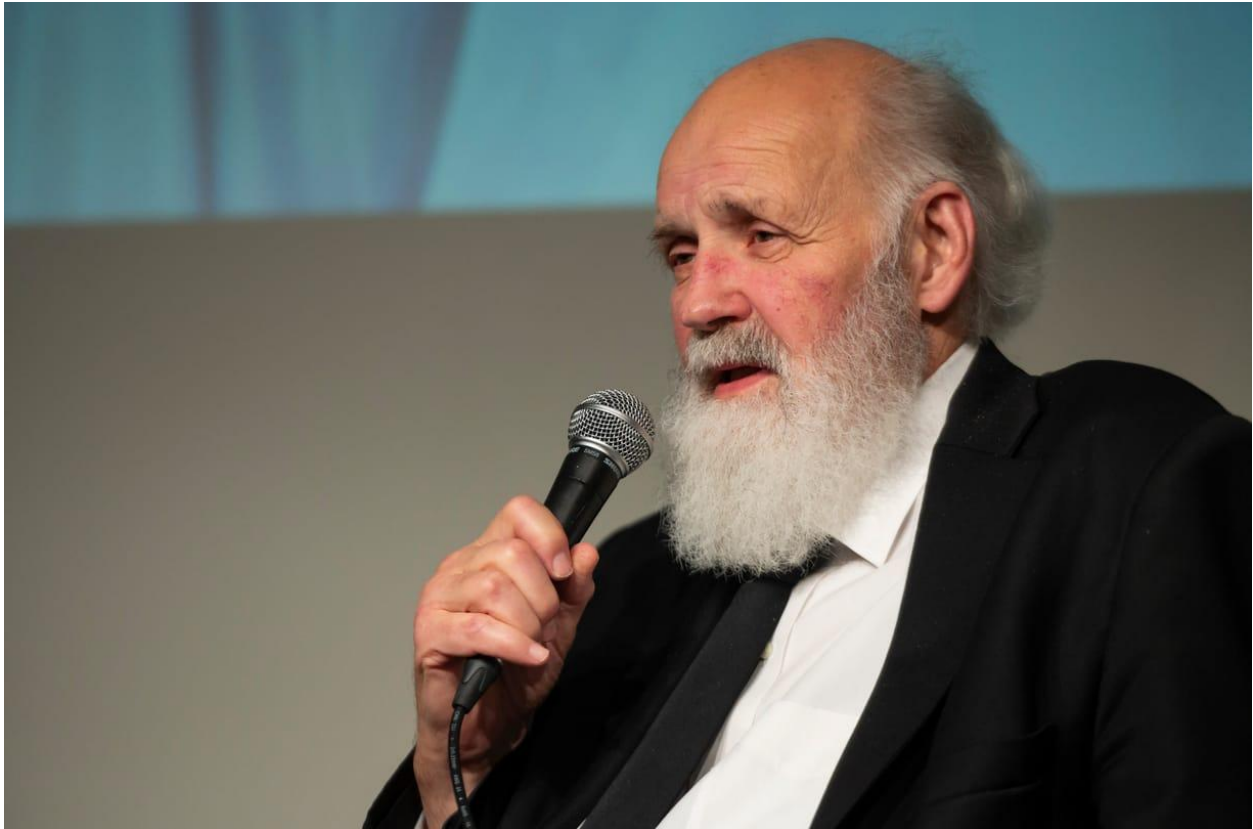




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## 2026 Ebru Timtik Award Goes to Gábor Iványi



\*Picture from [https://hvg.hu/itthon/20251103\\_ivanyi-gabor-vademeles-valasztas](https://hvg.hu/itthon/20251103_ivanyi-gabor-vademeles-valasztas)

Gábor Iványi is a Hungarian Methodist pastor and human rights defender whose life's work has united two inseparable commitments: building concrete networks of solidarity for the most marginalised and defending the dignity of all people against the arbitrary power of the state. For decades he has stood, without interruption and without selectivity, on the side of the economically marginalised, the homeless, Roma communities, refugees, children, persons with disabilities, LGBTI+ persons and faith communities - those whom the state has neglected, abandoned or deliberately excluded.

Through shelter, education, food assistance and social services, Iványi and the institutions he has led have reached people the state left behind, creating not symbolic advocacy but material, everyday, life-sustaining forms of solidarity. Precisely because of this work, he and his institutions have themselves become targets of political, administrative, financial, and ultimately criminal pressure. In this respect, Iványi is not only a defender of rights, but also a direct subject of rights violations arising from the very principles he has defended.

Declared “undesirable” by different regimes since the 1980s, Iványi today faces criminal proceedings that reveal a broader danger: the criminalisation of institutions of social solidarity,



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independent faith communities, and human rights defenders who criticise government policies. His struggle, grounded in conscience, ethics, and rights, intersects deeply with that of Ebru Timtik — though he comes from a different country and tradition, he stands on the same fundamental ground: the defence of human dignity against the punitive, exclusionary, and arbitrary power of the state.

### **Excerpts from the Reasoned Decision of the 2026 Ebru Timtik Award Selection Committee**

*“As the Jury of the International Fair Trial Day – Ebru Timtik Award, we accepted this responsibility with great honour, appreciation, and a deep sense of accountability. We carefully, respectfully, and with a deep sense of responsibility examined all nominations submitted for the Award, and we wish to underline at the outset that each nomination submitted was highly deserving of recognition.”*

#### **On the meaning of the right to a fair trial:**

*“The right to a fair trial cannot be reduced to a narrow question of criminal procedure, nor can it be confined to the walls of the courtroom. It is inseparable from the rule of law, judicial independence, the right of defence, non-discrimination, access to justice, freedom of expression, and protection against arbitrary state power. It is not only a guarantee for those already standing before a court; it is also a safeguard for those who are rendered unequal before the law, deprived of effective remedies, excluded from public resources, or punished for defending the dignity of others.”*

#### **On the decision to confer the Award on Gábor Iványi:**

*“The distinctive character of Gábor Iványi’s struggle lies in the fact that it has unfolded on two inseparable levels. For many years he has built concrete networks of solidarity in Hungary for the poor, the homeless, Roma communities, refugees, children, persons with disabilities, and socially excluded groups. His work has never remained at the level of symbolic advocacy; it has created material, everyday, life-sustaining forms of solidarity. On the other hand, precisely because of these activities, Iványi and the institutions under his leadership have themselves become targets of political, administrative, financial, and ultimately criminal pressure.”*

*“One of the principal reasons why the Jury came to its decision is his uninterrupted and non-selective position on the side of the oppressed. His struggle has never been confined to a single identity, a single social group, or a temporary political conjuncture. This line reminds us that human rights advocacy cannot be selective; it must be universal.”*

*“Awarding Gábor Iványi sends a strong international message against the shrinking of civic space, the weakening of judicial guarantees, the pressure placed on independent institutions, and the spread of discriminatory policies not only in Hungary, but also across Europe, irrespective of electoral outcomes. The Award affirms that they are not alone and that the right to a fair trial is directly connected to the lives of the most vulnerable members of society.”*



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*“For all these reasons, the Jury has concluded that Gábor Iványi represents the spirit of the International Fair Trial Day – Ebru Timtik Award in a powerful, meaningful, and timely manner. His life demonstrates that the right to a fair trial is inseparable from the struggle against poverty and discrimination, from freedom of expression, democracy, solidarity among peoples, and the defence of human dignity.”*

### **The 2026 Ebru Timtik Award Jury**

Bernadette Somody, constitutional law scholar, Associate Professor at ELTE Faculty of Law, Hungary

Lamine Benghazi, human rights lawyer, Head of the Justice and Rule of Law programme at Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF), Tunisia

Latife Akyüz, sociologist and Academic for Peace, Türkiye

Kristina Conti, human rights lawyer, Secretary-General of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL), Philippines

Ögmundur Jónasson, human rights advocate, former Minister of Justice, Iceland