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### Let's not destroy the schools in Romania

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Romania is a country defeated in a silent war. A perverted war, not a fair one waged with honourable weapons, but a war of lie and betrayal. In 1989 Romanians were deeply deluded: they thought they freed themselves, instead they get on bended knees biting the dust.

Like in any other vicious war, the conqueror pillages the country across and along. He grabs everything. Romania has no more industry, agriculture, trade, it gives in its natural resources, it destroys its teaching, education, science and technology. Romanians die like flies, leave their own country, the population is dwindling at a rampant pace, we are surrendering our life, our health, our future. How far and how long must we endure this? Must we also surrender our souls? There is just one thing that any conqueror, any predator can take from the one he has defeated and only with the latter's consent: hope, expectation. Are we so hopelessly desperate, discouraged, utterly devoid of any kind of faith, sunk into a state of animality that of our own free will we give way to our hope of future? I do understand that the country was defeated, that we, ourselves, are robbing it with the help of our own Judas. I do understand that we have instituted the dictatorship of democracy against ourselves and we frenetically, unceasingly, with dedication and devotion lie, betray, cheat one another, ourselves, our families, parents, children, our fellow men every day; that through our mean politicians, we wave vested, fancy, planetary, European, aberrant economical, social and political theories for the sole purpose of deceiving the masses, of pauperize them even more and finally to exterminate them. So that the many shall be left without employment, without salaries, without pensions, without hospitals, without schools! Everything for the benefit of the most evil of us, of their huge bank accounts – made with stolen money, of their horrendous villas, of their luxury cars, all of these so typical of surely parvenu boors. Did we, Romanians, lower ourselves that much? I do understand that in the 1989s we could not figure out what the situation was exactly, that we were and are greed, weak, ignorant, devoted to evil, definitely vicious, traitors, criminals; that we killed our parents, we buried our past, we trampled underfoot our lifetime work.

But, what have we got against our children? Why do we destroy their schools? The children are the future, the hope. Perhaps, through them, we shall succeed, sometime in the future, perhaps these hardships will not last forever...Of course they won't! It depends on us, on how much we can endure, on our amount of hope. We, the evil ones, gorged and shall gorge ourselves plenty enough, whatever the shape of things to come our progeny will live out the rest of their lives abroad, hidden on desert islands, in exotic wild places where we have concealed our fortunes and we, the evil ones, shall have already solved all our problems. Let's give those, whose lives we have so christianly ruined at least the chance of putting their hope in a future. Through their children, through their children's schools. Let's not destroy the schools in Romania!

Because in my humble city Giurgiu, lying on the northern bank of the Danube river at 60 km of Bucharest, the building of an old and honourable high-school called "Ion Mairescu" is falling into ruins for 5 years. It is falling down with dignity, in silence, in the soundless cry of the powerless children, teachers and parents. These people who have been robbed, crushed, lied to, humiliated by the authorities, by the political regime are soundlessly crying.

The high school was set up probably around 1870, the building was erected in 1895, expanded and reinforced in 1925, looked after and revitalized here and there in the communist modern epoch of Romania. Many generations of pupils and teachers learned here, many families in Giurgiu were educated, trained in this high school which became a landmark and a reference point for the local people's culture, education and training. Like any other renowned place, the high school has also an interesting history, worthy of a dedicated presentation. It takes pride in former students, in great personalities such as Tudor Vianu, Miron Nicolescu, Ion Barbu. In academic and cultural environments it has been known since long ago that this city has always produced good mathematicians, physicists, chemists, philologists, artists, sportsmen. Compared to other schools in Giurgiu, "Ion Mairescu" high school has its elitist, distinct, major contribution to our cultural landscape. Less famous, albeit much more important, former students of this high school became workers, engineers, doctors, professors, highly competent lawyers. Though modest people, these anonymous built and instilled life, hope. Above all, this high school, nowadays a national college, takes pride in a noble mission fulfilled with honesty: for more than 100 years it taught children book. It taught them to read and write, to count, to work, to think, how to become responsible, honest adults who, at their turn, educate their own children about good, beauty and truth. I am also a former student of "Ion Mairescu". Whenever I thought of it and lately when I returned to it, I had the same warm feeling as when I think and return to my mother. Former colleagues, townsmen of mine, feel the same way. The memory of this high school will last forever. This is the meaning of alma mater.

Former professors reached at a venerable age, together with young active professors, with parents and pupils set up an association in order to gather the necessary funds for rehabilitating the building of "Ion Mairescu" high school. For many good years they are striving to persuade the local and central authorities to include the recondition works of the building in the budget execution. To no avail. There was hardly rehabilitated one side of the building (6 classrooms), completely insufficient for over 1000 students who continue to take their classes in former narrow, dark, squalid, unsanitary boarding school dormitories. A major, with a too long tenure in this position, who was a former student of the high school, is unable to take a decision in this respect for 5 years. It was more easier for him to build a new headquarters for the city hall, a new building for a „cultural center" of entertainment and other merry stuffs. When we neglect the school, troubles come up. Lack of education is directly related to the increase in misery and criminality. In the city of the mayor who doesn't give a toss about the high school, a young man, a foreign sportman was killed in a pub by some young local people.

In order to resume its activity at a minimum level, the high school would need 3 million RON (and 5 million RON for a complete rehabilitation). The annual budget of the municipality for the year 2012 is about 67 million RON. Now, 3 million against 67 million is 4,5%. In 2 years 2.25% per year would not be such a great effort. Let's suppose that the „cultural center" which receives 8 million RON/year would get less with 2.25%: precisely, less with 160 thousands RON. Perhaps it would not be too big a disaster as against 8 million. Let's suppose that the local tax would increase by 2%. More exactly, a local taxpayer will pay 102 RON instead of 100 RON. I think no one would be upset about this. I am certain that serious people as the mayor, as those in the local council, in the county council, in the the minister of education, competent and highly qualified politicians as well as local and central administrators - all of them with diplomas and experience,

would find both the solution and the necessary funds faster and better than myself. We wonder why did they not do it yet, why did they do nothing about this for the past 5 years? We shall answer them at the oncoming local elections. I know that these specialists are whining all the time alleging that is hard, that money is insufficient, that it is other people's business not theirs, that others are to blame, that it was raining and there were floods etc., etc. Whiners are always hypocrite. If they do not know, we shall teach them, if they cannot, we shall help them; but if they do not want...let them hit the road! They are neither irreplaceable nor indispensable.

In their efforts to raise people's awareness of this situation, the association "Ion Măiorescu" has recently organized a public meeting. Speeches were delivered, in which arguments, demands, requests, consequences were put forward; they were followed by a tombola, a selling at auction of many art objects made by the high school students and an artistic programme. I saw dedicated teachers, concerned parents and especially, exceptionally gifted and responsible children who impressed me particularly through their ability to communicate. These people deserve to have a school. What kind of souls do we have to deny them this?

The meeting was attended by candidates for mayorship who provided a generous financial contribution; the general public contributed also, each one to the size of his purse: there was hardly gathered a meager amount of approx. 100 thousand RON. Nevertheless, it was a remarkable proof of solidarity, of social cohesion, of rallying around the lofty idea of teaching and education. Where financing is concerned, the accent should be put by the administration. The incumbent mayor was too busy to attend the meeting. Most probably he will obtain the necessary number of votes from somewhere else. It would be interesting to know from where, what - or who - is he relying on? My thoughts carry me further. In this world, in a ruined state as Romania, along the elite that dwindles away, that is increasingly minority and divided, there is also the mass of these brutish miserable creatures: many of them survive only in the environment of the murky underworld. Extortion, crime, theft, illegal traffic of goods, values, drugs, proxenetism, the refuse to pay taxes and duties (euphemistically called "fiscal evasion") made up the natural environment of this underworld. The state authorities are overcome by the scale of criminal phenomenon, and the political class, pragmatic as always, sees the collaboration with these people as a main source of power (and enrichment). The heads of this tribally organized world bring legion of decisive votes; the remainder of the honest population is divided in a false plural democracy and accordingly is irrelevant in elections. We learn from all these why the political characters couldn't care less about the honest population, the country, the people or the school; and in particular about the high school "Ion Măiorescu" in Giurgiu. We also learn that we must stick together as proletarians if we want to save the only thing we have left: the future.

I did not see at the meeting the holly autocephalous Romanian church, the mother of us all. In my naïve dreams I see a lot of people, professors, parents, children led by the priest and gathered in front of the city hall. Speaking with one voice, they remind the mayor that he is born from the dust and will return to dust like all of us, that he too, went to school where diligent and caring people spend most of their life teaching them book, that, perhaps, he also is in debt to these people as we all are. But most of all we are in debt to our children whose coming into this world was the joy of our souls but who did not ask us to bring them on such hostile earth. This is responsibility and thus it must be understood. Our holly Romanian church has a good influence on the population; I do not say, God forbidden, that pushed by the Evil, we should take it out of her social niche where it so comfortably stays - as it deserves, or to take it out of its holly numerous churches, out of its present day and future majestic, grandiose cathedrals and entice it into politics where it does not belong and where it could fall into the heavy sin of manipulating the votes; a sin that would be so easily at hand. But the cultivation of the soul towards the love of our neighbor as ourselves, towards a unity of faith in social solidarity, in cohesion and consistency,

in the responsibility to our children, in an altruistic concern for school, for learning, all these do not pertain to politics but to a Christian vocation. In my dreams I hear our holly church saying "The house of Lord is not my house, but the house of my fellow human beings". Or, perhaps, I am wrong and I heard these words not in my dreams but in a church in Warsaw, a long time ago, in 1982 when Solidarnosc was marching in the streets. With deference and confidence I call on and ask the holly fathers and servants of the Romanian church to rally to the cause of the high school "Ion Mairescu" in Giurgiu. And to the cause of all the schools in Romania.

The situation is actually much worse, much sadder than I described it above. Similar to "Ion Mairescu", in Romania there are many other school and high school buildings that are, perhaps, in a more deplorable state. We should not believe that this dire situation is accidental, that it is caused by the shortcomings, the carelessness, the idiocy of some scapegoat, etc. It is deliberate. It is not caused by a mistake but by a systematic action. We should not give credence to their wordings:" Oh my that's terrible! Thank you for letting us know! Don't worry we'll take measures to fix it! Please, let me show you out....See you at the elections!". No way! These nobodies in the Romanian policy are not only ignorant, greedy, stuffed and - pardon the expression, dummy (or scums, toadies, bandits as the people call them). Moreover, they have a malefic way of thinking that is extremely consistent. They are not at all idiots - personally, I appreciate their intellectualness, cunningness and evilness. They "think" – albeit only here and there and narrowly. They know all too well that the school is able to engender an independent and substantial thinking. Of which they are afraid. They know all too well that a learned man is fully aware he has a mind of his own. And a man who is not afraid to use his own mind, who has a sound rational thinking...Who will judge a learned man who uses his own mind? He will judge them, their fortunes - illegally made, their illegal deeds- done while they were in illegitimate high positions of power. And yet, these culpable characters believe in God, and they know all too well that God will punish them by the hand of future generations. That is why the future generations must be deprived of school, of learning, of education; everything possible must be done for they to be actually destroyed, physically exterminated. When it comes about his fortune, the Romanian politician is criminal and merciless. They destroy not only the primary schools, the high schools in Romania but - systematically and methodically, also the higher education system, the scientific research, science, technology so that Romania to remain an empty, dry, desert land inhabited by a mass of submissive slaves on the verge of animality, who passively obey them and their masters - whose wretchedness is even bigger than theirs, and do their best to please them.

That is why I am asking you: do you really want to let ourselves killed by some greedy scums? They took from us everything they could, and yet they want more, they also want our future, our schools, to be sure that we will never ever rise up against them through our descendants.

My modest and sincere opinion is this: Let's stand up and fight! Let's get united! Grab your weapons! First the weapons of consciousness, solidarity, intransigence, right judgment. Let's speak with one voice: in the name of our children's future, in the name of hope and dignity "Let's not destroy the schools in Romania"! Let's start by keeping alive the old high school "Ion Mairescu" in Giurgiu. Let's hold more public meetings, let's make our voices heard more often and more determinedly, let's write publicly more and more, in a clear and firm way, for us and against them, let's go out in the streets more often and dislodge those glued to illegitimate positions of power. Let's call more often and more insistently at public meetings those who vie for position in public administration, in politics and ask them to openly put forth their stance in clear and unambiguous terms. And let's vote at the elections as many of those who are on our side as possible.

(Translated from Romanian apr188 by Iulia Negoitza).

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