

To the organizers of FânFest and the coordinators of the Save Roşia Montană campaign

At last year's edition of FânFest there were some incidents with a clear fascist character which made us raise serious questions regarding both the parts involved in the Save Roşia Montană campaign, and the physical integrity of the ones sympathetic with the cause.

What happened exactly? At the 2014 edition of FânFest (but also in the last years) a group of young men were present on the streets of the village and in the concerts – nationalist hooligans with legionnaire and neofascist views grouped under the slogan "United under the flag," who apart from their support for Roşia Montană also posted and called slogans with a clear racist and xenophobic content (such as – "out with the Hungarians from the country.") Under these circumstances, in the last concert evening, among the participants there were also present two persons waving an antifascist flag during the concert of the band Rehab Nation and in sign of protest towards the lack of attitude of the organizers against the presence and activities of that neolegionnaire group. *During the Baba Zula concert, the two young people (a girl and a boy) were attacked by a group of 7-8 individuals, wearing nationalist marks and messages on their clothes, such as "Honour and Fatherland" and which were evidently part of the same neolegionnaire group mentioned before, and as it will be shown ahead. This group tried and succeeded after beating the two persons to steal the antifascist flag. The two young persons received punches and were hit with feet, and also with white arms such as a telescopic baton. Perhaps the most shocking aspect of this attack is the total lack of any reaction from the other people present at the concert, but more importantly from the organizers who remained impassible or didn't consider the incident important enough, even though a girl was violently attacked in front of the entire audience.*

We are extremely worried about this kind of incidents, which unfortunately are not singular in Romania, similar events taking place also during 2013 autumn protests (especially in Bucharest), and which tend to proliferate all over the world, and we are of the opinion that it's more than necessary to talk about how we can avoid such incidents from happening again and how we can insure the safety of the participants in FânFest, but also inside the Save Roşia Montană campaign.

We would like to say that we're aware of the organizers opinion to consider this campaign to be non-political, even though we believe that the problems raised by the SRM campaign, such as environmental degradation, unemployment, breaking the local community, destruction of the cultural heritage, the gold company's attempts at expropriating and the struggle of the local population against this corporation and the decisions taken by the government can not be and could not stay non-political, we do agree that this campaign should not be dominated by any party or political group, but instead it should be a social movement of people with a strong political consciousness.

However, the problems start when people that openly declare that they do not support neofascism should expect to be assaulted, while the organizers remain indifferent to this sort of actions (still we do not want to think that they could actually tolerate/encourage them). Such an attitude is in no way non-political, but, on the contrary, represents a clear support for fascist-like ideas.

The same "non-political" slogan – "Roșia Montană without politics" is used also by the hooligans group "United under the flag," the same group that carried out the attack mentioned above, and the proof for this can be found on the official Facebook page of the group, where they show a picture of the stolen flag under that slogan.

<https://www.facebook.com/unitisubtricolor2013/photos/pb.787555924606046.-2207520000.1409337406./896090223752615/>

We find it also necessary to mention that the members of this group post numerous racist and xenophobic comments, which incite to ethnic hate, trying to resuscitate historical conflicts of sad memory and long time extinct (see in this case the scarfs with Romania 1918 or anti-Hungarian slogans next to anti-fracking ones - https://www.facebook.com/unitisubtricolor2013/photos/a.787657894595849.1073741828.787555924606046/899594743402163/?type=1&relevant_count=1)

Also worth mentioning is the fact that similar incidents have taken place before during the 2013 autumn protests when various persons were beaten on the motive that they were talking in English, by members of the same group or a similar one.

We know that you, as organizers of FânFest and coordinators of the Save Roșia Montană campaign have already received this letter written by the 4 groups. We also know that Eugen David, president of Alburnus Maior has contacted by phone a member of one of the groups stating the following: he will not answer to the letter and he doesn't consider it necessary to answer to all violent incidents, he doesn't think it's necessary to condemn violence and he recommends filing a complaint to the police in similar cases, and that the only thing that he will do is to ban all other symbols or flags at the next edition of FânFest, except the Roșia Montană logo. We also know that he considers Roșia Montană to be a wedding and a family and like everywhere people sometimes get drunk and start a fight, and that through this letter cracks might be created inside the movement.

We also hope that you, as organizers of FânFest and coordinators of the campaign, share our view that it is absolutely necessary, for the future of the campaign and for the safety of the participants, to take a clear position towards this kind of attitudes and behaviors which are not acceptable in any place, and at any time, and that it's also a mistake for some of the organizers to thank groups like this, who breed intolerance and historical revenge, for their involvement inside the campaign, like it happened the night with that regrettable attack. We can not save the mountains and the environment, if we stay indifferent or we tolerate fascist, chauvinistic, racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic intolerance.

Last but not least we wish to express our solidarity with the Save Roșia Montană campaign, but we would like to state that we don't consider ourselves a risk for the campaign just because we think it's important to condemn fascist attitudes and attacks, but on the contrary we consider it a risk the fact that the organizers refuse to adopt a decisive position, in this way allowing the fascists to play an important role inside the campaign, with the actual risk of dominating it. We wish a public condemnation of all extreme right activities inside the campaign, and also to discuss the necessary measures so that things like this could not happen again. An example of this sort could be the public repudiation in mass media of the ideas, attitudes and violence promoted by groups like "United under the flag."