



Bucharest, 07.03.2012

CLR condemns the negationist statements of SDP Senator Dan Șova

The Center for Legal Resources firmly condemns the negationist statements of Senator Dan Șova regarding the Holocaust in Romania.

Mr. Șova's statements do not leave room for interpretation. From the perspective which he assumes: "on the Romanian territory, no Jew has suffered and this is due to Antonescu", while the thousands of Jews who have perished in the Iasi Pogrom, for which Romanian authorities hold the main responsibility, have become, according to Mr. Șova: "24 Romanian citizens of Jewish origin killed by soldiers of the German army, unfortunately".

Mr. Șova's statements reverse, yet once again, the natural order of things. They deny the robbery, the humiliations, the horrors and finally the annihilation to which Romanian Jews have been subjected by the Romanian state, and rehabilitate the person holding the main responsibility. The assertions which deny the most shameful acts of Romanian history, a shame to which Mr. Șova adds through his argumentation, cannot reconstruct a shiny period out of a dark past filled with hatred and murder, a past which Romania has already assumed through law. These statements cannot be left without an adequate sanction.

We draw attention upon the provisions of *Government Emergency Ordinance 31/2002 on the ban of organizations with a fascist, racist or xenophobic character and the promotion of the cult of persons guilty of crimes against peace and humanity*, as amended, which state:

ART. 5

(1) **The promotion of the cult of persons guilty of crimes against peace and humanity** or the promotion of the fascist, racist or xenophobic ideology, through propaganda, conducted through any means, in public, is punishable by prison from 3 months to 3 years and the banning of certain rights

ART. 6

Denying, contesting, approving or justifying, through any means, in public, of the Holocaust, of genocide or of crimes against humanity or their effects is punishable by prison from 6 months to 5 years and the banning of certain rights or by a fine.

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Note to editors:

Sources used:

Victor Cozmei, "The National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust: the SDP Senator Dan Șova makes assertions which deny the Holocaust of the Jews in Romania" in *Hotnews*, 06.03.2012, available at: 06.03.2012, disponibil la: <http://www.hotnews.ro/stiri-esential-11679974-video-institutul-national-pentru-studierea-holocaustului-senatorul-psd-dan-sova-face-afirmatii-care-neaga-holocaustul-evreilor-din-romania.htm> (07.03.2012) - also contains the recording of the assertions quoted.

Comisia Internațională pentru Studiarea Holocaustului în România, *Raport Final*, Polirom, Iași, 2004, disponibil la: <http://www.inshr-ew.ro/raportul-wiesel> (07.03.2012).