

[Translation from Hungarian:]

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The editors received new information concerning the fate of ERNO BORBELY, LASZLO BUZAS and KATALIN BIRO arrested in November 1982 in Csikszereda (Rumanian: Miercurea Ciuc). In making available this summary of facts, we hope to assist the efforts and protests occurring on their behalf:

Erno Borbély

- o Born: 1952
- o Address (prior to arrest): str. Tudor Vladimirescu nr. 17, et. IV, ap. 17
Miercurea Ciuc, RUMANIA
- o Education:
 - High School: Graduated in 1971 from the "Imre Miko" Lyceum in Sepsiszentgyorgy (Rumanian: Sfintul Gheorghe).
 - University: Completed studies in 1978 at the History/Philosophy Faculty of the Babes-Bolyai University in Kolozsvar (Rumanian: Cluj).
- o Employment (prior to arrest): Teacher
- o Employer: Trade and Industry Lyceum No. 2, in Miercurea Ciuc.
(Prior employer: Trade and Industry Lyceum, Szentegyhazasfalu [Rumanian: Vlahita].)
- o Nationality: Hungarian
- o Citizenship: Rumanian
- o Religion: Roman Catholic
- o Union: Member of General Association of Trade Unions (the "official" and, of course, the only trade union currently functioning in Rumania).

o Circumstances of Arrest:

On November 23, 1982 at 6:30 a.m., detectives from the Securitate [Rumanian secret police] appeared at Borbély's home with a search warrant. The house-search lasted until 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time they took him into custody and carried him away. At his place of employment, his locker was also searched; the responses to inquiries by his colleagues were that: (1) "he made and sold pornographic pictures;" and (2) "he smuggled gold." Since that time, no one at his place of employment knows anything about him. His indirect supervisor, the County Chief Inspector of Schools, was told to look for a replacement for Borbély and that if any news concerning Borbély develops, the Inspector will be notified.

It is not known whether anything was found during the house search.

o Trial and Conviction:

Our sources were unable to describe the precise laws under which Borbély continues to be held, or pursuant to which he was convicted. The trial took place in Bucharest, closed to outsiders, in February-March of 1983.

o Sentence:

Seven (7) years, for treason, but this has never been officially confirmed.

o Imprisonment:

Borbély is held at the prison for political prisoners in Jilava (near Bucharest), in an underground cell. Letters and packages cannot be sent to him, or, in other words, it cannot be determined whether he actually receives them. Nevertheless, our sources believe that expressions of concern (in the form of letters sent to his former address, telegrams, etc.) could help in many respects to improve the situation of the prisoner, and that protest messages sent to the political leadership of Rumania could be of equal importance.

His mother visited him during the Fall of 1983. His parents, relatives and friends are under surveillance by the Securitate, and anyone who visits them is immediately taken away and questioned.

o Health:

Before his arrest, he had a bleeding stomach ulcer which was exacerbated during the time of this detention, making hospitalization necessary.

Laszlo Buzas

On November 22, 1982 Laszlo Buzas was summoned by the Securitate, interrogated for several days, then released. Thereafter, on several occasions, he was taken from his apartment and later released. In March 1983, at his place of employment, he was ordered by telephone to appear at Securitate headquarters and he has since failed to return home. He was a good friend of Erno Borbély. His older brother, Balazs Buzas, was fired from his job as mayor of Csikszereda (Rumanian: Miercurea Ciuc) because of his younger brother. At the meeting where his dismissal was announced, the County First Party Secretary said, "His brother fantasized about things which will never become reality."

Laszlo Buzas was sentenced to six (6) years for treason. He is reportedly being held together with Erno Borbély. He was severely tortured during the interrogation; his nails were ripped out.

Buzas is married, the father of two children. His studies were in economics, and he was employed by the Tractor Factory of Csikszereda.

Katalin Biro

Katalin Biro, the fiancée of Erno Borbély, was arrested in November 1982. She was held in custody only during the period of her investigation, and she was not convicted.[*] Her profession: building engineer. She was employed by the county Building and Maintenance Trust as a white-collar official. She is presently employed at the same place, as a blue-collar worker.

[*] [The apparent contradiction between this report and the news of Katalin Biro's suspended sentence, as reported in the preceding Hungarian Press of Transylvania Release No. 6/1984, remains unresolved. The fact remains that she disappeared for a period in excess of six months from the time of her arrest in November 1982. According to a verbal report received from another source, on July 28, 1983, Katalin Biro was conditionally released with strict orders forbidding her to disclose the facts surrounding her case to anyone. Katalin Biro is in her 20's.]