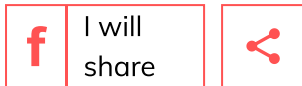




Not panic, but preparedness: a strong message from the black belt Israeli investor

A country doesn't have to prepare for war to have a workable plan for a major security crisis. According to Israeli businessman and investor Arie Yom-Tov, Hungary should build on its existing civil defense system to prepare its population for new types of risks posed by drones, cyberattacks, power outages and incidents affecting critical infrastructure.



Instead of new bunkers, a transparent system is needed

Hungary has the institutional background for civil protection , but it is not necessarily clear to the average citizen what exactly to do in a serious security crisis, Arie Yom-Tov pointed out in his opinion article in Portfolio . Where is the nearest protected place? What does an alarm mean? When should you isolate yourself and when should you leave the building? According to him, these questions need to be answered in a way that is understandable, uniform and widely known.

According to the Israeli contractor , the first step would not be to build new bunkers, but to survey the existing infrastructure. A professional survey would be conducted to determine which of the metro stations, underground parking garages, cellars and other underground facilities are suitable for civil defense purposes. These could be displayed in a national database and on a digital map.

Two foreign examples from which we can learn

The example of Germany shows that modern civil protection is not just about shelters. Developments also extend to alarm and communication systems, backup energy and drinking water supplies, infrastructure and the preparation of the population. According to Yom-Tov, this could be an important lesson for Hungary as well: civil resilience must be strengthened simultaneously from an organizational, technological, infrastructural and educational perspective.

Israel is an even more direct example. The Home Front Command system is based on people knowing where to find the most protected place and exactly what to do before an alert is issued.

The system also uses location-specific alerts, guidance on protected areas, and rules developed for different life situations, such as those on the street, in a vehicle, or on public transportation. According to Yom-Tov, Hungary should not copy the Israeli model, but rather adopt its basic principle: people should not have to improvise in a crisis.

Three immediate priorities

If there were only a few things to choose from, Arie Yom-Tov would highlight three areas.

- 1.** First, a national survey of existing infrastructure and the designation of usable protected areas.
- 2.** Secondly, public education: simple, universally known rules are needed about what an alert means, when to shelter in place or evacuate, and where reliable information comes from.
- 3.** Third, targeted development should be made where the survey reveals real deficiencies. According to Yom-Tov, this should not be done with a multi-billion euro construction program, but with surveys, technical audits, a database, communication and education. Only then, based on actual needs, should decisions be made about larger investments.

The Israeli investor living in Hungary concludes that the goal of modern civil defense is not to prepare for a single specific threat, but to increase the resilience of society. Being prepared for something is not the same as expecting it to happen – a good emergency plan should be developed, learned and tested in peacetime, so that in a real crisis you don't have to figure out what to do in the first minutes.



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