



BRÜSSZEL INTÉZET

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT

JUNE 2013
HUNGARY

BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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The parliamentary immunity of MP Balázs Lenhardt, accused of vandalism, has been suspended



The Public Prosecutor's Office filed charges of war crimes against László Csatáry



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the most important requirements for the struggle against anti-Semitism is an exact awareness of the situation, that is, an investigation of the actual prevalence of anti-Semitism. It is one of the aims of Action and Protection Foundation to eliminate the lack of awareness surrounding this issue. Instrumental in achieving this objective is the continuous professional monitoring of public life. The community cannot really be protected unless current information on this is collected and analyzed. Results of the monitoring are published at regular, monthly intervals by the Foundation.

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: anti-Semitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report uses the term hate incidents to cover both. The decisive criterion for identifying either to be the case is anti-Semitic motive. Note however that the first type of behavior counts as criminal according to the penal law, while the latter does not make that category. Nevertheless, a documentation of both types of hate incidents is necessary in order to gain a general overview.

For the monitoring to have the widest possible scope it is required that a variety of sources are used simultaneously. Apart from registering the incidents, it is important that their particular characteristics are also accounted for. Therefore, in the course of documentation, data detailing the incident's location, perpetrator, victim and consequences are recorded on the one hand, and on the other, different types of incidents are differentiated.

Eleven anti-Semitic hate-incidents were identified in the month of June 2013. Two of these count as assault, as in physical violence that does not pose threat to life and is not serious. In one of these incidents the victim was lightly injured. The other nine incidents have been categorized as hate speech, six of which were realized in organized circumstances. Four among them are directly related to the Jobbik Party, and one to an ex-member of the Party. Four of the hate incidents are tied to some degree to the Hungarian Parliament—through racist, mainly Jobbik MPs. This is also an important indicator of how widespread hate speech has become.

In the case of a number of these hate incidents, Action and Protection Foundation had an important role in getting the cases on track for legal process, and providing victims aid and assistance.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

★ ★ ★

The phenomenon of anti-Semitism is by no means new to Hungary. The hate speech encountered earlier has however become increasingly dominant in public life. The situation is further aggravated by the Jobbik Party, which openly declares anti-Semitic and racist views, with forty-three members of parliament making hate speech far more ever-present in both Parliament and other organized events. These circumstances brought Action and Protection Foundation into being. Among the forms of civil association offered by Hungarian law, Action and Protection Foundation chose the form of foundation; it was registered in November 2012. The Foundation seeks to provide an alternative to the ineffectual legal steps taken against deteriorating standards of public discourse, exclusion, and the ignorance in which anti-Semitism is rooted, as well as atrocities and hate crimes.

UNITY

Action and Protection Foundation is a registered civil organization. Leading figures from Mazsihisz, which represents the Neology and Orthodoxy, the status-quo/Chabad EMIH, the reform oriented Sim Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation, as well as socially recognized emblematic personalities independent of these movements; all take part in the work of the Foundation. Trustees of the Foundation represent the most important Jewish religious and cultural tendencies in Hungary, thereby symbolically expressing that action on anti-Semitism is a cause shared by all.

BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

The *Brussels Institute*, founded by **Action and Protection Foundation**, carries out monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crime in accordance with methods worked out and proposed by the *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe* (OSCE). In monitoring anti-Semitic phenomena the Institute records and analyzes them on the basis of information delivered by various standardized sources. The monitoring process, which categorizes incidents into seven different groups, relies on the following sources: the sources of the Institute's own Research and Incident Monitoring Group, information available in the press and public media, and relevant data to be found in judicial, criminal and other state administrative records in the framework of an agreement with these branches of government. The institute has set up a now operational **HOTLINE** that can be reached by dialing the number (+36 1) **51 00 000** where incidents of anti-Semitic and anti-Jewish behavior can be reported.

Beyond regular publication of the monthly monitoring reports the *Brussels Institute's* research plan incorporates a comprehensive research project related to Jewry—using both quantitative and qualitative methods—, as well as a survey on the current situation concerning anti-Semitism that encompasses society as a whole. Furthermore, the program includes development of a differentiated training program that prepares different levels and participants of state administration for action and appropriate procedure on racist and anti-Semitic phenomena, in the form of teaching materials for the educational system and further training.

ABOUT THE REPORT

General opinion on, and treatment of Hungarian anti-Semitism is often unusually extreme. Voices are heard on the one hand, that belittle the importance of such offences and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion it may be the case that in relation to one-off incidents the image registered is of a public life deluged by such incidents. Knowledge of the actual situation is an indispensable condition for treatment of the real problems, which is why Action and Protection Foundation considers it its duty to provide as comprehensive an overview of the scale of anti-Semitism in Hungary as possible. Monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crimes and incidents¹ is one of the tools of achieving this objective. The monitoring results are published by the Foundation on a monthly basis. Apart from the monthly report, an annual summary review including more detailed analyses on the offences committed in the course of the year is also prepared.

The fight against hate crimes bears exceptional importance, because they differ from other forms of criminal conduct. These crimes may be considered messages of a kind, and thus point beyond private actions. This additional import becomes manifest in various social realms: on the level of the individual, the group attacked, and of society as a whole. The victims may suffer a greater psychological and emotional trauma. In the case of these crimes not “only” the property, or physical integrity of victims is endangered, but also their self-respect. These offences question the right of the individual to equality, even of belonging to society itself. It is important that in the course of such crimes the victims are the target of attacks because of some unchangeable characteristic, and for this reason may well feel more defenseless. The victims are often afraid that they may again become victims of further atrocities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents can easily lead to a secondary victimization of the targeted person. This type of criminal act also has a strong affect on the group to which the victim belongs. The victims of such crimes are often interchangeable, because in countless cases the attack does not target a certain individual, but anyone who, in the given instance, is a member of the group under attack. In the event, members of the group also become involved emotionally, and might live in fear of the future when they themselves may become the target of such prejudice-motivated crimes. This is especially true of groups, which have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length that Jewry belongs among such groups. These crimes violate the norm that holds the members of society equal. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the whole of society. It may on the one hand, encourage the perpetrators, or even others to commit further crimes in the same mold. On the other, it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society (Levin and McDevitt 1999, 92–93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19–21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17–18; Perry 2001, 10).

¹ See detailed definitions in the **Methodology** section.



It may be stated in general that fewer hate crimes are reported, and in the event documented, than are committed. Victims often do not report them to the police. A number of reasons may cause this implicitly. Firstly, many do not feel assured that the authorities will treat these incidents adequately, either because they are not sufficiently prepared, or due to prejudice. Certainly there are many victims who are not clear about the applicable legal regulations. Victims may feel shame, or fear that one of their concealed traits will be exposed. Lesser categorizations of the crimes are also frequent, where official authorities do not establish the hate-crime motivation. It is civil organizations that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs—such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor’s office—may be particularly beneficial.² Reports prepared by civil organizations can be expedient in alerting the official authorities to hate motivated crimes in the country. Long-term tendencies can be outlined on the basis of the collected data. Civil organizations can help in setting particular cases on track for legal process, may provide legal defense for the victims, and give various other forms of aid. These organizations may also serve as intermediaries between the victims and the police (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 34–36).



² A great example of the above can be found in the Community Security Trust (CST) and cooperation between the London and the Manchester police forces. (CST 2013)

METHODOLOGY

The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows³ (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people⁴
- hate motivated incident: an offence, also based on prejudice against a certain group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The heightened importance of individual hate crimes is indicated by the fact that the criminal code of numerous countries deals with these cases separately. Hungarian criminal legislation identifies two forms of hate crime: violent offences committed against the member of a group, and incitement to hatred of a community. The recently adopted Criminal Code (Act C of 2012) deals with these in Chapter XXI, Paragraph 216, on crimes against human dignity and certain basic rights, as well as Chapter XXXII, Paragraph 332, on crimes against public peace. The crime of violence against a member of a group may be established if the perpetrator assaults or otherwise coerces the victim, because they belong to a protected group. Additionally, this is also the case if the perpetrator demonstrates provocative behavior against a community that is apt to cause alarm. The crime is only affected if there is a concrete victim. Incitement against a community most often means hate speech, and it can only be defined as such on the condition that it is committed in public. Incitement to hate crimes does not target concrete individuals but a group of people. It is important to add that other crimes may also be categorized as having been committed on racist motives. In such cases the courts must pass a heavier sentence⁵ (TASZ 2012, 3–4). Apart from these, Paragraph 333 of the Criminal Code also describes the crime of denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regime. Furthermore, Paragraph 335 bans the distribution and use in wide public, or public display of the symbols of various autocratic regimes (among them the swastika, the SS insignia, arrow-cross).

³ The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakraborti and Garland 2009, 4–7). These definitions can serve as important addenda to an understanding of these crimes, however they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

⁴ For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behavior would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

⁵ The Criminal Code does not include racist motives verbatim, but for example the case of “contemptible motive” is fulfilled, if someone commits a crime out of such a motivation.

Detailed descriptions of approaches to, and recent tendencies in the definition of hate incidents can be found in our May Report. The report also cites the findings of literature in this field internationally. The present report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, wherever perpetrator, target, means or message of a case suggest it. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument or other property. It is important however, that anti-Semitic motivation can only be spoken of if the perpetrator chose the given target expressly because it was assumed to belong to Jewry. In this context it is not finally relevant whether the assumption is correct: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient. In the course of monitoring, on one hand, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code (violent assault of a member of a community, incitement to hatred of a community, denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime, use of symbols of autocratic regimes), but can also include other acts mentioned in the Criminal Code, if prejudice can be proven as a motivating factor. When identifying hate incidents, various indicators recorded during the monitoring period⁶ are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

For the widest possible scope in monitoring anti-Semitic hate incidents the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. The victims' filed reports are of especially great importance to this study. If the victim cannot, or does not want to file a report with the Brussels Institute, the involvement of an intermediary may be facilitated to gain information. Such an intermediary may be a family member, acquaintance of the victim, a witness of the incident or another civil organization. The earlier mentioned 24-hours-a-day Hotline operated by the Foundation serves to ease the passage of reports. Additionally there are options for online filing of reports, which allow even greater anonymity for the person placing the report.

It is a declared objective of the Foundation to keep in touch with the authorities, since they are the most likely to be first approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent important sources: television, radio, as well as the printed and online versions of the press. An essential segment of the report is composed of monitoring the expressions of, so called, online hatred, which seems currently to have become an ever-increasing threat.

Monitoring of these media channels is covered in part by a paid team of experts within a professional framework, and additionally volunteers are involved in a media watch, sending information gained on to the Brussels Institute for processing. It is an aim to cover an increasingly large segment of the media with continuous monitoring. Monitoring extends to roughly all receivable TV and radio stations, all the printed press with high print-runs, as well as online material not only on news portals, but the social networking pages and extreme, hate inciting websites.

⁶ These are described in the **Methods** section.

The monitoring process is carried through systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

Among the monitored hate incidents there are some that are considered a part of the statistics, but there are also some that are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics.⁷

The criteria for hate incidents that are included in the statistics follow:

- Only hate incidents that occurred in Hungary; no matter whether the victim is a Hungarian citizen or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an anti-Semitic intent or content can be proven, or if the victim was attacked for being Jewish or due to an assumed Jewish identity
- Deliberate and wanton impairment of any Jewish institution or building (even if no further, explicit anti-Semitic message was paired with the vandalism [for example, a Jewish synagogue's window is broken with a stone])
- Anti-Semitic comments that have been reported to Action and Protection Foundation appearing on blogs, fora, community pages
- Anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi material delivered to particular Jewish individuals, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi material deposited at Jewish-owned property, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Criticism related to Israel and Zionism, if they go beyond a political statement and serve to recall traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes
- Events apt to raise fear among Jews.

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics:

- Anti-Semitic hate incidents that are related to Hungary and Hungarian Jewry, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in Hungary)
- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online fora, and have not been personally reported to Action and Protection Foundation.

⁷ The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013.

A number of the aspects of the registered incidents are recorded. The indicators that help decide whether a given incident was motivated by prejudice have been mentioned earlier. These indicators pertain to various characteristics of the perpetrator, data concerning the victim, the time and location of the incident. These are recorded in the course of collection of data. Tabs are kept on whether incidents had any, and if so, what sort of—possibly legal—consequences.

Apart from registering incidents, it is also important to capture the qualitative differentials between them. The typification of cases is carried out in two ways. According to one of the systems of categorization the following types are differentiated: incitement against members of a community, violence against members of a community, use of symbols of autocratic regimes, and Holocaust denial.

Based on the *Facing Facts! Guidelines*, seven types of incidents are differentiated as follows (CEJI 2012, 10–12):

- Homicide: any attack on a person that causes loss of life
- Extreme physical violence
 - o Any attack on a person that potentially causes serious bodily harm
 - o Any attack involving weapons, or other tools that can cause bodily harm
 - o Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - o Bombs and letter bombs
 - o Kidnapping
- Assault
 - o Any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not serious
 - o Attempted assault, which fails due to self-defense, or if the victim runs away
 - o Throwing objects at a person or people, including where the object misses its target
- Damage to property
 - o Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
 - o Desecration of property
 - o Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson

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- Threats
 - o Any clear and specific threat, whether verbal or written
 - o Any “bomb” which is assessed to be a hoax
 - o Stalking
 - o Defamation
 - Hate speech
 - o Public hate speech
 - o Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media
 - o Abusive behavior
 - o Abusive literature sent to more than one person
 - o In literature and music
 - Discriminatory incidents

Placing hate incidents in context is also a priority. These actions do not exist in empty space and are by no means independent of the social and cultural environs in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often processes, rather than separately occurring events can be spoken of (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which aid understanding of the environment surrounding the incident.⁸ In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

⁸ These descriptions in particular are held to be a most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS—JUNE 2013

Eleven anti-Semitic hate incidents were identified by Action and Protection Foundation in the course of its monitoring in June 2013. Of these, two count as assault, while the other nine have been categorized as hate speech. The hate incidents are presented according to type, and chronologically within their category. Incidents belonging to each category are also typified according to other aspects.

1. Table 1: Most important aspects of the hate crimes, June 2013 (no. of incidents)

LOCATION PERPETRATED	
Budapest	7
County municipal center	1
Other town	1
Municipality	1
N/A	0
No specific location	1
LEVEL OF ORGANIZATION	
Spontaneous	5
Organized	6
N/A	0
CRIMINAL TYPE OF INCIDENT	
Incitement against a community	8
Assault on member of a community	2
Denial of the Holocaust	1
Use of symbols of autocratic regimes	0
N/A	0
TYPE OF INCIDENT	
Assault	2
Hate speech	9
N/A	0

ASSAULT

Two incidents were categorized as assault, both of which took place in the capital. In one of the cases the victim was lightly injured. In the other case no personal injuries were sustained, but this was only due to a chance early escape of the attacked man.

Jewish man threatened and manhandled by attacker on tram line no. 1

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 17 June, a 55-year-old Jewish man of typical attire received multiple threats to his life from a fellow passenger and was then assaulted. The attacker at first objected to Jews daring to use the tram, and then after coming closer, made death threats and tried to set his beard alight. The victim was able to defend himself and leave the tram compartment unharmed.

Action and Protection Foundation is in contact with the assaulted man, who has given a detailed description of the case to the Foundation, but did not wish to file a complaint.

Israeli man struck and then reported to the police, Budapest

Budapest, 7th district

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

A 35-year-old Israeli man living in the 7th district was often abused verbally by members of a family that also lives there the object of the abuse was his being Jewish, and he was not allowed to get in the elevator with them. When the man asked the family, which lived next door, to slightly turn the volume down on the music they were listening to, they attacked him. They kicked his dog, and the adult son of the family who also lives there, beat him while shouting abuses at him for being Jewish. Later, the neighbors filed a complaint against the Jewish man for attacking them. Eyewitness accounts corroborate the account of events given by the Israeli man, who works as a photographer. The legal assistance service of Action and Protection Foundation offered its support to the abused Israeli citizen for the legal process.

HATE SPEECH

Among the hate incidents committed in June, nine can be said to involve hate speech. Six of the acts had organizations behind them. Four of them directly connected to Jobbik, and one to an ex member of the Party. Of the incidents, eight were incitement against a community, and one was denial of the Holocaust.

Heroes' Day—Remembrance of the fallen members of the Waffen SS

Dég, Fejér County

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

The Hungarian National Front (MNA – Magyar Nemzeti Arcvonal) held its usual annual memorial day on 1 June this year, in Dég, at the German-Hungarian monument in the garden of the Festetics Palace. A remembrance to the fallen members of the Waffen SS was held on “Heroes' Day”. Still living members of the Waffen SS also attended the meeting. Although the Police called upon the uniformed members of the National Front present, warning them that they may not march in formation and uniform, they disregarded this and marched unimpeded at the event. The Police did not intervene. Action and Protection Foundation is considering the possible steps that could be taken about the violations that can be assumed to have occurred at the event.



Heroes' Day—The National Front procession in fatigues

ATV television camera crew suffers Jew-baiting from a fireman in service

Pest County, Mainroad 11

Source: ATV, MTI

ATV cameramen were taking some background shots for the news during the flood defenses on 8 June, on Mainroad 11 between Leányfalu and Tahitótfa, when one of the firemen waiting by the road made a loud remark: “And, here come the Jews.” Later he loudly addressed the crew, saying: “I’ll now go and piss all over the Jews.”

The disaster management authorities distanced itself from all discriminative and hate inciting statements, and called upon all members of their staff to do the same—the National Directorate General for Disaster Management (NDGDM) said. The NDGDM wrote in its press release: they were sad to learn of the news account that one of the firemen participating in the flood defenses “made a statement concerning religious belonging to” the television crew of one of the media channels.

Pál Steiner accuses Tamás Gaudi-Nagy of Holocaust denial

Budapest, Parliament

Source: MTI

At the meeting of the Constitutional Committee of the Hungarian Parliament on 10 June, the MP delegates of the MSZP proposed a resolution for members of parliament, which would call upon the Minister of National/Culture Resources to prepare a recommendation by which all students in the national education system have the opportunity to visit the memorial and museum established on the location of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. In the debate that ensued, Tamás Gaudi-Nagy said: Jobbik does not support the proposal, because, as he said, “there are critical voices with regard to the degree to which the way the historical memorial has been set up is in accord with the truth”.

Gaudi-Nagy had already spoken in Parliament in May about how it was questionable whether the way in which the memorial had been designed was in line with actual historical facts. Reacting to these words, Antal Rogán, faction leader of Fidesz, announced in a statement that no one had the right to question the factual reality of the Holocaust.

Jobbik: Government marching to the tune of which lobby, homosexual or Jewish?

Budapest

Source: MTI

Presenting Jobbik’s position at a press conference on 13 June, Előd Novák posed a question in relation to Róbert Alföldi, whether “in this case, the government was obeying the homosexual or the Jewish lobby?” Furthermore, he opined, “at a time when it has become a common phenomenon for various Jewish organizations to influence Hungarian culture and politics, especially in connection with the World Jewish Congress, we must talk about this.” According to Jobbik, the interference of Jewish organizations in Hungarian internal matters is a national security risk.

Balázs Lenhardt denies the Holocaust in a Parliamentary statement—Action and Protection Foundation files charges

Budapest, Parliament

Source: Stop.hu

Balázs Lenhardt, ex-Jobbik, now independent Member of Parliament, denied the Holocaust in a statement in Parliament. During the 17 June Parliamentary sessions Lenhardt used the epithet “so-called victims of the holocaust” for the survivors of the genocide.

By using this expression, Balázs Lenhardt realized the crime of presenting in trivial colors the fact of the genocide committed by the National Socialist regime, and in light of this, Action and Protection Foundation has filed criminal charges with the Chief Prosecutor against the Member of Parliament.

Jobbik once more seeking information about members of parliament with dual citizenship

Budapest, Parliament

Source: MTI

Ádám Mirkóczki, member of parliament for Jobbik, on the 17 June sessions of parliament addressed a question about dual and multiple citizenship to the Prime Minister. This information, in his opinion, is more important than the declaration of property (compulsory for MPs). In his reply, Viktor Orbán said that he saw no obstacle to members of parliament voluntarily making declarations about their citizenship, but he believes this is an internal issue for the parliament, which ought to be discussed by its members among themselves.

The question was not raised for the first time in Parliament: in November 2012, Márton Gyöngyösi, member of parliament for Jobbik had proposed a survey of how many members of the Hungarian Parliament and of the Hungarian Government were of Jewish origin, and meant a degree of risk to national security.

Jobbik initiative to establish a parliamentary anti-Zionist group—beats a retreat in the end

Budapest

Source: MTI

Előd Novák and Lórántné Hegedűs, parliamentary members for Jobbik, called a press conference for 19 June, to announce the launching of the Hungarian Parliamentary Anti-Zionist Group. László Kövér, speaker of the House of Parliament had declared, even at the time of its publication: he will not permit the formation of any anti-Zionist, “or other such provocative group among MPs, which is damaging to Hungarian interests”. Finally an announcement was made at the press conference to the effect that they had no intention of establishing an anti-Zionist group, the action had been intended only to test the limits of freedom of speech.

Banner inscribed “Traitors of the Nation—Yides-Fidesz” spread at the City Council Meeting of Debrecen

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: Dehir

Presumably the actions of Jobbik are behind the events of the 27 June Debrecen Council Meeting. A banner inscribed “Traitors of the Nation—Yidesz-Fidesz” was spread from the gallery in the meeting hall. Among the perpetrators was Lajos Sándor, Hajdú-Bihar County captain of the New Hungarian Guard (Új Magyar Gárda).



Banner spread at the Debrecen City Council Meeting

Though the two members of the Jobbik faction who were present did not speak about the demonstration, the goal was probably a repeat performance of the parliamentary demonstration made by Jobbik on 21 June. City mayor, Lajos Kósa, and the delegates present did not respond to the action.

Holocaust made fun of in a school newspaper in Vác

Vác, Pest County

Source: *Hír24*

In the school newspaper of the Boronkay György Technical College and High-School, under the column titled “Best Quotes” the following lines were published:

“Student dialogue:

Which are the Jewish festivals?

Holocaust...”



The Boronkay György Technical College and High-School newspaper and the dialogue

To an inquiry by Action and Protection Foundation the principal replied that the school newspaper did not wish to make fun of the Holocaust, but rather to correct blank spots in the awareness of students in a humorous way. He explained that there is no anti-Semitism at the school—lately they hosted a visit from István Vágó and his Holocaust-survivor mother, who gave an account to the students of the horrors of the Holocaust. Ilan Mor, Ambassador of Israel to Hungary has also spoken highly of the school.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of the June 2013 monitoring period Action and Protection Foundation identified two anti-Semitic hate incidents that do not appear in the statistics. One of the incidents, though reported in a Roma news portal in June, cannot be dated exactly. Furthermore, information on the matter was found in a profile on a community portal, which was not directly reported to Action and Protection Foundation. The second incident was committed outside of the Hungarian borders.

Nazi salute in front of the Dohány Street Synagogue

Budapest, Dohány Street Synagogue

Source: C-press

Zsuzsanna Gy. and her unidentified companion had themselves photographed as they gave the Nazi salute and held a Hungarian flag in front of the Dohány Street Synagogue. Zsuzsanna Gy. published the photographs on a profile she had registered with a community portal, which was later pilloried by a Roma community page for its racist and hate inciting content.



Zsuzsanna Gy. (right) and her companion at the Synagogue



Nazi salute from Zsuzsanna Gy. (left) in front of the Dohány Street Synagogue

Zsuzsanna Gy. is also to be seen in a video that is spreading online, in which she is physically attacking a person on the way home after participating in the Pride Parade, and then lying to the police that the attacked person had started the fight. A prosecution case against her is pending for this incident.

Man from Szeged baits Jews and spits on the floor of the Subotica Synagogue

Subotica (Szabadka), Serbia

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Dezső R., staff of a tourist office in Szeged, arrived at the Synagogue in Subotica with a Hungarian group of tourists. He wanted to enter free, but when the person in charge refused him free entrance, he began a loud harangue of Jews and spat on the ground. The tourist office later wrote in a letter about the incident that their colleague must have been tense because of the hot weather, and the staff at the Synagogue must have misunderstood the situation. The security camera of the Synagogue recorded the incident.



Still from the security camera, with Dezső R. in the background

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Zoltán Balog meets the Chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Association

Budapest

Source: MTI

On 3 June, Zoltán Balog, Minister for Human Resources received in his office Ferenc Orosz, the chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Association, who had been assaulted at a sports event on 28 April. Ferenc Orosz, according to his statement had been cheering his team on in the company of his family in the Ferenc Puskás Stadium at an FTC-Videoton match, where many of the onlookers were shouting slogans cheering Mussolini and “Sieg Heil”. After a while he turned to them and told them to stop it, to which they replied with threats and by calling him a “Jewish communist”. After the match, as they were leaving, two men stood in his way, and one of them said, “all the same, Sieg Heil”, while the other struck him and broke his nasal bone. Action and Protection Foundation offered Ferenc Orosz legal assistance for the case.

As part of the discussion with the Minister, Ferenc Orosz handed over to him, as minister also responsible for sports, a proposal that had been developed in order to curb racist expressions at sports events.

The Budapest Investigative Prosecutor’s Office filed charges against László Csatóry

Budapest

Source: MTI

László Csatóry was due for a hearing as a witness on 4 June 2013 on the basis of a request for judicial assistance from the Court of the United States, however László Csatóry did not attend the hearing on accounting of his weak health. In 2010, Holocaust survivors and their families had filed a suite against the Hungarian state and MÁV (the Hungarian rail company) as well as Rail Cargo Hungária (legal successor of MÁV Cargo) in Washington, accusing them of having cooperated with the Nazis during the Second World War in the annihilation of the Jews. After a short negotiation at this hearing the claimants and defendants agreed that in this phase of the process they would not require László Csatóry’s presence in person, rather in the frame of a new request for judicial assistance, a motion would be made for acquisition of the investigative documents of the criminal prosecution against him.

On the same day the Budapest Investigative Prosecutor’s Office filed charges of war crimes in a prosecution case against László Csatóry with the Budapest Metropolitan Court. Since the case qualifies as one of outstanding importance, the court must hold its first hearing in the case within three months.

THE BACKGROUND

In 1997, László Csatóry left Canada, where he had gained citizenship in 1995, to avoid the conclusions of a deportation process against him. The reason Canadian authorities had decided to deport him was that it had come to their attention that the Hungarian man had earlier secured a Canadian citizenship by providing false data.

In September 2011, the Budapest Investigative Prosecutor's Office had ordered an investigation in the case of László Csatóry under suspicion of war crimes on the basis of the denunciation received from the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Efraim Zuroff. According to the allegations in the spring of 1944, as a police captain in Kosice (Kassa), he had acted in a key role for the deportation of over fifteen thousand Jews to Auschwitz. In 1948, in his absence Csatóry had already been sentenced to death by the Kosice district people's tribunal.

Csatóry was first questioned as a witness on 18 July 2012; he was taken into custody and his passport was withdrawn. As in every later instance, he denied being guilty of the allegations. On the initiative of the Public Prosecutor's Office, László Csatóry was put under house arrest for 30 days, and then this was extended numerous times. Csatóry was questioned once more in the same month, and then a third time in November.

The Hungarian authorities requested judicial assistance from Slovakia in September 2011, which has since then provided a framework for constant liaison between the competent Slovakian authorities and the Hungarian authorities. Since the case has made it into public view the question of Csatóry's extradition to Slovakia has come up a number of times. On 24 July 2012, the Central Association of Slovakian Jewish Communities (ÚZZNO) announced: it will move to have the responsible Slovak authorities appeal to Hungary for the extradition of László Csatóry to Slovakia. Tomáš Borec, Slovak Minister of Justice stated on 30 July: it is his wish that the prosecution of the captain of the collection camp be continued in Slovakia. On 28 March 2013, the district court of Kosice changed the death sentence pronounced on László Csatóry by the Kosice People's Tribunal in 1948 to life imprisonment. With this modification the sentence can be implemented in line with current Slovak law, and following its dispatch, an international arrest warrant issued. László Csatóry lodged a complaint against the decision, which was rejected by the Slovak Supreme Court on 24 April. Following the rejection of the complaint, the Kosice district court has the right to decide about the way in which the sentence of life imprisonment must be carried out. A decision is expected on 18 July.

Gergely Pröhle reaffirmed the government’s commitment to fighting anti-Semitism in a meeting with his American colleague

Budapest

Source: MTI

Gergely Pröhle, deputy state secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received his American colleague, Thomas Melia on 5 June, and declared, among other matters addressed at the meeting, that the government consistently follows the principle of zero tolerance towards all expressions of anti-Semitism.

One of those who committed the act of vandalism on the Jewish cemetery of Kaposvár has been put under preliminary arrest

Kaposvár, Somogy County

Source: Kapospont

Last year, two men vandalized the memorials of the Israelite cemetery under the caretaking of the Jewish Congregation of Kaposvár. Since the primary accused did not appear at the court hearing in spite of a legal summons, the District Court of Justice in Kaposvár ordered his preliminary arrest on 12 June.

The latest in the Cécile Tormay alley affair

Budapest

Source: MTI

As recounted in the May Report, the Budapest General Assembly decided on 29 May that a heretofore nameless public area in the 2nd district will be named after Cecile Tormay, an authoress widely known to have been anti-Semitic. Mazsihisz and other Jewish organization gave expression to their shock on the day following, and appealed to the Mayor, István Tarlós, to withdraw the decision. On the same day, the Mayor proposed a review of the name to be given, and asked the Hungarian Academy of Sciences for their position on the question. Meanwhile on 31 May, Jobbik called upon the leadership of the Budapest municipality “not to give in to the panic mongering, and senseless demands”.

The Budapest General Assembly on 12 June, passed a resolution that the Hungarian Academy of Sciences will be asked for its opinion, and with knowledge of their position the earlier resolution about the street name may be changed. At the same time the assembly rejected the amendment proposed by Jobbik as well as that suggested by the MSZP. Jobbik suggested that the name of the public space bearing Tivadar Herzl’s name in the 7th district also be reconsidered, and the opinion of the Academy requested. The MSZP proposed that the name Cécile Tormay alley be withdrawn, and that names should only be given hereon with knowledge of the Academy’s view of the name.

On 13 June, the Mayor denied that an alley was named after Cécile Tormay on his proposal. On the same day, the Prime Minister’s commissioner, Imre Kerényi announced that he had been the one to propose the name; in his opinion, political and artistic activity must be considered separately.

A complaint for incitement against a community, filed against a public official in Kaposvár, has been dismissed by police

Kaposvár, Somogy County

Source: Sonline

A public official, who works for the Kaposvár Regional Financial Liquidation Division, shared his racist views of a number of nationalities and ethnic communities, among them Jews, on Facebook, the community portal. On the basis of a civil report, Mónika Lamperth, member of parliament for MSZP, lodged a complaint against the official accusing him of incitement against a community. However, on 13 June, the Somogy County Superintendent of Police dismissed it.

Protests against Jobbik's 2nd National June Day Picnic in Sopron

Sopron, Győr-Moson-Sopron County

Source: NOL

On 16 June, parties of the democratic opposition and various civil organizations held a protest against Jobbik's 2nd June Day Picnic in Sopron, on the initiative of the MSZP. An invited presenter of the Picnic, Márton Gyöngyösi, is the parliamentary representative of Jobbik who had recently proposed in an interpellation: a list of all those Jewish members of parliament who "signify as a threat to national security" should be written up. At the demonstration held by the Holocaust memorial on Pap Gardens in Sopron, the following words, amongst others, were heard: "let there be no event in Hungary to which the entry ticket is hatred of Jews".

Balázs Lenhardt's parliamentary immunity suspended

Budapest, Parliament

Source: MTI

Balázs Lenhardt, independent, ex-Jobbik member of parliament made a speech at an anti-Zionist demonstration in December 2012, and then set fire to an Israeli flag and burnt a hole in its middle. Action and Protection Foundation lodged a complaint against the MP, for incitement against a community. As a result the Chief Prosecutor initiated the process of suspending his parliamentary immunity under the suspicion of vandalism, which the Parliament voted in favor of with a decisive majority on 17 June. Lenhardt said at the plenary session that in his opinion, the burning of a flag does not count as unacceptable expression of political protest anywhere in the world.



Flag burning by Balazs Lenhardt foto: Index

Előd Novák, parliamentary member for Jobbik, penalized twice in one month

Budapest, Parliament

Source: MTI

Following a fine of 50 thousand Forints for using the expression socionist (combining socialist and Zionist) meted out on Előd Novák, member of parliament for Jobbik on May 27, he was fined once more a week later—70 thousand Forints this time—on 3 June, because he called the Faith Church of Hungary a businesssect. In a status he wrote on Facebook the MP explained that this was Jobbik’s “official”, frequently presented position.

On 17 June, the Parliament once again levied a fine on Előd Novák. On this occasion the sum was one-third of his monthly, 394 thousand Forint pay, 131 thousand Forints, for his comments at the meeting of the Cultural and Media Committee. Előd Novák called András Bánó a Zionist ATV presenter, and then used the socionist expression again. Thereby the Jobbik MP was fined over 250 thousand Forints in the period of one month.

Constitutional Court rules: the statutory definition of denial of the crimes of the National Socialist and communist regimes not contradictory to the Basic Law

Budapest

Source: MTI

According to the 18 June decision of the Constitutional Court, the statutory definition of the Criminal Code prohibiting public denial of the National Socialist and communist regimes is not contradictory to the Basic Law. Though the decision of the Court follows up on the Biszku trial, the regulation also covers the crimes of the National Socialist regime. In justification of its decision the court explained that denial of the crimes of the National Socialist and communist regimes offends the dignity of both the victims and those citizens who share their cause and have a commitment to democratic values. The constitutional objective of protecting social commitment—in addition to the most important values of the rule of law—also makes the case for rigorous measures against expressions that may question the democratic principle. The disputed regulation also defends the public peace, since the public denial of the crimes under question may be apt to excite emotions, by raising public outrage and offending others, which could lead to the disturbance of public calm. The Constitutional Court found that the totality of these constitutional values and objectives in this case legitimizes the restriction of freedom of speech even through the criminal code, as a necessary and proportionate measure. The Court added that the scope of the crime under scrutiny did not only include those actions that comply with the statutory definition of genocide and crimes against humanity under international law and internal national law. It includes any of the horrors committed under the National Socialist or communist dictatorships that are comparable in weight to genocide or crimes against humanity, and are generally accepted as historically evidential.



Zsolt Bayer's article anti-Semitic, the Hungarian Supreme Court of Justice has ruled

Budapest

Source: NOL

Zsolt Bayer published an article two years ago, where he used the epithet of stinking end-product for Daniel Cohn-Bendit and András Schiffer, expressing regret that Jewry was not completely exterminated in the forests of Orgovány. Péter Feldmájer, then president of Mazsihisz, called this an anti-Semitic incitement to hatred in an interview with Klub Radio. The journalist replied by suing Feldmájer and Klub Radio for defamation. The court of first instance rejected the journalist's suite, however the Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal gave precedence to the suite at the second instance. Finally the Hungarian Supreme Court of Justice annulled the judgment of the court of second instance in its decision of 26 June, and made the judgment of first instance, dismissing Bayer's suite legally binding. The judgment established that in reading the article published by Bayer, it can be logically and statutorily deduced, and claimed in regard to the article that it justifiably qualifies as anti-Semitic.

NEWS AND OPINION
ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM
IN HUNGARY

American Jewish leader praised the Hungarian Prime Minister's zero tolerance to anti-Semitism

Los Angeles, United States of America

Source: MTI

Andrew Friedman, lay president of the Bais Naftoli Orthodox Jewish Congregation, a man of Hungarian descent, spoke at the celebrations held by the organization on 2 June. The leader had praise for Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's declared policy of zero tolerance for anti-Semitism.

Huffington Post airing Hungarian anti-Semitism

United States of America

Source: MTI

The American online newspaper wrote in its article about Hungary of the termination of freedoms, and also that in order to maximize its votes the government often plays the nationalist card and builds a provisional alliance with the extreme right.

According to the US Department of State the Hungarian government should do more against anti-Semitism

Washington, United States of America

Source: MTI

As recounted in our May Report, following the World Jewish Congress a number of American Jewish organizations, the World Jewish Congress among them, turned to John F. Kerry, Secretary of State, to keep the issue of intolerance and discrimination on the agenda in US-Hungarian relations, because Hungarian anti-Semitism was rife. Ira Forman, Special Envoy of the State Department to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, wrote a reply to the American Jewish organizations on 25 June, in which he posited that the Hungarian government should do more against anti-Semitism.



He wrote: “Prime Minister Viktor Orbán strongly denounced anti-Semitism in his address to the World Jewish Congress in Budapest last month. While we were encouraged by his statements, we believe the government must do more to condemn publicly the incendiary rhetoric of the opposition Jobbik Party.” The leaders of organizations that represent the gamut of Jewish movements and serve as delegates on the Board of Trustees for Action and Protection Foundation also turned to the US Secretary of State and the Jewish organizations requesting that they keep more actively in touch with Jewry in Hungary in the future, and put forward their constructive proposals and initiatives on the basis of local experience. According to the Foundation, only active and constructive dialogues can mean advances in the elimination of hatred—a wider path of dialogue.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

All the incidents to be found in the report are presented chronologically in the table below. The Category column shows which part of the report dealt with the given case in greater detail.

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1	1 July	Heroes' Day: remembrance of the fallen members of the Waffen SS	Hate incident: hate speech
2	2 July	American Jewish leader praises Orbán's policy of zero tolerance towards anti-Semitism	About anti-Semitism in Hungary
3	3 July	Előd Novák's Parliamentary penalty	Official and civil responses
4	3 July	Zoltán Balog receives the chairman of the Roul Wallenberg Association	Official and civil responses
5	4 July	The Budapest Investigative Prosecutor's Office files charges against László Csatóry	Official and civil responses
6	5 July	Próhla-Melia meeting: the government consistently follows the principle of zero tolerance in relation to every expression of anti-Semitism	Official and civil responses
7	7 July	Huffington Post on Hungary	About anti-Semitism in Hungary
8	8 July	Fireman Jew-baiting ATV camera crew	Hate incident: hate speech
9	10 July	Pál Steiner accuses Tamás Gaudi-Nagy of Holocaust denial	Hate incident: hate speech
10	12 July	Kaposvár Jewish Cemetery defacer under preliminary arrest	Official and civil responses
11	12–13 July	The latest in the Cécile Tormay alley affair	Official and civil responses
12	13 July	Jobbik: Government marching to the tune of which lobby, homosexual or Jewish?	Hate incident: hate speech
13	13 July	Hate incitement complaint filed against public official in Kaposvár dismissed by police	Official and civil responses
14	16 July	Protests against Jobbik's 2nd National June Day Picnic in Sopron	Official and civil responses
15	17 July	Balázs Lenhardt denies Holocaust in Parliamentary statement	Hate incident: hate speech
16	17 July	Balázs Lenhardt's parliamentary immunity suspended	Official and civil responses
17	17 July	Another parliamentary penalty for Előd Novák	Official and civil responses
18	17 July	Jobbik seeking information on members of parliament with dual citizenship, again	Hate incident: hate speech

No.	Date	Incident	Category
19	17 July	Jewish man attacked in Budapest	Hate incident: assault
20	18 July	Jobbik announces a new anti-Zionist group—and retreats	Hate incident: hate speech
21	18 July	Constitutional Court rules: statutory definition of the denial of the crimes of the National Socialist and communist regimes not contradictory to the Basic Law	Official and civil responses
22	22 July	Jew-baiting and spitting in Subotica Synagogue	Hate incident (not part of statistics)
23	22 July	Israeli man struck in Budapest	Hate incident: assault
24	22 July	US Department of State: Hungarian government should do more against anti-Semitism	About anti-Semitism in Hungary
25	26 July	Hungarian Supreme Court of Justice decision: Zsolt Bayer's article anti-Semitic	Official and civil responses
26	27 July	"Traitor Yides-Fidesz" banner at Debrecen City Council Meeting	Hate incident: hate speech
27	–	Holocaust joke in school newspaper	Hate incident: hate speech
28	–	Nazi salute in front of the Dohány Street Synagogue	Hate incident (not part of statistics)

CONTACT AND SUPPORT



Action and Protection Foundation is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations, that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread anti-Semitic manifestations.

In case anyone faces insults or anti-Semitic abuse due to a supposed or real Jewish background, do not remain silent, let us know, so that we can forward the case through the appropriate channels to the official organs required to take measures!



NOTIFICATIONS OF SUCH INCIDENTS ARE RECEIVED BY THE FOUNDATION THROUGH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MEANS:

HOTLINE

(+36 1) **51 00 000**

The website of Action and Protection Foundation: www.tev.hu/forrodrot
The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany



Action and Protection Foundation's undertaking can only be successful if great numbers share in our commitment to prepare the grounds for the right to fair process for all those who have suffered offences. In aid of this cause please support the work of the Foundation with your contribution!

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE FOUNDATION ON THE FOLLOWING BANK ACCOUNT:

13597539-12302010-00057157

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