



## STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The National Judicial Council categorically rejects all statements published in the Hungarian press insinuating that any Hungarian judge in office had been a judge of a "terror regime" or is connected to any actor of the political spectrum.

In a modern European State governed by the Rule of Law it is unacceptable to discredit the person of a judge for propaganda purposes.

No criticism or view expressed by a judge on the court administration system can be regarded as an attack against the country as judges also have the right to the freedom of speech.

See the article in English with the latest statement of the Spokesperson of the National Judicial Council [here](#).

The main comments of the Spokesperson from the article:

*"Csaba Vasvári, a senior judge at the Budapest Metropolitan Court, told the Observer that he and his colleagues on the bench "have been witnessing external and internal influence attempts" for several years...*

*Vasvári said political overreach came from all sides of the political spectrum... ..*

*One "clear internal influence attempt" Vasvári cited was a discussion among senior court officials and a prime suspect in a corruption case about firing a judge or making life "uncomfortable" for them at work, according to redacted secret documents leaked to Hungarian media. The case centers on Fidesz MP and deputy justice minister Pál Völner, who has been accused of accepting bribes – charges he denies. Völner was not involved in discussions to fire the judge.*

*In an unusual move, a senior judge appointed by the Fidesz-controlled parliament decided a judicial investigation into the case would remain secret, not only to the public but even to fellow judges*

*Vasvári also lamented the lack of transparency in judicial appointments made by the president of the National Office for the Judiciary (NJO)...*

*"We just want a transparent and meritocratic system," Vasvári said."*

In a statement, released on 2nd February 2022, the National Judicial Council already drew attention to the increasing pressure on the Hungarian judiciary in recent years.

Done at Pécs, 16th August 2022

dr. Bohli Eszter  
President of the National Judicial Council