



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT

MARCH 2014
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.

In the course of its March monitoring activities, Action and Protection Foundation identified two anti-Semitic hate incidents, of which one fits the category of vandalism, and the other that of hate speech. The present report however, gives an account of numerous events in Hungary connected to the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.

Action and Protection Foundation lodged complaints in three cases during March 2014, all for public denial of the crimes of national socialist regimes. The subject of the complaint was a private individual on one occasion, and individuals unknown in the other two instances. The private individual had posted a comment realizing the named criminal offence under an article that appeared online on the news portal, while in the other cases the same offence was committed in the course of vandalism at a cemetery and while organizing a demonstration.

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, having 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. Participating in the work of the Foundation are 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. Trustees of the Foundation represent the most important Jewish religious and cultural movements in Hungary, a symbolic expression of the fact 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).

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

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.

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

⁶ These are described in the *Methods* section.

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.

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

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

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
 - Any attack on a person that potentially causes serious bodily harm
 - Any attack involving weapons, or other tools that can cause bodily harm
 - Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - Bombs and letter bombs
 - Kidnapping
- Assault
 - Any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not serious
 - Attempted assault, which fails due to self-defense, or if the victim runs away
 - Throwing objects at a person or people, including where the object misses its target
- Damage to property
 - Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
 - Desecration of property
 - Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson
- Threats
 - Any clear and specific threat, whether verbal or written
 - Any “bomb” which is assessed to be a hoax
 - Stalking
 - Defamation
- Hate speech
 - Public hate speech
 - Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media
 - Abusive behavior
 - Abusive literature sent to more than one person
 - 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

– MARCH 2014

In the course of monitoring in March 2014, Action and Protection Foundation identified two anti-Semitic hate incidents.

VANDALISM

Jewish Cemetery desecrated in Tatabánya

Tatabánya-Felsőgalla outskirts, Komárom-Esztergom County

Sources: MTI, ATV

On the night of 13 March unidentified culprits vandalized a number of graves in the Jewish Cemetery of Tatabánya. On one of the graves the hooligans left the following message: “There was no Holocaust, but it’s coming!!!” On two other graves they wrote: “stinking Jews”, and “Holohoax”. On a third grave they sprayed a swastika along with the acronyms “S.H.” and “H.H.”

Csaba Schmidt, Mayor of Tatabánya let MTI know in a press release on 14 February that a complaint will be filed, and following due official procedure the graves would be put in order. Police have launched an investigation against individual unknown for use of a banned symbol of autocratic regimes.



“stinking Jews”, source: ATV



“There was no Holocaust, but it’s coming!!!”, source: ATV

HATE SPEECH

Anti-Semitic manifestations at the MTK-Ferencváros football match

Budapest

Sources: MLSZ website, NBI website

The MTK-Ferencváros football match of the OTP Bank League was held on 8 March. Ferencváros supporters chanted scandalous refrains during the match and repeated racist, anti-Semitic calls.

At its meeting of 11 March the Disciplinary Committee of the MLSZ (Hungarian Football Association) brought the following decision with regard to the incidents at the match: “for the use of pyrotechnics, chanting of scandalous refrains, and manifestations of racism and anti-Semitism (Jew-baiting) FTC supporters have been required to pay a fine of 500,000 HUF”.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

Gusztáv Zoltai was sent white powder

Budapest, Síp Street

Source: ATV

The Managing Director of Mazsihisz received white powder in a letter. András Heisler, President of Mazsihisz confirmed the information gathered by ATV Television on 12 March. He said: a letter was received at the Síp utca headquarters of Mazsihisz and opened by Gusztáv Zoltai. “There was white powder in the letter, harmless, I would think some sort of chloride,” he said. “The disaster management authorities arrived soon.” The chief of security at Mazsihisz said: the letter was addressed to Gusztáv Zoltai and the sender was also shown on the envelope including a name and an address in Budapest.

T-shirts recalled from shelves by shopping chain

Hungary and other countries

Source: HVG

A 28 March article in HVG reported that the Swedish fashion store chain Hennes & Mauritz (H&M) had recalled a T-shirt, which had been designated as anti-Semitic, from the shelves of its shops across the world, including Hungary, the controversial product having featured a threatening skull embedded in a Star of David.

The press release published by the fashion chain on 28 March read: “We are sincerely sorry if the patterns on the T-shirt offended anyone, we had no intention to elicit any such reaction”.

Mose Kantor, leader of the European Jewish Congress welcomed the news of the withdrawal of the item, calling the design on the T-shirt “thoughtless and insensitive”.



Source: Twitter

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

The German Occupation Memorial

Budapest

Source: MTI

New developments concerning the German occupation memorial, continuing from the sequence of events in our February report follow.

A demonstration protesting anti-Semitism, the falsification of history and the German occupation memorial was announced for 2 March at Nyugati Square. Pál Steiner, Member of Parliament for MSZP spoke at the demonstration about how the Holocaust is a shared tragedy, all Hungarians are affected, which is why it is a national cause and must not be made into a campaign subject. According to Pál Steiner it was not the opposition parties who made “this important issue” part of the campaign, but the government, as it tolerates the continued growth of anti-Semitism and whips up further sentiments by building the “history-falsifying memorial”. Zsolt Gréczy, spokesperson for the Democratic Coalition Party (DK) at the event said: There is no European precedent for a government “going as far as the Hungarian government has” in trying and rewrite history by such means. He argued that the discrimination against Hungarian Jews had not begun in 1944, with the German occupation of Hungary, but much earlier. Károly Herényi, one-time leader of the MDF faction said, “there are few countries stupid enough to raise a memorial in memory of having been occupied rather than its freedom, its wonderful achievements [...], and attempting to get out of the responsibility with such a statue”.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center published an appeal on its website on 5 March, in which it calls upon the government to cooperate with the Hungarian Jewish community and desist from attempts at to intimidate it. They hold that János Lázár’s declaration of 25 February, according to which “the commemoration of the Holocaust memorial year is under threat of failure because of the Mazsihisz ultimatum”, is an obvious attempt to intimidate the Hungarian Jewish community. It seems that rather than facing up honestly to historical events, including collaboration with the Nazis in the murder of over half a million Jews, the most recent Hungarian steps such as giving precedence to the planned construction of the German occupation memorial, or the remembrance of victims of communist repression were intended to position Hungary as a victim bearing no responsibility for the actions committed during the Holocaust.

MSZP’s 19 March press release was sent to MTI and said: the Hungarian government is trying to falsify history. In their opinion the leaders of the Hungarian government are cowardly, because they lack the courage to face up to the responsibility of the state at that period, and are liars because they want to exculpate the perpetrators of the time. “This is why they are trying to falsify our history. [...] this is why they want to raise a memorial exoner-

ating the Hungarian perpetrators on the pretext of the German occupation”. They stressed: “The memorial he [Viktor Orbán] still plans to raise even by force, can however never actually be realized! Because it offends our Jewish compatriots, it violates the memory of the victims and prevents facing up to the past. Because it does not invite national reconciliation, but tears up one of the greatest and most painful wounds that this nation has sustained. And Hungary, it must be said, shall never have another memorial to absolve the perpetrators and stand for oppression!”

On the same day the five-party opposition coalition held a demonstration in protest on Szabadság Square. The politicians made the following points in their speeches: the planned sculpture does not differentiate between perpetrators and victims, and creates the false impression that the persecution and deportation of Hungarian Jews was solely the crime of Nazi Germany. Csaba Horváth, the chairman of MSZP said that the realization of the sculpture would count as a denial of the Holocaust.

The presentation of the Radnóti awards for anti-racism was held in Budapest on 21 March. At the ceremony Vilmos Hanti, the President of the Hungarian Federation of Resistance Fighters and Antifascists (MEASZ)—United for Democracy pointed out: racism is the open door to Nazism, and this organization protests against the memorial to the victims of German occupation, because in their opinion it does not differentiate between the murderers and the victims, nor the murderers and heroes. “This memorial is a Nazi memorial, Hitler would build one like this in our days”, and so they will reject it even after 6 April. According to Vilmos Hanti Hungary is “on its way to Nazism”, and it depends on the humanists alone whether “that step through the gate is taken, or not”. He explained his point as follows: “I accuse Viktor Orbán of pandering to and cooperating with fascism, and thereby inviting it into Hungary, our beloved home.”

On 23 March Civil organizations protested against the memorial planned for the victims of the German occupation with a flash mob organized at the planned location of the statue in Szabadság Square, Budapest, by the Facebook group “Eleven emlékmű – az én történelmem” (Living memorial—My own history). Philosopher Péter Béndek, an activist of the Facebook group emphasized at the demonstration: they wish to prevent the erection of the “political symbol that is to proclaim a historical lie”. Because in their opinion the government aims to absolve the nation of the burdens past and present, for which—in their words—it neither had the mandate, nor the knowledge, nor the moral standing.

House of Fates

Budapest

Sources: MTI, Website of the journal Szombat (Shabbat)

We detailed in our February *Report* that Mazsihisz had abstained from participation in the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year—2014 program, in part because of the uncertainty surrounding the concept for the House of Fates.

Mazsihisz held its general assembly on 4 March, deciding unanimously that in view of the “complete lack of readiness to cooperate” on the part of the person entrusted with the project, Mária Schmidt, András Heisler, President of Mazsihisz “shall resign from the International Advisory Board of the House of Fates Project on 5 March”. In his letter to Mária Schmidt of 5 March, András Heisler informed her to this effect.

Mária Schmidt replied to András Heisler on the same day, and declared: “I accept your resignation, though with no little incomprehension.” Continuing as follows: “At the same time I do not understand your impatience in regards to the House of Fates, especially in light of the fact that the planning process of the documentation center in Páva Street, which is supported by Mazsihisz took long years in the making. [...] in recent months we have worked and continue to work ten hours and more a day to be able to present an action plan for the exhibition, but is not yet ready. On this account, and in the spirit of the letter addressed to you by the Prime Minister we have delayed our report originally planned for February to the end of April, and intend to present it to the members of the Board after Pesach and Easter.”

On 20 March, Mazsihisz published a Hungarian translation of the letter by the Yad Vashem Institute posted in English on the Facebook profile of the House of Fates Project earlier the same day. Yossi Gevir, Senior Assistant to the Chairman of the Directorate of the Yad Vashem indicated in his letter that the organization does not wish to participate in the convened international meeting of experts, and that in the following: “Yad Vashem will not be taking part in gatherings or activities organized by the House of Fates Museum project, because the project’s administration has consistently and unilaterally pursued the development of the Museum without any genuine, substantial involvement of the representatives of the Hungarian Jewish community or of relevant international parties, including Yad Vashem.”

Protest against the government's remembrance policy

Budapest

Source: Népszava

On 19 March a statement signed by a number of historians, museologists and social scientists⁹ appeared under the title of “Protest against the government’s remembrance policy”, in which voices were raised against the way “no social debate whatsoever was allowed before the decision-making and implementation phases of the planned occupation memorial and House of Fates museum. [...] As Hungarian citizens we consider it unacceptable that the Hungarian government wishes to facilitate the canonization of Hungarian national remembrance by a simplified reduction to good and bad, instead of ensuring the nation an opportunity to take responsibility. [...] We consider it a matter of great concern that the government is terminating centers of scientific and artistic work on the one hand and on the other, founding new ones delegated to its own political interests, and unheeding of any professional considerations. We believe this undermines the credibility of all their statements apologizing for the Holocaust in the name of the Hungarian state.”

⁹ Péter Agárdi literary historian, Katalin Aknai art historian, Róbert Alföldi stage actor and director, Ádám Angyal közgazdász, Attila Ara-Kovács foreign-policy expert, Judit Bárdos aesthete, András Bíró social researcher, Hanna Zsuzsanna Bíró education expert, László Bitó author, Endre Bojtár literary historian, András Bozóki political scientist, Zoltán Bretter philosopher, György Csáki economist, Judit Csáki theatre critic, Mihály Csáko sociologist, Vilmos Csaplár author, György Csepeli social psychologist, Júlia Cserba arts critic, Gábor Csordás author, György Dalos author, Deczki Sarolta literateur, László Dés composer, László Donáth Lutheran pastor, László Eörsi historian, Ágnes Erdélyi philosopher, Péter Fábri author, Mariann Falusi singer, Csaba Fazekas historian, István Feitl historian, Katalin Fenyves historian, Ferge Zsuzsa sociologist, Tamás Fodor actor-director, Gábor Forrai philosopher, Kinga Frojimovics historian, György Gábor philosopher of religion, György Geréby historian of philosophy, István Hajdu art critic, Zoltán Háberman social worker, Géza Halász economist, graphic designer, Gábor Halmai lawyer, László Harsányi social researcher, András Hegedűs economist, Ágnes Heller philosopher, Mária Herczog sociologist, Gyula Hosszú history teacher, Gábor Iványi pastor, Attila Jakab historian of religion, Katalin Jalsovszky museologist, György C. Kálmán literary historian, István Kamarás sociologist, Viktor Karády sociologist, György Kárpáti film director, György Karsai classical philologist, László Karsai historian, János Kelemen philosopher, János Kenedi research scholar, Endre Kiss philosopher, Gábor Klaniczay historian, Géza Komoróczy historian, Éva Kovács sociologist, Mária M. Kovács historian, Gyula Kozák sociologist, Péter Krasztev cultural anthropologist, Mihály Laki economist, Györgyi Lang singer, Ferenc L. Lendvai philosopher, Tamás Lichtmann literary historian, László Lőrinc history teacher, Mária Ludassy historian of philosophy, Péter Lukács sociologist of education, Andor Lukáts actor-director, Tamás Majsai theologian, Calvinist pastor, Magdaléna Marsovszky cultural researcher, Anna Mérei family therapist, Judit Merényi performer, András Mink historian, Judit Molnár historian, Péter Tibor Nagy historian, sociologist, Németh Sándor leading pastor – Faith Church, Mária Ormos historian, Julianna P. Szűcs art historian, Gábor Papp historian, Lajos Parti Nagy author, László Percz philosopher, János Pótó historian, János M. Rainer historian, Béla Révész political scientist, Tibor Ruff theologian, Gyula Rugási philosopher, Péter Somlai sociologist, Gábor Somogyi interior designer, Anna Stein painter and sculptor, Gábor Székely historian, Péter Szuhay cultural anthropologist, László Gergely Szűcs philosopher, Miklós Szűts painter, Gáspár Miklós Tamás philosopher, György Tatár philosopher, József Tillmann philosopher, Erika Törzsök sociologist, Uhrman Iván historian, philologist, Tamás Ungvári literary historian, Krisztián Ungváry historian, Júlia Vajda sociologist, psychologist, Mihály Vajda philosopher, Tamás Valastyán philosopher, Éva Várhegyi economist, Mária Vásárhelyi sociologist, Iván Vitányi sociologist, Erzsébet Vojnich painter, Pál Závada author.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Police ban anti-Zionist protest

Budapest

Sources: MTI, ATV

We reported in February that on 26 February Mazsihisz filed a complaint against a planned Anti-Zionist demonstration for the criminal offences of inciting against a religious community and denial of the Holocaust.

In a statement on 1 March the Hungarian Federation of Resistance Fighters and Antifascists (MEASZ) expressed deep dismay at learning that once again a neo-Nazi demonstration was underway in Budapest, planned for 8 March. Quoting their statement, they said amongst others: “MEASZ demands a ban on the neo-Fascist demonstration which openly foments hatred against Jews. In the opinion of MEASZ the planned demonstration satisfies criteria for the provisions against the crime of incitement against a religious group by calling upon local Jewry to leave Hungary. [...] MEASZ demands that the Hungarian state authorities publicly distance themselves from the planned neo-fascist event and the police do not allow the event to be held.”

The Budapest Police Headquarters banned the demonstration in the capital planned for 8 March. The police justified the action as follows: “The aim of the event carries within it the threat of calling forth extreme, unusually antisocial manifestations of behavior. There is a real danger that fundamental rights would be curtailed if the event were to be held.”

With regard to the ban Vilmos Hanti, president of MEASZ stated in a television show called *Egyenes beszéd* [Straight talk] on 5 March that anti-Zionism is in itself a political view, not a creation of the devil, but this demonstration would offend groups of people. The fact that they would send the Jews out of the country is also definitely against the law.

Judgment at first instance in Lóránt Hegedűs’s Church trial

Budapest

Source: MTI, ATV

On 7 March the court of the Northern Budapest Lutheran Diocese brought a judgment at first instance in Lóránt Hegedűs’s case, following his inauguration of a Horthy statue at the *Hazatérés Temploma* (Temple of Return Home) on 3 November. According to the ruling he received a written warning as disciplinary action. The judicial body sentenced the pastor on account of the pastoral law that proscribes division of the community, incitement to hatred, and any action by the pastor that is in conflict with moral integrity. However the jury did not consider removal from office, as proposed by the prosecution, represented by the legal council of the Diocese, because though it is true that procedures had been instituted against Lóránt Hegedűs previously, he had never been sentenced in any one of these;

therefore it would not be warranted for him to be banned from his calling in the first penalty he receives.

In a speech improvised on Kálvin Square after the judgment was passed, Lóránt Hegedűs said: it is made unequivocally clear in the judgment that the court did not qualify either the raising of the statue or the church service as party-political activity.

The judgment is not yet enforceable, there is room for appeal within fifteen days, which Lóránt Hegedűs Jr. is intending to avail himself of.

Holocaust trial appealed

Chicago, United States of America

Sources: MTI, Magyar Nemzet

The Hungarian daily *Magyar Nemzet* reported in an article of 21 March that according to its information the United States Court of Appeal had rejected without further recourse the lawsuit that a group of Holocaust survivors in Chicago had brought against the Hungarian state and MÁV (Hungarian railways) in 2010. An employee of the United States Northern District Court of Illinois replied to questions from *Magyar Nemzet*, stating that the Court of Appeal had brought a final ruling in the case on 14 January, which rejected the claims of the petitioners, since they found that it was not in evidence that they had taken recourse to all possible legal remedies in Hungary. The newspaper is so informed that in cases brought in America against a number of financial institutions, among them the Hungarian National Bank (MNB) a similar ruling, favorable to the Hungarian state was brought, though claimants appealed those rulings.

However, the same day, MTI gave an opposite report—quoting the Ministry of National Development—stating that the case was not closed, since the process of appeal was underway against the rulings brought in the cases concerning MÁV and MNB. According to the schedule drawn up by the U.S. Court of Appeals the trial is expected in the second half of the year, to be held with the same jury—the Hungarian Ministry of National Development announced.

The claim against MÁV filed on 9 February 2010 in Chicago was found legally well founded by the court in June 2011, in spite of a challenge filed in the name of the Hungarian party. The procedure was initiated by 95 individuals. The claimants demanded a compensation of damages to property worth 240 million dollars at 1944 value, and other damages not of a financial nature of a billion dollars. According to the allegation MÁV “knowingly provided railway carriages between March and October of 1944 for the purpose of” transporting 437 thousand Jews to the gas chambers in Auschwitz, and additionally stripped the victims of their property and valuables. In the claim against the banks—filed a month later—the claimants (the 95 individuals who had also initiated the lawsuit against MÁV) asserted that the financial institutions or their predecessors had participated in the genocide as accomplices or instigators.

NEWS AND OPINION ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

German Occupation Memorial—in the international press

Italy

Source: MTI

“Hungary, run by the cunning fox Orbán, tries to displace remembrance of the Shoah” was the title with which of the 7 March issue of the the Italian social and political weekly magazine *Il Venerdì*, published by the center-left daily *La Repubblica*, addressed the contentions around the German Occupation Memorial. According to the article, this was the first time since 2010 that Viktor Orbán—who is “more than secure” in the knowledge of winning the Hungarian elections in April and the European Parliamentary elections of May—had withdrawn from a course of action he had decided on. The author, *Il Venerdì*’s correspondent for Central Europe, found “Orbán’s sudden tactical withdrawal to be a dubious postponement”, and rated it as a hypocritical act for the benefit of German and other foreign investments in Hungary. The Italian journal noted that following the postponement of the inauguration of the memorial the European Union had once again ceased to raise its voice about the manifestations of the far right in Hungary.

Radiating anti-Semitism

Budapest, Canada

Source: Magyar Nemzet

Hét Olajfa (seven Olive Trees) Association organized an event for 6 March with the heading “Vissza a jogállamba!” (Back to the rule of law), attended online by the writer and dramaturge Ákos Kertész.

Kertész called the leader of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH), Slomó Köves a liar for his sentence claiming that there is a renaissance of Jewish life in Hungary. To the contrary, according to the author who has lived abroad since 2012, the country “radiates” anti-Semitism. The event was attended by the sociologist Mária Vásárhelyi, according to whom anti-Semitism has increased significantly in Hungary over the previous years, and the current government has a major role in this.

A comparative analysis by the Financial Times

London, United Kingdom

Sources: MTI, Financial Times

A comparative analysis by Gideon Rachman entitled “How wars can be started by history textbooks” was published by the *Financial Times* on 17 March. The article gave a comparison of efforts to rewrite history in Hungary and internationally.

According to the article Hungary may justly be accused of adopting a “dangerously equivocal” attitude to the history of the far right. The Hungarian government lead by Viktor Orbán seems to be encouraging the rehabilitation of Miklós Horthy, once Hungary’s authoritarian and anti-Semitic leader. Several statues to Horthy have been erected around the country, as well as a plaque in Budapest. Efforts are also under way to rewrite school history textbooks to give them a more “patriotic” tone.

According to the writer, Hungary’s neighbors have reason to be concerned by this outbreak of historical revisionism. One of the reasons that the country’s rightists like Horthy, is that he believed in a “Greater Hungary” that would one day reclaim the territories that it had lost. A cause that remains dear to modern Hungarian nationalists.

Ilan Mor’s speech at the Mazsihisz remembrance

Budapest, Herzl Square

Source: Népszabadság

Mazsihisz held its 19 March remembrance of the German occupation of Hungary in the square in front of the Dohány Street Synagogue.

Israeli Ambassador to Hungary, Ilan Mor, gave emphasis in his speech to the State of Israel having become custodian to the task of keeping world Jewry safe from monstrous ideologies. We will not stand for the Holocaust becoming the tool of populist politics—he added. “There is nothing morally lower than Holocaust denial” the ambassador emphasized, having formulated the matter as follows: the so called Jewish question, does not exist, the serious social problem which we call racism and anti-Semitism does exist however.

Washington debate on how the Holocaust is being handled in Hungary

Washington, United States of America

Source: MTI

A debate unfolded at a conference entitled “The Holocaust in Hungary: 70 Years Later”, held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC on 19 March, on the subject of the current Hungarian approach to historical responsibility concerning the Shoah. The two hosts of the forum were scholars of the Hungarian Holocaust Paul A. Shapiro, Director of the Research Center at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Randolph L. Brahm, Distinguished Emeritus Professor at City University of New York. Both accused the Hungarian government of whitewashing Horthy-era Hungary.

According to Paul Shapiro “these developments remain far from being effectively addressed. Relativization of the Holocaust, trivialization, distortion and history cleansing in order to place responsibility on the Germans alone and absolve Hungarian authorities of that time, rehabilitation of extreme anti-Semites and killers—all have made an appearance since the fall of communism in Hungary”. Shapiro emphasized that much serious work remains to be done to combat these phenomena. He was critical of the fact that the

Hungarian government did not take the advice of the Hungarian Jewish community into consideration with regard to the series of events in memory of the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust. He focused his criticism on the statements of the Director of the Veritas Institute, the House of Fates, and plans for the German Occupation Memorial.

Gergely Próhle, who spoke as leader of the Hungarian delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), assured participants that “there is no reinterpretation of history, and no reinterpretation of the Treaty of Trianon” in Hungary. He announced: in midst of all the debate he is proud of representing the government of a country in which one of the largest Jewish communities of Europe lives, and is now enjoying a renaissance. He nonetheless gave expression to his sorrow at the anti-Semitic manifestations in Hungary. These are however, in his opinion, experienced around the world and not only in Hungary, which is why, he stressed the importance of taking united steps to counter them.

Randolph L. Braham recounted that though the Hungarian governments that have come to power since 1989 did not deny the fact of the Holocaust, according to the first Prime Minister, József Antall the emphasis was to be shifted to positive aspects, the “golden age” of Jewry after the emancipation of 1867 and how later Horthy and the “Righteous” rescued the Jewry of Budapest. At the same time however, in his opinion, Horthy tried to hush up the fact that the authorities of the Hungarian state “participated wholeheartedly” in the Holocaust. In his opinion parallelly a new trend also came to the fore: the endeavor to rehabilitate the Horthy era and reinstate the Christian-nationalist principles that defined that regime, as well as to gradually shift the whole of the responsibility for the Holocaust upon the Germans. This trend has sped up, according to the Professor, in 2010, when the Fidesz government with its two-thirds majority framed Hungary’s loss of sovereignty between 19 March 1944 and 1989 in the Hungarian constitution, the Fundamental Law of Hungary.

Preparations for Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year—2014 welcomed by the American Hungarian Federation

Washington, United States of America

Source: MTI

In a statement of 20 March, Ferenc Koszorus, President of the American Hungarian Federation (AHF) applauded preparations for the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year—2014, pointing out that the series of events contribute to a better understanding of Hungary at the time.

The president of the AHF emphasized: “Considering the extent of the catastrophe of the Holocaust, great care should be taken to avoid actions that serve no purpose other than to open old wounds and needlessly exacerbate controversies.” In his press release he put forward that care also should be taken to objectively discuss all aspects of a period and not abuse history for political purposes. According to the AHF attempts to whitewash the trag-

edy of 19 March 1944, the deportation and murder of 550 thousand Jews that followed it and the role of the Hungarian authorities cannot be tolerated.

The AHF resolution emphasized that both the German and the Hungarian role in the extermination of hundreds of thousands of Jews as a result of the Nazi German occupation of Hungary must be acknowledged (as recently done by Csaba Kőrösi, the Hungarian ambassador to the UN). According to the AHF the rescue efforts of non-Jewish Hungarians should also not be forgotten, denied or trivialized.

Leaders of Mazsihisz met Foreign Minister of Israel

Vienna, Austria

Source: MTI-OS

In a press release dated 30 March Mazsihisz announced that Avigdor Liberman, Foreign Minister of Israel welcomed the leaders of the European Jewish communities as his guests in the Austrian capital.

“Avigdor Liberman mainly informed the European Jewish leaders about the current situation in the Middle East, but also made time to discuss other issues primarily concerning Europe. Parallels between Europe and the Middle East could be drawn in numerous issues. Unfortunately anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, and anti-Israeli attitudes are present in our region as well.”

Hungary was represented by András Heisler, president of Mazsihisz, Péter Tordai, Vice-President of Mazsihisz and leader of the Jewish Congregation of Budapest, and Gusztáv Zoltai, Executive Manager of Mazsihisz: chiefly informing Liberman about the latest developments in Hungary at the meetings, and reaffirming the position of numerous Hungarian Jewish organizations with regard to the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year—2014. The Foreign Minister reassured the members of the delegation that the State of Israel continues to closely follow the situation in Hungary.

OTHER NEWS

Abstentions from participation in the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year—2014

Budapest

Sources: Index, Hasomer Hacair, szinhaz.hu, Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz)

In an open letter dated 1 March the youth organization Hashomer Hacair declared the following: “we do not agree with the government policy that tries to give a false picture by way of its gestures that pass off responsibility. We deeply condemn the obviously false communications that rest on the portrayal of history that lacks all credibility, because they are harmful in regards to the whole of society, do not fit the objectives of the Holocaust Memorial Year, and at the same time draw the whole initiative into question, by making it into a joke. [...] Shomer Hacair joins Mazsihisz and those organizations and individuals who have earlier expressed their protest in regards to the Holocaust Memorial Year—2014. We reject the funding we have won on the bid, and continue the realization of our project without the support of the Civil Fund.”

A Magyar Színházi Társaság (Hungarian Theatre Society) announced in a press release of 6 March that the “presidency of the Society joins those civil cultural organizations who do not wish to accept the support won through the call for bids in the framework of the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year—2014, for reasons of conscience, following from the remembrance policy of the Hungarian government where the Holocaust is concerned.”

The Jewish Congregation of Nagykanizsa and the Foundation for the Synagogue of Nagykanizsa had their statement delivered to Mazsihisz on 25 March, confirming that “they join those organization, which in complete agreement with and in support of the decision taken by Mazsihisz, will not be accepting, but will rather reject the funding they had won from the Holocaust Memorial Year—2014 Civil Fund due to the situation that had been created.”

Swastika spray painted on the Horthy statue

Budapest, Szabadság Square

Source: ATV

A black swastika was spray painted on the glass case protecting the Horthy bust erected at the Temple of Return Home on Szabadság Square. An eyewitness reported the incident to ATV, after seeing the black swastika during an early dawn walk in front of the Church on 11 March.

A disciplinary court action was brought against Lóránt Hegedűs Jr. for the inauguration of this statue on 3 November last year. Hegedűs Jr. was sentenced to a written warning on 7 March. Further information can be found in the Official and Civil Responses section.

Rabbinical Centre of Europe holds conference in Hungary

Budapest

Source: MTI

At the press conference given by the Rabbinical Centre of Europe (RCE) on 6 March the Director-General of the organization, Menachem Margolin said that their choice had fallen upon the Hungarian capital, because they want to give emphasis to the significance of the fact that in spite of the Holocaust the Hungarian Jewish community is strong, and growing.

Báruch Oberlander, the leader of the Orthodox Rabbinate of Budapest called attention to the fact: it is important to hold the event in Budapest, because the 70th anniversary of the Hungarian Holocaust is this year, and so the message transmitted is that Jewish religious life continues to be present in the country. Religious life did not cease in Hungary after the Holocaust, but continues, and is even having a renaissance over recent years.

Two hundred European rabbis took part in the meeting, moreover the two Chief Rabbis of Israel State and the Israeli Minister for Religious Affairs also came to Budapest on the occasion.

Berl Lazar, Chief Rabbi for Russia said: there is a great point to rabbis discussing the future of Jewish religious life in a place where Jewry was nearly exterminated. Many Jewish organizations consider anti-Semitism to be the greatest problem to be faced, but—the Russian Chief Rabbi opined—assimilation is a matter of much greater concern. It is very sad that only anti-Semitic people remind Jews of who they really are, he said. Adding: the main message of the conference is that that Jews should be active and proud of being Jews.

The two-day conference of the RCE began on 24 March. At the press conference held to open the event Slomó Köves, Executive Rabbi of the United Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) stressed that when observing the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust the strongest possible response to what happened is if we “make sure” that the Jewish communities can exist today and continue to do so in the future. This is also the main message of the present Conference, he said. He also added: the objective of the event is to give support to European rabbis, so they can work for the future of the Jewish life, Jewish education. The emptying out of values is typical of Europe today, and it is the task of the rabbis to lead Jews back to traditions, values, community.

János Áder holds an audience for the rabbis

Budapest

Source: MTI

János Áder gave an audience to the Chief Rabbis of Israel, the Israeli Minister for Religious Affairs and the Director-General of the Rabbinical Centre of Europe and his deputy, as well as the leader of the Orthodox Rabbinate of Budapest and Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation on 25 March. A statement was also released on the occasion.

According to the President of Hungary, religious fanaticism cannot ever, anywhere give an answer to the real problems of societies, and the conditions of calm and peaceful growth can only be ensured by mutual respect and exchange of experiences.

According to the statement János Áder welcomed the fact that the important Conference of the Rabbinical Centre of Europe found a home in Budapest. Among others the head of state presented the legislative measures taken to combat manifestations of anti-Semitism and extremism.

They spoke with high hopes about the ratification of the new civil codes, which enable the deterrence of anti-Semitic manifestations, and requested that the efforts also be carried through to the phase of implementation.

IMPORTANT STEPS TAKEN BY ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION (TEV)

TEV filed a complaint for the criminal offence of public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Action and Protection Foundation filed a complaint against an individual unknown for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime on 3 March.

István Mátyás Vass registered an anti-Zionist event for 8 March at the Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK) as organizer. He gave as objective of the event the raising awareness of the crimes of international and Hungarian Zionism. BRFK banned the event.

The event was advertised through the far-right news portal kuruc.info. The advertisement was accessible online at the time of the complaint being filed. The same leaflet was also shared by Facebook user István Újhegyi Vass on his community profile.

The call includes the following: “We declare that their grievances of 70 years hence, the demise of many simple Jews, was caused primarily by the chief Zionist Jews of the time, already tinkering on their state of Israel, who also came to destroy Palestine.”

Concurrently to lodging the complaint, TEV also proposed the making of the online data temporarily inaccessible.

Complaint against Tibor Ágoston for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime transferred

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

The process following TEV’s complaint filed on 17 February against Tibor Ágoston for the criminal offence of publicly denying the crimes of the national socialist regime was transferred on 6 March to the Central Investigation Office of the Public Prosecution Service’s Regional Department of Debrecen for further measures.

TEV filed a complaint against József Kollár for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Action and Protection Foundation filed a complaint with the Police Headquarters of Miskolc on 12 March, against József Kollár for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist re-

gime. Kollár left the following comment—using the Facebook plugin module—under the article published on the kuruc-info news portal on 23 January with the following heading “This time they apologized for the ‘Hungarian Holocaust’ in our name at the UN Headquarters”: “Mother f...s each and every one of them who apologized, since there never was a Holocaust in HUNGARY, at most a hollow cast, that continues to today” (SIC)

Concurrently to filing the complaint the Foundation also proposed that the comment, as electronic data, be made inaccessible.

TEV appeal to ban the Nemzeti Forradalmi Párt (National Revolutionary Party) transferred

Budapest, Dunakeszi, Pest County

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

In a proposal of 7 February TEV filed an appeal with the Budapest Chief Prosecutor’s office to ban the National Revolutionary Party. In a letter dated 14 March the Chief Prosecutor’s Office of Pest County transferred the case to the County Prosecutor’s Office of Dunakeszi for reasons of jurisdiction.

The Dunakeszi Police Headquarters then transferred the case to the Pest County Police Headquarters Department of Investigations with its decision of 27 March, since the County Prosecutor’s Office of Dunakeszi ruled for a supplement to the complaint, which belongs in the scope of the Police Headquarters.

In a letter dated 27 March, the Pest County Chief Prosecutor’s Office then informed TEV that on the basis of an injunction enforceable as of 11 March the name of the Party had changed to Magyar Hajnal Mozgalom Párt (Hungarian Dawn Movement Party), whose seat is Ózd, and therefore in view of jurisdiction, the Chief Prosecutor’s Office had transferred the appeal for the ban to Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Chief Prosecutor’s Office.

Complaint procedure against Attila Bozsik for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime suspended

Monor, Pest County

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

As reported in our *January Report*, on 20 January Action and Protection Foundation filed a complaint against Attila Bozsik, who had commented on an article published in the news portal kuruc.info on 4 January.

With its 12 March decision, the Police headquarters of Monor suspended the investigation, as the identity of the perpetrator could not be established in the course of the investigation; no personal or material evidence could be found during the investigation, which would allow the identity of the accused to be established. The proposal asking for the online content to be made inaccessible was also dismissed on 14 March, as the server used by kuruc.info is located in the United States of America.

Complaint procedure against László Kincses for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime suspended

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

As detailed in our *January Report*, on 20 January TEV filed a complaint against László Kincses, who had commented on an article published in the news portal kuruc.info on 3 January.

With its 19 March decision, the 5th District Police Station suspended the investigation, as the identity of the perpetrator could not be established in the course of the investigation; no personal or material evidence could be found during the investigation, which would allow the identity of the accused to be established.

Complaint procedure against Zsolt Süveges for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime suspended

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

As detailed in our *January Report*, on 21 January TEV filed a complaint against Zsolt Süveges, who had commented on an article published in the news portal kuruc.info on 18 January.

With its 19 March decision, the 5th District Police Station suspended the investigation, as the identity of the perpetrator could not be established in the course of the investigation; no personal or material evidence could be found during the investigation, which would allow the identity of the accused to be established.

TEV filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 24 March Action and Protection Foundation filed a complaint against individual unknown for the public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime. As described at the beginning of this *Report* a number of graves in the Jewish cemetery of Tatabánya were vandalized on the night of 13 March with the following inscriptions, among others: “holokamu” (holohoax), “Holokauszt nem volt, de lesz !!!” (There was no Holocaust, but there will be!!!).

The provision for the criminal act specifies wide publicity, which is the case here by definition of the cemetery as a site serving for commemoration that is freely accessible to all visitors, so an as yet indeterminable number of people may become aware of the inscriptions.

Complaint against Sándor Pörzse for the criminal offence of assaulting a member of a community dismissed

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

As described in our February *Report*, TEV filed a complaint with the Central Investigating Chief Prosecutor's Office on 17 February against Sándor Pörzse for the speech he gave at Jobbik's election campaign gathering in Esztergom on 12 February.

In its resolution of 25 March the Chief Prosecutor's Office dismissed the complaint, on account of the act not having been criminal. Behavior that fits the provisions could not be established. On the basis of the circumstances in which the speech was given the matters said cannot be considered to be in open disregard to the rules of social coexistence, and are not apt to raise anxiety or fear in those belonging to said religious group.

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 deals with the given case in greater detail.

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	3 March	TEV filed complaint for the criminal offence of public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
2.	6 March	Police ban anti-Zionist protest	Official and Civil Responses
3.	6 March	Radiating anti-Semitism	Official and Civil Responses
4.	6 March	Complaint against Tibor Ágoston for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime transferred	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
5.	7 March	Judgment at first instance in Lóránt Hegedűs's Church trial	Official and Civil Responses
6.	11 March	MLSZ disciplinary penalty for Ferencváros	Hate Incident: Hate Speech
7.	11 March	Swastika spray painted on the Horthy statue	Other News
8.	12 March	Gusztáv Zoltai was sent white powder	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
9.	12 March	TEV filed a complaint against József Kollár for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
10.	12 March	Complaint procedure against Attila Bozsik for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime suspended	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
11.	13 March	Jewish Cemetery desecrated in Tatabánya	Hate Incident: Vandalism
12.	18 March	A comparative analysis by the <i>Financial Times</i>	Official and Civil Responses
13.	19 March	Protest against the government's remembrance policy	Community News and Responses
14.	19 March	Ilan Mor's speech at the Mazsihisz remembrance	On Anti-Semitism in Hungary
15.	19 March	Complaint procedure against László Kincses for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime suspended	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
16.	19 March	Complaint procedure against Zsolt Süveges for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime suspended	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
17.	20 March	Washington debate on how the Holocaust is being handled in Hungary	On Anti-Semitism in Hungary

No.	Date	Incident	Category
18.	20 March	Preparations for Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year—2014 welcomed by the American Hungarian Federation	On Anti-Semitism in Hungary
19.	21 March	Holocaust trial appealed	Official and Civil Responses
20.	24 March	Rabbinical Centre of Europe holds conference in Hungary	Other News
21.	24 March	TEV filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
22.	25 March	János Áder holds an audience for the rabbis	Other News
23.	25 March	Complaint against Sándor Pörzse for the criminal offence of assaulting a member of a community dismissed	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
24.	28 March	T-shirts recalled from shelves by shopping chain	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
25.	30 March	Leaders of Mazsihisz met Foreign Minister of Israel	On Anti-Semitism in Hungary
26.		German Occupation Memorial	Community News and Responses
27.		House of Fates	Community News and Responses
28.		German Occupation Memorial—in the international press	On Anti-Semitism in Hungary
29.		Abstentions from participation in the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year—2014	Other News
30.		TEV appeal to ban the Nemzeti Forradalmi Párt (National Revolutionary Party) transferred	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken

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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