

# “No such thing as Szekler flavor”

2000 lei fine for a company distributing food stuffs  
marketed as Szekler flavoured



**Ruladă secuiască de pui**  
Piept pui dezosat, sare, condimenta naturale.

**Cremwürști pui secuiesc**  
Carne pui, sare, condimente naturale.

**Parizer pui secuiesc**  
Carne pui, sare, condimente naturale.

Szekler flavor is popular among meat based food stuffs in Transylvania, denoting specifically condimented meat products

“There is no such thing as Szekler flavor, food stuffs can be only sweet, bitter or sour”, declared Mircea Diacon, the director of Covasna County Counsumer Protection Directorate, after fining a local company for marketing some of its food stuffs as “Szekler flavoured”, obliging them to change the label of the product. The company, where food stuffs passed their expiration date were also found, was fined for 2000 lei. Asked if he believed that the term “Szekler flavor” can be used as a slogan of a product,

Diaconu replied that “nowadays the term Szekler is being used in a more and more ridiculous manner, it is possible that soon the Szekler toilet paper or the Szekler cemetery will also appear. It is not appropriate to use this term when it comes to food stuffs.” He also ironically asked one of the reporters if he ever tasted a Szekler.



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In the same time, he declined to comment the fact that other companies have been marketing their products as “Romanian flavored”, for example the “Gusturi Românești” product family of the Mega Image multinational company. No fines were given for marketing food stuffs called Romanian flavored, or for “muschi tiganesc” (Gipsy meat) or “salam sasesc” (Saxon salami). So the fine is clearly

discriminatory.

The owner of the fined company, István Mózes declared that labels in question were both in Romanian and Hungarian, and that the inspectors of the Consumer Protection Directorate have been supervising his company many times in the past and have expressed their discontent with the name of the products. After he refused to change the name of the food stuffs, they ran an in depth inspection, until they have found a legal reason to fine him. He also said he finds himself forced to change the name of the products, because he does not want to challenge the authorities.



## **Institutional abuse: Ethnic and linguistic discrimination of Hungarian inmates in jails**

The situation of the usage of the mother tongue in jails is virtually inexistent, in spite of the fact that there are carcer institutions in Romania, where the number of the Hungarian inmates exceed 20%, for example Miercurea Ciuc, Targu Mures, Codlea jails. In these institutions Hungarian cannot be used nor verbally, nor in written form, inmates have no access to Hungarian television posts (otherwise available in the offer of almost every cable company operating in Transylvania), nor are they allowed to listen to local Hungarian radio stations.

They cannot ask for Hungarian teachers, priests or psychological help. While according to the law they are entitled to use their mother tongue among each other, in reality if they do so, they get punished for it. Due to the usage of the Hungarian language the prison authorities do not protect inmates from the abuse

suffered from other prisoners.



Hungarian inmates cannot use their mother tongue nor verbally nor in written form in Romanian jails

Our organization has been sought out by Hungarian inmates in Romanian jails, complaining about not having been allowed to speak on their mother tongue. They are forced to write all letters to their family members in Romanian, even in spite of the fact that very often they do not speak or write well in Romanian. Hungarian inmates suffer abuse from the jail administration as well as other inmates, such abuse being the result of their ethnicity and mother tongue. Inmates should be allowed to converse and correspond on their mother tongue, however this is strictly forbidden in Romanian jails. Also, Hungarian inmates who have turned to our organization have complained that if they formulate the violation of their linguistic rights to the prison authorities, they have to complete their full sentence, they are not released earlier for good behavior.