



Right of Reply Delegation of Hungary

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I would like to react to the intervention made by Rabbi Baker and the distinguished delegation of the USA.

The Hungarian government is carrying out zero –tolerance policy towards antisemitism. This not only laid down in words but turned into actions: since 2010 the government modified among others the Criminal Code and the House of Rules of the Parliament to combat hate speech. Parallel with this, the legislator created the possibility for communities to defend their rights with a civil lawsuit. In addition a consultative forum had been established in order to ensure regular exchange of views between the Jewish communities and the Government. Thanks to these efforts a kind of Jewish renaissance taking place in our country.

Also, I would like to evoke that last year Hungary chaired the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance - which organization Rabbi Baker and several participant mentioned. At the first PC of this year, State Secretary Szabolcs Takács presented for the Participating States the work had been done throughout the year.

On the decoration of Zsolt Bayer, I would like to add that a civil organization nominated him for the award, because of his work carried out as a journalist researched the victims of the GULAG. In connection with the lack of action by the Government, mentioned by Rabbi Baker, let me underline that according to the legal regulation it is impossible to withdraw decoration. In connection to the rehabilitation of controversial personalities, the prime Minister stresses several times that Hungary does not support the commemoration any person collaborated with authoritarian regimes.

On migration, the standpoint of the Government remained the same: the unlimited and irregular flow of people may bring a security risk to the European continent. The Hungarian Government raised its voice against this harmful practice, not against migrants.