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## **Marilyn Manson Accused of Satanism**

*The band stirred up religious indignation last Tuesday as church groups accused the singer of Satanism and corrupting young people ahead of the Budapest leg of his Against All Gods tour.*

The Christian Public Life Academy in Hungary issued an open invite for people to come to a protest meeting outside Mátyás Church before Marilyn Manson's concert. Hundreds of people stayed in the rain to express their disgust through prayer, in front of the statue of the country's founder, King Saint Stephen. Several speakers from the academy and other religious groups accused Manson (a.k.a Brian Warner) of intending to burn Bibles during the performance and called him "Satan by another name." "Manson's concerts are a revised form of Satanism and more of an occult event than a performance," Péter Morvay, editor of religious weekly newspaper Hetek and member of the evangelical Faith Church in Hungary, told The Budapest Times and Budapester Zeitung. "However, trying to stop a concert doesn't make sense, as we are a free country, but he will fail in his mission to corrupt here." According to Róbert Szikora, a prominent Christian musician with rock group R-GO, was quoted by the tabloid Színes Bulvár as saying: "If I see him in the street I might put aside my Christianity and smack him in the mouth with a stick." "It's unbelievable that a country of eight-and-a-half million Christians is allowing this concert to go ahead," he added. The organizers of the concert had a sarcastic attitude towards the protests. According to an official statement, "the complaints are from religious preachers who simply want publicity. Marilyn Manson isn't against God, but against organized religion," Manson' concerts "are just like any other heavy metal show, with kids dressed in black with painted faces. They're not dangerous."