American Ambassador – Briefing for the Viceroy

The latter two are members of the notorious National Judicial Council (NJC). The NJC was set up years ago to oversee the administration of the Hungarian courts. In practice, however, it appears to have been set up as a massively politicised, anti-government coterie, echoing the slogans of the left-liberal parties.

It was this group that quasi-denounced the government to the European Networks of Councils for the Judiciary over its administrative courts plan. And it is the members of this council who regularly complain in the national and Western bourgeois newspapers about the state of public affairs in Hungary and the desperate state of the judiciary.

[...]

He did not provide any evidence or audio recordings to substantiate his claims, but there is no need for that: what Csaba Vasvári says is certainly true. We have to believe him. In the autumn of 2006, he did not take it easy, either. He threw protesters and passers-by who had been hunted down in the streets into custody without their feet touching the ground. How could the court of appeal have declared that most of these arrests were unfounded and illegal? That many young boys and girls spent long days and weeks behind bars for no reason, locked up with common criminals? Never mind. Csaba Vasvári decided, and that was that.

Vasvári also sentenced Dániel Dukán, a university student, to two and a half years in prison in the first instance, although the prosecutor had only requested a suspended prison sentence. Csaba Vasvári, the judge, who is independent of everything (but mostly of reality), was not fazed by the fact that Dukán had injuries which were obviously caused by a brutal police attack. He considered the ranting of [Péter] Gergényi's police officers—that Dukán was injured because he ran into parked cars three times (!) while fleeing from the scene—to be plausible and realistic.

Interestingly, in 2006, I did not see any Guardian interview with Vasvári in which he lamented the bankruptcy of the Hungarian justice system, pressure from the Gyurcsány government, or the bitterness of innocently imprisoned young people. Only now, in 2022, according to Vasvári, has the end of the world come: now that it is not only they, the red-blooded judges, who decide everything, but the others, the honest judges, who can rap their knuckles.

3/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Title: Biden's man met with Gyurcsány's blood judge at the US Embassy

Vasvári's participation in the meeting is not a coincidence, as after the events of 2006 his judicial activities were strongly related to the political left. In recent years, he has repeatedly attacked our country and the Hungarian government in the foreign press.

For a long time, there had been text on Judge Csaba Vasvári's Wikipedia page, which indicated, though with inaccuracies, that he had issued serious sentences and pretrial detention orders against innocent protesters without real evidence during the 2006 brutal police violence.

28/11/2022 Origo.hu

Title: More leftist threads emerge among those who excuse the Pressman scandal

Vasvári's best-known and most scandalous case in the press was the trial of a 23-year-old university student, Dániel Dukán, for whom the prosecution had only asked for a suspended prison sentence, but Vasvári, as trial judge, sentenced him to two and a half years in prison without any concrete evidence, based only on the testimonies of the police officers who beat Dukán. The Budapest Court of Appeal, in the second instance, finally reduced the sentence to suspended.

29/11/2022 [Tűzfalcsoport](#)

National Judicial Council, President of the Kúria, National Office for the Judiciary

Title: Zoltán Lomnici Jr. to 888: Ambassador Pressman's recent move is open interference in Hungarian internal affairs

Zoltán Lomnici Jr.: András Zs. Varga, President of the Kúria, pointed out in his statement that, to his knowledge, the representatives of the judiciary have received and will receive ambassadors in their offices, if they so request. However, the President said he had no information that the relationship between the NJC and the American ambassador had been on the agenda of either of the two October meetings of the NJC. He was also not aware, he continued, that anyone had authorised the members of the NJC to express their critical views to a representative of another country, and anyway, the NJC President should have requested authorisation for the meeting. He also made it clear that ambassadors and envoys are political actors. An ambassador's official title is „Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary” or „Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary”. As part of the executive branch, they act on the instructions of the President, Prime Minister, or Foreign Minister of their own country. In my view, the above-mentioned professional opinion of the President of the highest judicial forum does not need to be supplemented in this respect.

3/11/2022 [888.hu](#)

Title: The NJC is excusing

The case of the two judges who met the American ambassador was also discussed at Wednesday's meeting of the NJC, but according to a summary of the meeting, there was no suggestion that their visit had affected their judicial independence. János Bánáti, president of the Hungarian Bar Association, also defended the judges, while András Zs. Varga, president of the Kuria, maintained his earlier position, Mandiner reported.

3/11/2022 demokrata.hu

Title: According to the NOJ (National Office for the Judiciary) the judges' meeting with the American ambassador is a cause for concern

The NOJ, headed by György Barna Senyei, told our newspaper that the justification for and legality of the meeting is clearly

questionable and therefore open to criticism.

According to the NOJ, however, the situation is the result of a specific regulatory shortcoming: the law on the organisation and status of the judiciary does not distinguish clearly enough between the limits of public participation by a judge and public participation by a judge acting in a non-judicial capacity.

4/11/2022 [Mandiner](https://mandiner.hu)

Title: President of the Kúria on the meeting with the American ambassador: the Vienna Convention was not respected

„If one goes into the political arena, one is no longer protected by judicial independence. This must be taken into account,” András Zs. Varga, President of the Kúria, emphasized in during the debate, the article reported. According to him, one cannot put an end to this by claiming that this is not politicization.

Any official business with the host state that the sending state has entrusted its representation with must be handled by

or through the foreign ministry of the host state or another ministry designated by common agreement.

„In the event that these rules have not been respected, it should not be surprising that criticism will be voiced. In this case, there is not a simple irregularity, but breaching the law. The law of the Vienna Convention has not been complied with,” the President of the Kúria stressed in his speech.

14/11/2022 [Mandiner](https://mandiner.hu)

Similar: 14/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](https://magyar-nemzet.hu)

Title: The rebellious judicial body is a reference point in the EU's rule of law reports

We have examined the rule of law reports that have been bandied about in Brussels as an indictment of our country and come to an interesting conclusion. The introduction and the sub-chapter on the judicial independence in last year's document and that of the year before last are in many respects identical. Some paragraphs have been specifically copy-pasted from the 2021 report into the 2022 one. In both years, Amnesty International, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, and the National Judicial Council provided the ammunition for the changed and unchanged sections.

In November 2020, an astonishing study with the above title was published by Viktor Vadász and his co-author in the German liberal legal forum Verfassungsblog.de, which claims to be respected. Vadász, who was then also an active judge and a member of the NCJ, added his name to ideas such as:

[...]

The name of the former judge, Viktor Vadász, also comes up here. Amnesty International's Szilvia Balassa, Judit Kende, and Orsolya Selymes gave a lecture on „Stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination” at the Hungarian Justice Academy. But we also reported that Viktor Vadász must have had a fit of rage when Parliament's Committee on Justice took apart the submission demanding the dismissal of the President of the National Office of the Judiciary (NOJ), and he suddenly tweeted in English that „Tünde Handó = Fidesz”. The statement, which might seem like a harmless quip from anyone's pen, is tantamount to a confession from the spokesperson of the National Judicial Council (NJC), suggesting that the unreceptive promoters of judicial independence are actually plotting the fall of the government.

[...]

In sum, the parts concerning the NJC of the two documents are about two-thirds identical., so much so that there is hardly any difference in the number of footnotes in the subsection on the independence of the judiciary (2021:61, 2022:60), and the source of the material presenting Hungary in a negative light in both years is Amnesty International, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, and the judicial council at the organisational level. In neither case was the government or a non-liberal NGOs asked for an opinion on the independence of the judiciary. However, the dates in the footnotes show that the editors worked mostly and in principle from recent materials. This could mean two things: either a number of findings were ignored, or both the NGOs working under their thumb and the NJC sent a minimally updated briefing from last year to the Brussels-Strasbourg bureaucrats.

The whole report, by the way, took into account the views of nearly sixty organisations in 2021, 16 of which have some form of connection with the state or the right. The same in 2022: 11 out of just over forty. This may explain the imbalance. There are many question marks around the EU rule of law report, but one thing seems to be certain: the document, which is being floated as an indictment of Hungary and [justification for] the withholding of funds due to our country, is a pat, the compilation of which is being driven to a decisive extent by organisations supported by the George Soros Open Society network of foundations and the National Judicial Council.

15/11/2022 [Tűzfalcsoport](#)

Repeated: 15/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#)

Title: The President of the Kúria welcomed David Pressman in his office

Pressman arrived for a „traditional introductory courtesy visit and had a meeting with the President of the Kúria and his staff”. The American ambassador expressed his gratitude to András Zs. Varga on his Twitter page.

16/11/2022 [Mandiner](#)

Similar: 16/11/2022 [Demokrata](#)

Reference to polls

Title: Hungarians reject US interference in domestic politics

It has caused a stir in the Hungarian public discourse that the US Embassy in Hungary published a video on its Twitter page which portrays leading pro-government politicians and various public opinion leaders in a negative light, and that American Ambassador David Pressman held a confidential meeting with two Hungarian judges who are members of the National Judicial Council. A November Századvég poll surveyed Hungarians' opinion on the role of the Embassy of the United States in Hungary's domestic affairs.

The survey shows that Hungarian voters strongly oppose any attempt to interfere with the relationship between Hungary and the United States. In contrast, they overwhelmingly support the maintenance of friendly relations based on respect for diplomatic rules.

Accordingly, more than three quarters of Hungarians (76 percent) believe that the United States should maintain a relationship with Hungary based on partnership and respect for diplomatic rules, and refrain from interfering in the country's internal affairs.

The proportion of those who think that the US should play an active role in Hungarian domestic politics, and that the US should criticise the Hungarian government if it deems it necessary, is 18%.

Similarly, nearly two-thirds of respondents (65 percent) disagree with the US Embassy directly expressing its views on Hungarian domestic policy issues, while 31 percent approve.

18/11/2022 [Századvég](#)

Repeated: 18/11/2022 [Mandiner](#); 18/11/2022 [Magyar Nemzet](#); 18/11/2022 [Origo](#)