

PROFESSOR BO ROTHSTEIN

Oktober 16, 2014

To Lilla Makkay, the Hungarian Ambassador to Sweden

Dear Mrs. Ambassador,

I recently visited Budapest and encountered the new monument that has been installed by the Hungarian government about Hungary during the second world war. I was appalled by this monument depicting Hungary as a victim of German aggression and occupation. This is a clear, unacceptable and utterly shameful falsification of history. Germany did not invade Hungary because Hungary was in a military and political alliance with Germany. The monument is a disgrace to the thousands of victims of German and Hungarian fascism and totalitarianism. It is beyond any doubt well document that the Hungarian authorities collaborated closely with the German Nazis to persecute Jews and other minorities and organized their transportation to the Nazi extermination camps. Thus, portraying Hungary as a victim of German Nazism is a nothing else than a complete lie. My grandmother, born in the city of Pécs in Hungary, was murdered in the extermination camp Chelmno. I find this monument not only utterly tasteless from an artistic point of view but also representing an insult to my family and to the thousands of victims of Hungary's collaboration with one of the most murderous and despicable governments in the history of humanity. I ask to you advice your government to undo this insult to the memory of the victims of Hungarian and Nazi-German fascism and totalitarianism.

Yours,

Bo Rothstein

[A Swedish version of this letter was published in *Göteborgsposten*, the leading daily newspaper in West Sweden, on October 21, 2014]

HOME ADDRESS: ASCHEBERGSGATAN 1 • SE 411 27 • GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN
WORK: UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, BOX 711, SE 405 30
GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN
E-MAIL PRIVATE: BO.ROTHSTEIN54@GMAIL.COM, E-POST WORK: BO.ROTHSTEIN@POL.GU.SE