

Hungarian National Organization for Rescue Services (HUNOR)



HUN-01

Location of Operations:

The Republic of Türkiye, Antakya, M-1 sector, Rönesans Rezidans

Duration of Operation:

6th - 12th of February 2023

On 6th February, an urban search and rescue team of professional firefighters from the HUNOR Rescue Organisation set off, including experts from the Hungarian rescue service and two search dogs. In Antakya, the leader appointed by AFAD designated the collapsed apartment complex of the Renaissance Residence as the area of operations for HUNOR. Without rest, the Alpha sub-unit immediately began searching for survivors while Bravo set up BoO, then worked around the clock in eight-hour shifts. They were hampered by the cold, the darkness, the initial lack of power, the constant aftershocks, but they struggled through the first critical hundred hours while there was still hope of finding survivors. They were also aided by sound detection, fibre-optic cameras and special equipment that kept them going at night. In addition, the search would have been almost impossible without HUNOR's two dogs: Karma, who won first place at the 2022 World Rescue Dog Championships, and Dexter, who has also proven himself in several competitions.

After a while, the unstable, dangerous rubble made exploration difficult, hence a crane was used. Máté Fegyverneki, a rope technician of HUNOR, took on the extreme task of exploring the building from above, hanging from the crane.



The team returned to Hungary on 13th February, with these kind of feelings and thoughts:

"Lack of time was a source of constant stress. When we got home, all that disappeared without a transition. Suddenly I felt very tired."

-László Vaskó

"We left the scene with a feeling of incompleteness. We would go back any time."

-Krisztián Veiczner

"The eleven years of invested energy, training and practice have been accruing interest, and now paid off."

-Árpád Ökrös

"I am a very lucky man. I have learned from my comrades that I can always count on them in any situation, and the Turkish people are infinitely hospitable and grateful."

-Gyula Pólik

[Team Website](#)