Rumanian Police Severely Manhandled
Hungarian-American Conductor Árpád Joó

On November 30, 1987, the Hungarian conductor Árpád Joó who is a citizen of the US, was brutally beaten in Nagyvárad (Oradea) by several Rumanian policemen. Joó arrived to the city at the invitation of Ervin Aczél, the principal conductor of the Nagyvárad Symphonic Orchestra. Before his concert, he visited one of his Hungarian acquaintances who resides in the city. After the program, he was taken into temporary custody by the security police who wanted to find out the name of his acquaintance. Since Joó refused to divulge the name of the individual, first they threatened him by pointing a submachine gun at him, then they beat him thoroughly with rubber truncheons.

Immediately after the incident, Joó was permitted to return to Budapest.

Árpád Joó was born in 1948. Early in his career in Budapest he gained international recognition, but he became truly famous after his concerts in the United States and Western Europe. As of this year, he is the principal conductor of the Madrid Symphony.