



Questionnaire

National Parliaments' activities on alleged CIA activities in European countries

COUNTRY: **Hungary**

CHAMBER: **Hungarian National Assembly**

1. Was there a special committee formed in your chamber, similar to the one of the EP's Temporary Committee on the alleged use of European countries by the CIA for the transport and illegal detention of prisoners - TDIP?

Yes:

No:

2. Does any other permanent committee of your chamber deal with the matters?

Yes:

No:

If yes;

Name:

National Security Committee

What is its mandate regarding these allegations:

Organised a hearing of the political state secretary in charge of control of civil national security services in order to inform the MPs of the committee and the press (date: 15 Nov 2005, public meeting).

MPs involved:

MPs of the Committee (11 member, chairman from the opposition)

Outcome and work programme of the permanent committee:

No written document adopted.

Name:

European Affairs Committee

What is its mandate regarding these allegations:

Organised a hearing of the political state secretary in charge of control of civil national security services in order to inform the MPs of the committee and the press. (date: 7 Dec 2005, public meeting)

MPs involved:

MPs of the Committee (21 members, chairman from the governing coalition)

Outcome and work programme of the permanent committee:

No written document adopted.

Name:

Committee on Foreign Affairs

What is its mandate regarding these allegations:

Addressed questions to Minister of foreign affairs (date: 16 Nov 2005, public meeting).

MPs involved:

MPs of the Committee (22 members, chairman from the opposition)

Outcome and work programme of the permanent committee:

No written document adopted.

3. Which permanent committee in your Chamber supervises intelligence services of your country?

Name:

National Security Committee

What is its mandate:

The responsible Minister is required to inform the Committee about the general activities of the national security services regularly and at least twice a year. The Government also must inform the Committee about its decisions about matters brought to its attention by the Minister.

The Defence Committee in the Parliament, among other tasks, exercises oversight of military security services. The National Security Committee and Defence Committee hold closed sessions when exercising their oversight authorities. The members of the oversight committees are obliged not to disclose secrets about the service, even after their terms in Parliament have ended.

Only those MPs who have passed a national security check may become members of the oversight committee. This security check is carried out by the National Security Office with the written consent of the MPs in question. The Committee has the right to request information from the Minister and the General Directors of the services about the national security situation of the country and the operation and activities of national security services; to request information from the Minister of Justice, the Minister supervising civil national security services, the



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Defence Minister and the General Directors about specific uses of secret technical devices and methods; and to examine individual complaints against unlawful activities of the national security services in case the complainant does not accept the results of an investigation carried out by the Minister supervising the national security services. The Committee informs the complainant about its findings.

If the Committee feels that one of the security services is carrying out unlawful or improper activities, it can ask the Minister to conduct an investigation into the matter. The Minister will inform the Committee about the findings of the investigation. The Committee is empowered, according to the law, to carry out a fact-finding investigation if it finds that a security service operated in violation of the law. During this investigation, the Committee has the right to examine the security service's documents concerning the case and to hear testimony from members of the security service. The Committee is also entitled to call on the Minister to take measures in such cases, and it can also initiate the establishment of responsibility for such operation.

In addition, the parliamentary oversight committee gives its opinion on the detailed draft budget of the national security services. It also conducts nomination hearings for those appointed as general directors of the national security services.

The Committee has the right to examine any files or information reports prepared for the Government by the national security services. If the National Security Office launches an investigation and secret collection of information against an MP or against one of his or her family members, the Minister will have to report it to the Committee. The MP in question, in this case, will not be informed about the activity.

The National Security Committee makes public reports on fact-finding missions, but no regular reports are published.

Legal basis:

Act no. CXXV of 1995 on the National Security Services

Act LXIII/1992 on the Protection of Personal Data and the Disclosure of Information of Public Interest

Hungarian National Assembly's Resolution No. 94 of 1998 (XII.29) on the Basic Principles of the Hungarian Security and Defence Policy

[Summary of the supervision](#) and [related acts](#) concerning the activity of the National Security Office (NBH)

MPs involved:

It consists of 11 members. The president of the Committee must be a Member of Parliament from one of the opposition parties.

Outcome and work programme in the area of these allegations:

No written resolutions, only oral information and minutes of committee meetings (public meetings)

4. Has your Chamber been involved in another activities relating to these allegations (debate, report, etc.)?

NO