



Department of Justice

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**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INITIATES DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS
AGAINST EDITOR OF WORLD WAR II ANTI-SEMITIC AND PRO-NAZI
PUBLICATIONS**

Department of Justice announced today that it has initiated deportation proceedings in Newark against an Englewood, New Jersey man who, as a propagandist during World War II in Nazi-allied Hungary, advocated the persecution of Jews -- including measures such as mass deportation and the "de-jewification of Hungarian life" -- and the defeat of the United States and its allies.

The Criminal Division's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) and the Newark District Office of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, today served Ferenc Koreh, 86, a retired Radio Free Europe producer and broadcaster, with an Order to Show Cause that seeks his deportation for assisting in the persecution of persons on the basis of race, religion, national origin, and political opinion and for making material misrepresentations about his wartime activities in order to gain admission to the United States.

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In June 1994, as a result of a denaturalization suit brought by OSI, Judge Maryanne Trump Barry of the U.S. District Court in Newark stripped Koreh of his U.S. citizenship. Judge Barry found that Koreh's admitted activities as founder and "Responsible Editor" of Szekely Nep, a virulently anti-Semitic and anti-American newspaper in Nazi-allied Hungary, constituted "advocacy and assistance in persecution" and "membership and participation in a movement hostile to the United States." Judge Barry characterized the articles as "poison" which portrayed Jews as "alien elements with diabolical skills" and as being "traitorous, unscrupulous, cheating. . . throughout. . . Hungarian history," and advocated the "de-jewification of Hungarian life" since "a final solution may be achieved only by deporting Jewish elements." Judge Barry noted that these articles represented only "the tip of the very dangerous and very extensive iceberg".

Judge Barry's decision was unanimously upheld by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in February 1995. The Third Circuit noted that Koreh's involvement in the publication of anti-Semitic articles "assisted in the persecution of Hungarian Jews by fostering a climate of anti-Semitism in Northern Transylvania which conditioned the Hungarian public to acquiesce, to encourage, and to carry out the abominable anti-Semitic policies of the Hungarian government in the early 1940s." Approximately 435,000 Hungarian Jews were deported between May and July of 1944 to Nazi concentration and death camps, such as Auschwitz. Citing

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the Nuremberg prosecution of Nazi propagandist Julius Streicher as precedent, the Third Circuit emphasized "the maxim that the pen is at least as mighty if not mightier than the sword. That the Nazi powers and their cohorts placed great confidence in the power of the word is demonstrated by the emphasis they placed on propaganda." Streicher was convicted of war crimes against humanity and hanged.

The Order to Show Cause alleges that, in addition to his work at Szekely Nep from 1941-1944, Koreh served as (1) Press Officer and later Deputy Section Chief in the Information Section of the Hungarian Government's Ministry of National Defense and Propaganda, (2) senior editor of Magyar Ero, an anti-Allied, anti-Semitic and pro-German weekly owned by the Ministry of Propaganda, (3) Responsible Editor of Vilaglap, an anti-Allied, pro-German weekly owned by the Nazi-occupied Hungarian Government, and (4) a contributing writer with Az Orszag, a pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic newspaper owned by the Nazi-occupied Hungarian Government, and that each of these positions independently constitutes grounds for deportation.

OSI Director Eli Rosenbaum noted that "propagandists such as Koreh laid the foundation for Nazi genocide by fostering a climate of hate in which inhumane measures could be carried out without protest." He said that the Koreh proceeding is a result of OSI's ongoing efforts to identify and take legal action against former participants in Nazi persecution who reside in the

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United States. To date, 53 such persons have been stripped of U.S. citizenship and 45 have been removed from the United States.

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