# Hungarian PM Viktor Orban Criticises ECJ Ruling on EU Asylum Policies



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has sharply criticized a European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling, which fined Hungary €200 million (£169 million) for violating EU asylum policies. The ruling, handed down on Thursday, also imposes a daily penalty of €1 million (£843,000) until Hungary ceases its policy of forcing asylum seekers to apply for entry permits from outside its borders. The court described Hungary’s actions as “an unprecedented and exceptionally serious breach of EU law,” accusing it of undermining EU solidarity.

Orban responded defiantly, stating that Hungary would not succumb to "financial blackmail" and would continue to protect its borders, dismissing the fine as "outrageous and unacceptable." The controversy adds tension ahead of Hungary's scheduled EU presidency starting July 1.

In a separate incident, Italian activist Ilaria Salis was released from house arrest in Budapest after being elected to the European Parliament, thus gaining immunity from charges related to an alleged attack on neo-Nazis. Salis, who was arrested in February 2023, had described dire conditions during her detention. Her election prompted diplomatic protests in Italy and her subsequent release was confirmed by a Hungarian judge. Hungarian officials criticized her election, suggesting it casts a negative image on Italian democracy.