



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT

AUGUST 2013
HUNGARY

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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.

The Brussels Institute has identified eight anti-Semitic hate incidents for August 2013. One of these falls in the vandalism category, while seven count as hate speech.

Action and Protection Foundation lodged five complaints in August: two of these against private individuals, for incitement against a community and denial of the Holocaust; while the rest were against Kuruc.info, for defamation and denial of the Holocaust. All cases are under investigation.

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).

²A 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 period 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.

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.⁶

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.

⁶ 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.⁷ In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

⁷ 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—AUGUST 2013

In the course of its monitoring in August 2013, Action and Protection Foundation has identified eight anti-Semitic hate incidents. One among them counts as vandalism, while seven 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.

Table 1: Most important aspects of the hate incidents in August 2013 (no. of incidents)

LOCATION PERPETRATED	
Budapest	6
County municipal center	1
Other town	1
Municipality	0
N/A	0
No specific location	0
LEVEL OF ORGANIZATION	
Spontaneous	4
Organized	3
N/A	1
CRIMINAL TYPE OF INCIDENT	
Incitement against a community	6
Assault on member of a community	1
Denial of the Holocaust	1
Use of symbols of autocratic regimes	0
N/A	0
TYPE OF INCIDENT	
Assault	1
Hate speech	7
N/A	0

VANDALISM

One of the eight incidents belongs in this category: the incident took place in the town of Budaörs, which is part of the Budapest agglomeration.

Mezuzah vandalized in Budaörs

Budaörs, Pest County

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 10 August in Budaörs, a woman of Jewish origin had an argument with her tenants on account of rent arrears. The partner of the person renting the apartment made anti-Semitic comments and threatened the woman. The woman only noticed later that the tenants had also vandalized the mezuzah nailed to the door frame. The woman lodged a complaint with the police and also turned to Action and Protection Foundation. Investigation in the case is underway.

HATE SPEECH

Among the hate-incidents committed in August, seven may be considered to involve hate speech. In two instances it can be established without doubt that they were planned, organized actions. One of them can be tied to Jobbik and the other to two far-right organizations close to Jobbik. Of the incidents, six are incitements against communities, and one was denial of the Holocaust.

Csatáry memorialized by FTC football-fans

Budapest

Source: MTI, HVG

On the 17 August FTC-MTK derby, a banner that read “In memoriam Csatáry László” was stretched out by fans of the FTC in their sector. The Hungarian Football Association (MLSZ) had issued a statement by the next day, that the Disciplinary Committee of the Association had powers to investigate the case, and that “football matches are no place for any form of veiled or open political statement, or manifestations that offend the human dignity or national feelings of others”. In the press release sent by the FTC board to MTI on 21 August, it apologized for the incident and put forward that it was a case of political provocation, in which a splinter group of the viewers had abused the 114-year-old spirit of the Ferencvárosi Torna Club (FTC). The statement continued to say that the actions were in grave opposition to the triple slogan of the Club, “Morals, Strength, Agreement”, “since Ferencváros has sympathized with the persecuted at all times”. On 22 August, the MLSZ gave the Club a penalty of 800,000 HUF. On 23 August a statement released by the Friends of FTC and the Béla Nagy Association for the Protection of Traditions, which said they strongly condemn what happened on the grandstand and deny that it was an action of FTC fans. On 24 August the president of the FTC Executive Board, Gábor Kubatov asked the football fans who had spread the Csatáry banner to appear in the FTC office by 26 August in a video message.

If this would not happen, the ultimatum concluded, the identification of the fans from the videos taken on the day of the match would begin. On 25 August, all the groups representing fans of the FTC accepted responsibility for the banner in memory of the “butcher of Kassa”, and at the same time, reminded the president of the Club that he had earlier stated: “he is proud of the people who later stretched up the banner.” Pál Steiner requested information from the chief prosecutor, Péter Polt, on whether criminal proceedings were underway in the case of the banner, answered on 29 August to the effect that he had forwarded the question to the Prosecutor’s Office as a complaint.



The banner

Jobbik seeks to have the Simon Wiesenthal Center banned

Budapest

Source: HVG

György Szilágyi, member of parliament for Jobbik stated at a press conference he gave on 27 August that the Simon Wiesenthal Center represented a threat to Hungarian national security, and so his party calls on the government to ban its operations, and to deport all its employees who are not Hungarian citizens. The MP spoke about this following a letter from the Center to the European Football Association (UEFA) about the Csatáry banner spread out at the FTC-MTK match.

István Tarlós’s anti-Semitic allusion in regard to his critics

Budapest

Source: Népszava Online

István Tarlós, Mayor of Budapest, in an interview given to the television channel Hír TV on 29 August, said about politicians leading the Demokratikus Koalíció in the context of criticism they had launched at him: “It is only one side of the matter why if they snap open the bible once in a while it always opens at the Old Testament, but I would rather not say any more about this.” Followed by: “their use of quite arbitrarily snipped quotes are inaccurate, the fate of those who took the sacrament of confirmation only for a while, and anyone who calls our messiah the messiah in front of the rabbis, perhaps they should quote the Bible arbitrarily a bit less often, but this is not my problem but theirs.” The Demokratikus Koalíció protested in a statement released the next day, and qualified the words of the mayor as anti-Semitic. István Tarlós reacted to the accusations in a short statement describing them as laughable, sorry attempts at an overzealous, false interpretation of what he had said.

Jew-baiting and anti-Semitic t-shirt at the demonstration against Alföldi

Budapest

Source: HVG, Magyar Narancs

Prior to the Budapest premier of István, the King, on August 30, approximately 80 to a 100 individuals gathered in response to a call by the extreme right-wing groups Kárpát Haza Örei and the Hungarian National Guard in the square in front of the Papp László Sports Arena, to protest against the director of the play, Róbert Alföldi. Anti-Semitic and homophobic chants were continuous throughout the period of the demonstration. One of the protestors appeared at the demonstration in a t-shirt that read “Magyar vagyok, nem zsidó” [I am Hungarian, not a Jew].



“I am a Hungarian, not a Jew”

A van driving through Budapest with a sticker that reads “Holokamu” [Holohoax]

Budapest

Source: NOL, Népszava Online

Népszabadság Online had reported a van on which a sticker read “Holokamu” [Holohoax] as early as May. At the time the newspaper turned to a lawyer to find out whether this act fulfilled the legal definition for Holocaust denial in the Hungarian Criminal Code. The position of the expert was that if the owner of the vehicle was aware of the fact others may interpret the inscription as a denial of the fact of the genocide committed by the National Socialist regime, the properly grounded suspicion of a crime having been committed can at least be raised. A number of extreme right-wing news-portals discussed the case at the time. However it seems that the owner of the vehicle was not troubled by the suspicion of criminal conduct, for on 14 August, Népszava Online reported that the van was seen on the section of the M5 highway leading out of Budapest. Action and Protection Foundation has filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the National Socialist and communist regimes.



The van with the sticker

Graffiti hailing Hitler in Kaposvár

Kaposvár, Somogy County

Source: Sonline

Sonline.hu reported, based on a notification by one of its readers that a text-graffiti on the wall of the underground crossing in Kaposvár shows a message hailing Hitler. This is not a first in the town. Messages hailing Hitler were painted across a sign-board on high-road no. 67 leading into Kaposvár in April 2011. In February last year, a photograph portraying Hitler was pasted onto the Holocaust memorial sign in Baross Gábor Street.



Graffiti in praise of Hitler in Kaposvár

Swastikas and anti-Semitic scribbles across the bus stop in front of the Jewish Cemetery

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Swastikas were drawn and Auschwitz inscribed on the sign at the bust stop for the Jewish Cemetery of Kozma Street by unidentified persons.



Swastikas and “Auschwitz” inscriptions

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of its monitoring activity during August 2013, Action and Protection Foundation established one incident that does not form a part of the statistics. It may be possible that the incident was perpetrated with anti-Semitic intent, however the intent cannot be proven. It is nevertheless considered important to report it here due to the chance of consequences.

Vandalized stolperstein (memorial cobblestone) in Dohány Street

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Staff at Action and Protection Foundation found and photographed a memorial stolperstein (stumbling block), a cobblestone sized memorial located at Dohány Street 34, which had been vandalized on the basis of a citizen report. These stolperstein serve as remembrances of Jewish people who had been torn away from where they had lived during the Holocaust. The Foundation contacted Stolperstein Foundation, which had placed the memorial cobblestones and has its seat in Germany, and the craftsman who makes them, Günter Demnig, in order to have the cobblestone replaced as early as possible. It also informed the 7th district local government, which is responsible for the area.



Vandalized stolperstein memorial

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Mazsihisz: Banner of FTC fans appalling

Budapest

Source: MTI

The Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) indicated in a press release it sent to MTI on 21 August that it found the banner, inscribed “In Memoriam Csatóry László”, spread out by the FTC fans at the FTC-MTK match on 17 August appalling, and awaits the results of the disciplinary investigation by the Hungarian Football Association (MLSZ).

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Ilan Mor's speech about the struggle against anti-Semitism and anti-Roma prejudice on the Memorial day for the victims of the Holocaust

Budapest

Source: MTI

On 6 August, Cardinal Péter Erdő, Primate of Hungary, and Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest held a sacred mass for the victims of the Roma Holocaust and the Hungarian Roma people, in Saint Stephen's Basilica in Budapest. Israeli ambassador, Ilan Mor gave an address on the occasion, speaking about the role of education in prevention of anti-Semitism and anti-Roma prejudice, as well as governments' responsibility in keeping an eye on hate speech and making sure that it does not spread.

László Csatóry, accused of war crimes, has passed away

Budapest, Košice

Source: MTI

On 7 August district court of Kosice set the date of the hearing in which the jury was to decide in what form László Csatóry would fulfill the life sentence he had received to 26 August. The same day the court was ordered to continue the process, which had been suspended for a month, by the Budapest-Capital Regional Court of Appeal. However, neither the process nor the hearing can be carried on as László Csatóry, accused of war crimes, passed away on 10 August, at the age of 98. All countrywide media channels gave an account of the death in Germany. Articles dealing with this subject appeared in numerous Slovakian newspapers. Accounts of the past events in the case of László Csatóry were detailed in our June and July reports.

Football fans of the Győr and Honvéd football clubs subject of complaint lodged with the UEFA

Budapest

Source: MTI

The group, Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) has turned to the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) in the matter of racist behavior shown by the fans of the Győr and Honvéd football clubs at European Cup matches. At the Győr-Makkabi Tel-Aviv match in the preliminaries of the Champions League on 17 July the home fans behaved offensively towards the players and fans of the Israeli visiting team by chanting anti-Semitic slogans. At the Vojvodina-Budapest Honvéd return match of the European League preliminaries on 25 July the observer for the organization noted anti-Roma hate speech and Nazi salutes.

Wallenberg Association proposes withdrawal of state funding from Ferencváros Football Club

Budapest

Source: HVG, MTI, Jobbik.hu

In speaking about the incident of the Csatáry banner on 20 August, and in response to the unremitting anti-Semitic and racist disruptions experienced at FTC matches, the Raoul Wallenberg Association proposed that the Club, which has not taken any effective measures to curb anti-Semitic manifestations at its matches should not receive any form of state funding. A reminder that the case involving an assault on previous chairman of the association has still not been investigated and resolved successfully followed. The incident was also presented in our June Report.

On 22 August Előd Novák, member of parliament for Jobbik was also asked for his opinion, among other things, about this proposal. The vice-president of Jobbik said that he considers it inconceivable that any sort of sanction should be meted out to a football team simply because a banner in memory of an “innocent man”—“after all, I believe that the presumption of innocence applies to anyone who has not been pronounced guilty”—is spread out at one of its matches. He considers this “panic mongering” “part and parcel of the Holocaust industry” he announced. On 26 August Jobbik formulated the message as follows: “Jobbik observes in complete consternation how recently the Raoul Wallenberg Association has tried with every chance it is afforded—not even respecting the dead—to damage the reputation of FTC and undermine its existence.”

NEWS, OPINION ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Austrian public radio broadcast a report on right-wing radicalism in Hungary

Austria

Source: MTI

Austrian public radio broadcast a report on the sentence passed at first degree in the trial of the Roma murders, Hungarian right-wing radicalism and the politics of Fidesz. In the evaluation of the reporter right-wing groups have retreated somewhat into the background. The Hungarian Guard has been banned, and the extreme right rather than “marching on” Roma populated districts, has taken to the internet. In spite of this, according to the ORF, tolerance towards manifestations of racism and anti-Semitism is still higher in Hungary than in Austria, or Germany. Ten–fifteen percent of the population holds extreme right points of view, or leans towards accepting them. The reporter is of the opinion that the Orbán government “may bear the blame for many things, but not for being anti-Semitic and racist”, it is just that its actions in trying to secure the votes of the electorate to the right of Fidesz are “rather unfortunate”.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency published an article about Hungarian anti-Semitism

Source: HetiVálasz.hu

In a news piece on 26 August the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported that in their evaluation anti-Semitism is still salient in Hungary. It gave examples of this in the spreading of the Csatáry banner, the events that occurred at the friendly match with the Israeli team, as well as the opinion of the member of parliament for Jobbik, to the effect that MPs with dual citizenship should be registered, because they signify a national security risk. The article explains that the success of the Jewish Summer Festival is due in part to the fact that foreign Jews visit the country in waves at the time of the festival to show solidarity.

Democratic congressmen praised the struggle continued by the Hungarian government against anti-Semitism

Washington, United States of America

Source: HVG

Two American Democrat politicians wrote a letter to György Szapáry, ambassador of Hungary in Washington, in which they welcomed the strong stance taken by the Hungarian government opposing anti-Semitism, and encouraged a continuation of the firm action. In the letter, published on 27 August in Hungary, the politicians explained that the American government and a number of civil organizations have watched with some trepidation the growth of extremist views and anti-Semitism in Hungary over the last few years, especially attacks against Jews, vandalism in Jewish cemeteries, and the anti-Semitic statements of members of the fascist “Jobbik Party”. Nevertheless they have come to believe that the efforts made by the Hungarian government to deter this process are reassuring. Close to 100 thousand Jews live in Hungary, so the country is home to the largest Jewish community in Central Europe—they pointed out. They stressed that the Hungarian government must show itself committed to join in the fight against hate crimes and hate speech.

IMPORTANT STEPS TAKEN BY ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

Action and Protection Foundation, Board of Trustees Chairman lodges complaint against www.kuruc.info news portal for defamation and Holocaust denial

Dániel Bodnár, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Action and Protection Foundation lodged a complaint against the extreme right-wing news portal operating under the domain name www.kuruc.info on 6 August. In an article that appeared on the webpage on 18 July, Dániel Bodnár was described as a fraud, a common law criminal, and stated that he had stolen from others, called him a swindler in a piece that appeared on 23 July, and then used the expression Jewish criminal on 24 July. The chairman of the Board of Trustees filed a complaint for the above.

In addition, the article of 23 July also stated that a close relative of Dániel Bodnár “had drowned in the swimming pool in Auschwitz” and the whole period was called the “Holohoax period”. Since these statements are suitable to show the crimes committed by the National Socialist regimes in trivial light, Action and Protection Foundation has lodged a separate complaint for denial of the Holocaust. The Foundation proposed that the webpage be made inaccessible.

Complaint filed against www.kuruc.info news portal for Holocaust denial

On 12 August, Action and Protection Foundation lodged a complaint against the extreme right-wing news portal operating under the domain name of www.kuruc.info. A Hungarian translation of the interview Der Standard prepared with the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Efraim Zuroff appeared on the webpage on 27 July, under a title as follows “Austria of course, does not send its citizens to death on Jewish orders”. The editor published the article with a commentary, with statements such as, “the Austrian leaders are also quite well aware that the whole gas chamber story is a cheap lie”. The article fulfills the criteria of the legal definition for the denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regimes and so the Foundation has launched an initiative to make the website inaccessible.

Complaint filed against unidentified person for incitement against a community

A Facebook user posted a photo in his public folder, presumably portraying the user himself with what looks very much like an AMD-65 machine gun. Comments by others and reflections by the user himself make an anti-Semitic motive unequivocal. The Foundation lodged a complaint against an unidentified person for the crime of incitement against a community on 29 August.

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	6 August	Ilan Mor's speech about the struggle against anti-Semitism and anti-Roma prejudice on the Memorial day for the victims of the Holocaust	Official and Civil Responses
2	6 August	Austrian public radio broadcast a report on right-wing radicalism in Hungary	About anti-Semitism in Hungary
3	6 August	Action and Protection Foundation, Board of Trustees Chairman, Dániel Bodnár lodges complaint against www.kuruc.info news portal for defamation and Holocaust denial	Action and protection Foundation steps taken
4	10 August	Mezuzah belonging to a Jewish woman in Budaörs vandalized	Hate incident: Vandalism
5	10 August	László Csatóry has passed away	Official and Civil Responses
6	12 August	Complaint filed by Action and Protection Foundation, against www.kuruc.info news portal for Holocaust denial	Action and protection Foundation steps taken
7	13 August	Football fans of the Győr and Honvéd football clubs subject of complaint lodged with the UEFA	Official and Civil Responses
8	17 August	Csatóry memorialized by FTC football-fans with large banner	Hate incident: Hate speech
9	20 August	Wallenberg Association proposes withdrawal of state funding from Ferencváros Football Club	Official and Civil Responses
10	21 August	Mazsihisz: Banner of FTC fans appalling	Official and Civil Responses
11	22 August	Vandalized stolperstein (memorial cobblestone) in Dohány Street	Hate incident (not included in statistics)
12	26 August	The Jewish Telegraphic Agency published an article about Hungarian anti-Semitism	About anti-Semitism in Hungary
13	27 August	Jobbik seeks to have the Simon Wiesenthal Center banned	Hate incident: Hate speech
14	27 August	Democratic congressmen praised the struggle continued by the Hungarian government against anti-Semitism and encouraged further commitment	About anti-Semitism in Hungary
15	29 August	István Tarlós's anti-Semitic allusion in regard to his critics	Hate incident: Hate speech
16	29 August	Complaint filed against unidentified person for incitement against a community	Action and protection Foundation steps taken
17	30 August	Jew-baiting and anti-Semitic t-shirt at the demonstration against Alföldi	Hate incident: Hate speech
18	-	A van driving through Budapest with a sticker that reads "Holokamu" [Holofoax]	Hate incident: Hate speech
19	-	Graffiti hailing Hitler in Kaposvár	Hate incident: Hate speech
20	-	Swastikas and anti-Semitic scribbles across the bus stop in front of the Jewish Cemetery	Hate incident: Hate speech

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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