

July 21, 2009

His Excellency Mayor Radu Mazare
Primaria Municipiului Constanta
Tomis no. 51
Constanta, ROMANIA

Dear Mayor Mazare,

I was extremely distressed to learn from MCA-Romania that last week at a public fashion show in Mamaia, you chose to appear in the uniform of a Nazi Wehrmacht officer accompanied by your fifteen year old son dressed as a Nazi soldier.

It would hard to adequately describe the depth of the pain that your appearance caused, not only to Jews and other victims of Nazism, but to any person of moral integrity who knows the history of World War II. Today it is well-known that the Wehrmacht played an active role in the mass murder of European Jewry and many other innocent victims. By dressing in a Wehrmacht uniform, you are expressing totally unwarranted support and nostalgia for an army which committed the most terrible war crimes and acts of genocide.

Under these circumstances, I believe that the proper thing for you to do is to admit your mistake, apologize for it and resign your position. After that you can begin to make amends for your incredible lack of judgment by creating a Romanian-language edition of the universally acclaimed exhibition on the crimes of the Wehrmacht created by the Hamburg Institute of Social Research and bring it to Constanta and elsewhere in Romania. At least in that case, some good will come out of your unfortunate mistake.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Efraim Zuroff
Director Simon Wiesenthal Center
Jerusalem – Israel