

BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS REPORT

JULY 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.

While monitoring hate crimes in July 2014, the Action and Protection Foundation identified four anti-Semitic hate incidents. One incident falls into the category of threat: an unidentifiable pyrotechnic device was thrown on the steps of the Dohány Street Synagogue during the event called "Peaceful Demonstration for Israel". The other three incidents fall into the category of hate speech. In the first case, the phrase "Jewish Rats" was painted on the wall of a kindergarten under renovation. In the second case, during the previously mentioned event, a hanged David star was drawn on the pavement in the Square outside the Synagogue. In the third case, anti-Semitic chants were repeated during the PMFC–Matias–MTK Premier League football match.

Four more incidents occurred, however when these crimes were committed could not be exactly identified, therefore these incidents have not been included in the statistics but will be mentioned in the Further Anti-Semitic Hate incidents section. In our report, we shall give information on several events relating to the Hungarian Holocaust and anti-Semitism.

In July 2014, the Action and Protection Foundation filed a complaint in two cases, both for defamation of honour committed in public. The complaints were filed by Dániel Bodnár, as a private individual, and the Foundation due to a photo posted on the internet. In the photo, Dániel Bodnár was presented as a terrorist, while the Foundation was labelled a terrorist organisation. The accused individuals named in the complaint were Facebook users, who, by sharing the photo, committed the crime of defamation of honour in public.

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, and has forty-three members of parliament making hate speeches far more frequently in both Parliament and other organized events. These circumstances brought the Action and Protection Foundation into being. Among the forms of civil association offered by Hungarian law, Action and Protection Foundation chose the form of a 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

Hungarian anti-Semitism, is often unusually extreme. Voices are heard on the one hand, that belittle the importance of such offenses 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 analysis on the offenses 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 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 offenses question the right of the individual to equality, even of belonging to society itself. It is important to note 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 effect 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 encourage the perpetrators or even others to commit crimes in the same mold. 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.

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. There are several reasons for this. 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 laws. 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 motivation for the hate-crime. It is civil organizations that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state authorities—such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor's office—may be particularly beneficial.² Reports prepared by civil organizations can hasten the official authority's knowledge of 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).

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 offense: 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 offense, 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 offenses 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 committed if there is a specific 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 because of 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. This report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, whenever a 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.

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 he or she 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, 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 while 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, an 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 expedite the transfer 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 currently seems 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, while volunteers are involved additionally in the media watch, sending information gained on to the Brussels Institute for processing. It is an aim to continuously monitor an increasingly large segment of the media. 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 social network 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 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 regardless of whether the victim is a Hungarian citizen
- 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 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 during the collection of data. Tabs are kept on whether incidents had any, and if so, sort of—possibly legal—consequences.

Apart from registering incidents, it is also important to capture the qualitative differences 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 mem-

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

bers 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
 - Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - O 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
 - O 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
 - o Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
 - Desecration of property
 - o Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson
- 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
 - Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media
 - o 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. 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 - JULY 2014

While monitoring hate crimes in July 2014, the Action and Protection Foundation identified four anti-Semitic hate incidents. One incident was a threat, while the other three were incidences of hate speech.

THREAT

Pyrotechnic device was thrown on the steps of the Synagogue

Budapest, Herzl Tivadar Park Source: MTI, police.hu

On 27th July, during the event called "Peaceful Demonstration for Israel" and based on the information available, at approximately 4:10 pm. an unknown person threw an unidentifiable pyrotechnic device on the steps of the Dohány Street Synagogue. During the incident, no one was injured, no damage was reported.

The same evening, the police announced on their website that the 7th District Police Department of the Budapest Police Headquarters had launched an investigation against an unknown individual for the crime of vandalism.

HATE-SPEECH

Volunteer work in the kindergarten

Hungary

Source: 444.hu, 'Forum against anti-Semitism'

On 14th July, the internet news site 444.hu reported that a Facebook user posted a photo, on which the phrase "Jewish Rats" could be seen. The individual added the following lines to the picture: "Volunteer work in the kindergarten! Due to a lack of money, it is the parents and a few volunteers who do the work! It will slowly be ready!" After the publication of the article, the user removed the photo in question from his or her website. The photo can be found on the Facebook profile of "Forum against anti-Semitism", and it was mentioned that the incident happened in a kindergarten in the countryside.



"Jewish Rats" inscription in the kindergarten, Source: "Forum against anti-Semitism"

Hanged David start on the pavement

Budapest, Herzl Tivadar Park

Source: "Forum against anti-Semitism"

On 26th July, unknown individuals drew a hanged David star on the pavement of Theodor Herzl Square, in front of the Dohány Street Synagogue, where a pro Israeli demonstration was scheduled to be held the next day.



The David star drawing, Source: "Forum against anti-Semitism"

MLSZ meted out punishment due to anti-Semitic calls from the supporters of the Pécs team

Budapest, Pécs, Baranya County Source: MLSZ, PMFC-Matias website, bama.hu

The PMFC-Matias-MTK football match of the OTP Bank League (National League I.) was held on the 26th of July. The supporters of the Pécs team repeatedly and continuously shouted their political messages relating to Palestine, as well as chanting scandalous refrains. The supporters shouted the following: "Palestine, Palestine, hold on!"

At its meeting on the 29th of July, the Disciplinary Committee of MLSZ (Hungarian Football Association) imposed a financial penalty of 600.000 HUF on the Pécs team for the chanting of scandalous refrains containing political messages during the PMFC–MTK match, the throwing of different object onto the football pitch by the supporters of the Pécs team, as well as the interruption of the game caused by disturbances made by the local supporters. The committee based the amount of the fine on the considerable number and severity of the offences, while they accepting as a mitigating factor the fact that the sports club introduced measures to curb the forbidden offences. The Disciplinary Committee imposed the penalties based on the Act 101. § a)/ab) of the Disciplinary Regulations (racism, political manifestation), where the lowest fine is 400.000 HUF.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

While monitoring hate crimes in July 2014, the Action and Protection Foundation identified four anti-Semitic hate incidents which are not included in the statistics, since it is not possible to determine the exact time of the crime committed.

It is not important to commemorate the Jewish victims

Keszthely, Zala County Source: Magyar Narancs

On the 24th of July, *Magyar Narancs* published an article on Ferenc Ruzsics (FIDESZ-KDNP), the Mayor of the town Keszthely. The author of the blog *"therewasn'tsuchathing?"* drew attention to the fact that on the official website of the town Keszthely, and in the "Keszthely" article in Wikipedia, nothing was written about the Jewish victims deported from Keszthely. The author of the blog sent a letter to the Mayor asking him to remedy the deficiencies on the town's website. In the mayor's reply, he refused to carry out the modification, saying that the website was aimed at tourists. In his letter, the author of the blog suggested marking the area of the ghetto as well.

Magyar Narancs asked the mayor whether they were planning a commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust and whether he was planning to mark the area of the ghetto. "In Keszthely during the Holocaust memorial year the municipality is not planning any separate commemoration of the Jews deported from the town" Ruzsics answered, adding that every year on the anniversary of the Don River Tragedy and on the Day of the Heroes they commemorate the victims of World War I and II, therefore he does not find it necessary to hold a separate commemoration for the Jewish victims. "I regard it as a ruthless deed, a shameful thing that happened to the Jews, and we have to do all we can so that it would never happen again, but, among the Jews, there were good people as well as villains, just like among the Hungarians."

Regarding the question asked by the reporter of *Magyar Narancs* of how the deportation and persecution of the Jews can be related to whether there were good as well as bad people among them, the mayor asked the reporter not to misinterpret his words. He said that he only thought that Jewish people are the same as non Jewish people. The proposed initiative of the blog writer – identifying the area of the former Jewish ghetto as a way to honour and remember the victims – was a completely new idea for him, but Ferenc Ruzsics promised to consider the suggestion.

Graffiti in Újbuda

Budapest, Fehérvári Road

Source: "Forum against anti-Semitism"

On the 28th of July, the Facebook profile of "Forum against anti-Semitism" posted a photo, which was taken by a volunteer in Fehérvári Road. In the photo, a crossed-out David star and a swastika symbol could be seen with an equal sign between them.



Graffiti in Fehérvári Road, Source: "Forum against anti-Semitism"

Desecrated the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial

Budapest, Id. Antall József embankment Source: "Forum against anti-Semitism"

On the 31st of July, the "Forum against anti-Semitism" posted a photo on its Twitter site of the *Shoes on the Danube Bank* memorial, on which unknown individuals desecrated the piece of textile left there. On the piece of cloth, the phrase "FREDOM FOR PALESTINE" (sic) was written.



"Fredom for Palestine" (sic) phrase at the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial, Source: "Forum against anti-Semitism"

Anti-Semitic Graffiti at the Uránia Film Theatre

Budapest, Rákóczi Road

Source: "Forum against anti-Semitism"

On the 31st of July, a photo was posted on the Facebook profile of "Forum against anti-Semitism", which was taken at a bus stop opposite the Uránia National Film Theatre. In the photo it can be seen that individuals unknown drew a David star on its information board, with the word "JIHAD!" above it and the phrase "FREE PALESTINA!" underneath it.



The Information board at the bus stop opposite Uránia, Source: "Forum against anti-Semitism"

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

German Occupation Memorial

Budapest

Source: MTI, ATV, Heti Válasz, Index, Magyar Nemzet, Népszava, Nol.hu, Radnóti Zoltán's blog

In our reports this year we have continuously summarised the events and comments concerning the German Occupation Memorial. The events that took place in July can be found below.

On the 1st of July, in an ATV Television show called Egyenes beszéd (Straight Talk), Mária Schmidt, the Director of the House of Terror, said that it is not good if we cannot move forward in the 21st century while continuing to divide the society into victims and perpetrators. According to the director, it is absurd if the victims remain victims forever, because with this we justify those who wanted to discriminate us based on race and religion. The historian declared: one group cannot remain perpetrators and the other victims forever; we should get rid of this framework. Mária Schmidt had thought that this monument would become the symbol of reconciliation. This monument tells us that Hungary was invaded by the Nazi; they occupied the country, which was a horrible tragedy for the whole population, including the Jews. She believes we need common points of reference; the monument is about the Hungarian nation, which includes everyone because it is a common history.

On the 6th of July, Gusztáv Zoltai, the former managing director of Mazsihisz, said the following about the memorial, "it is understandable that the civil resentments and protests are big. The persecutors and the persecuted, the murderers and the victims, cannot have a common monument. We hope that this monument, in contrast to the Silver Tree of Life, will not stand there until the end of time." Gusztáv Zoltai later refined his statement saying that he did not encourage people to illegally dismantle the statue.

Tibor Pásztor, Socialist party representative of the 5th District municipality – referring to reliable sources – stated to Népszabadság on the 15th of July that the permission for the occupation of the area for the construction of the German Occupation Memorial in Szabadság Square was renewed until the 31st of August.

The Metropolitan Court had rejected, in a final ruling, a local referendum initiated by the Socialists regarding the construction of the contested memorial in Szabadság Square, Pál Steiner, the MSZP candidate for mayor in the 5th District, told the MTI on the 19th of July. In a congressional statement, the socialists called on the government to abandon the construction of a monument that "divides and offends Hungarian people". Pál Steiner, while reporting on the rejection of the Court, wrote in his statement: it means that in Hungary the ruling disallowed any further possibility of legal remedy to stop the construction of the

statue. According to the Socialist politician, it was not only the monument but the justification of the ruling that was "shocking" as well because the court stated that the referendum could not be held because the government had decreed the memorial was a project of primary importance for the national economy. Hungary has no economic interest in erecting the memorial, which would not yield any benefits but would hurt the country's reputation and infuriate democratic states, he said. In his announcement, he stated that the Socialists also declared solidarity in their congress on Saturday with those civilians who had been "defending justice for the past 101 days" at the construction site in Szabadság Square and pledged actions of civil disobedience against the erection of the "false and dishonest" statue.

During the night of the 19^{th} of July, the statues of the monument to commemorate the victims of the German occupation were lifted into place.



German Occupation Memorial, Source: MTI

The president of the Democratic Coalition in his statement to MTI on 20th July said, "in the shelter of the night the regime – surrounded by multiple police cordons – had the monument of disgrace erected, which confuses the murderer and the victim, dishonours morals and history. This is dishonesty and disgrace. [...] With this gesture Orbán is falsifying the Holocaust, dishonouring all its Jewish, Roma and gay victims", said Ferenc Gyurcsány adding, that it is "characteristic of the regime that it did not dare set up the statue of falsehood during the day." The politician said, "during the night Orbán kicked aside several thousand people's memorial stones in Szabadság Square".

During the day on the 20th of July, protesters kept shaking the police cordon surrounding the monument, then formed a live chain in which the correspondents of MTI spotted several politicians, for example, Ildikó Lendvai (MSZP) and Tamás Bauer (Democratic Coalition, DK). Other politicians who attended the event included Csaba Horváth, the fraction leader of MSZP in Budapest, József Tóbiás, the Socialists president elected on the 19th of July, co-chair of Együtt-PM Gergely Karácsony, and DK deputy leader Péter Niedermüller. Some of the protesters pelted eggs at the monument. Police checked the identity of a total of 11 protesters on the Square and reports were submitted against three of the protesters for disturbing the peace, for example due to egg pelting.

On the 20th of July in Szabadság Square, Csaba Horváth told the *Népszava* that on the Square a Nazi, arrow-cross monument was erected, dishonouring the place and dividing the society. He believed, "disgrace got built into stone and metal", since the statue not only fails to commemorate the victims of the occupation but especially insults the memory of the victims of the world war. No monument can become part of the nation, which has been erected against the nation, he added.

On the 20th of July, József Tóbiás told the *Népszava* at Szabadság Square about the monument that if a politician does not feel that a peaceful society is needed for the country to be successful, then he makes a big mistake. He added that even the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was quite concerned about this monument. According to the politician, the fact that the monument was erected during the night shows that the government does not dare to face the social problems. Tóbiás described the statue and what it is supposed to symbolise as false.

Gergely Karácsony told the *Népszava* that the country, where the Holocaust cannot be judged uniformly, has no future. He added: those countries are successful, where the solidarity among its citizens is strong. This monument is a declaration of war against national unity, said Karácsony.

According to Ildikó Lendvai, who also expressed her views to the *Népszava*, the work does not serve remembrance, but symbolises Orbán and his party's stubbornness. She called the government a coward, which only dares to express his opinion during the shelter of night. This power is afraid of the people protesting. The politician was surprised that the orb, which does not symbolise the Hungarian nation but the state, was put in Gabriel archangel's hand. This statue suggests that the government absolves the Hungarian state then, including the gendarmerie who forced the Jews into the wagons. Lendvai called the statue senseless and a kitsch.

On the 20th of July Ádám Mirkóczi, the spokesperson for the Jobbik party told the correspondent of the Magyar *Nemzet* that the victims of the occupations must be commemorated with monuments and it is not fair that the protesters are so aggressive.

The Együtt-PM Alliance also protested against the erection of the German Occupation Memorial situated in Szabadság Square, and told MTI on the 20th of July that after the local

elections, if a new central left-wing party gets elected to run the capital, they will remove the statue. Együtt-PM wrote in their statement the following, the reason why they are protesting against the erection of the monument is, "because it does not aim at commemorating the past in an objective and peaceful way, but to deny the responsibility of the Hungarian state and to falsify history". "Együtt-PM finds it intolerable that the Orbán government not only ignored the huge public outrage and protest, but erected the history falsifying monument during the cover of the night."

According to the Hungarian Liberal Party (MLP) the German occupation monument in Szabadság Square, instead of commemorating the awful crimes of World War II, "has become the memorial place of the arrogance of the government". MLP in their press release sent to MTI on the 20th of July stated the following: "Fidesz-KDNP does not wish to reconcile and face history at a national level. Instead, they cowardly erect a statue during the cover of the night, which will never fulfil its real function because its false message can never become part of our historic remembrance".

According to Gábor Demszky, the former Mayor of Budapest, the monument erected in Szabadság Square is the monument of cowardice, as the Berlin wall played a similar role, which was also built during the cover of the night in the middle of the city. At the demonstration organised by civil groups against the German Occupation Memorial on the 21st of July, Gábor Demszky called the monument to be the cowardice of a government afraid to face up to history, otherwise they would know that "all monuments erected during the cover of the night will eventually have the same fate". Gábor Demszky emphasised: this "clumsy, kitsch lie engraved in stone" can open up wounds. Therefore, the statues must be treated as a system error and a mistake and should be disassembled and sent to the historic statue park situated in the suburbs of the city.

Representatives of Hungarian Jewry continue to expect the government, which decided to organise the Holocaust memorial year, to commemorate in a proper way together in cooperation, and to honour not only in words, but also in deeds, the vulnerable and innocent murdered victims of Hungarian Jewry as part of the Hungarian nation. This was the statement of the Association of the Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) on the occasion of erecting the monument to MTI on the 21st of July. Mazsihisz in their recent statement wrote that their initiatives to start a dialogue concerning the public monument erected in the centre of Budapest have fallen through for this year.

On the 21st of July, József Tóbiás, chairman of MSZP, on the radio programme called Aréna (Arena) in InfoRádió, pointed out that in his view the government has lost control, which is also shown by the erection of the victims of the German Occupation Monument in Szabadság Square. According to him, the conflict could have been resolved by the government, if they were sensitive and paid attention to the different views of the society. He mentioned that even the Hungarian Academy of Sciences regarded the issue worrying, since it divides the society. The government, however, decided to continue and did not pay

attention to the message of protesters of the monument, but made a political decision instead. József Tóbiás posed the question: why do they have to build a memorial during the cover of the night? As he said, the Berlin wall was also built during the night.

Zoltán Radnóti, the rabbi of Bét Sálom Synagogue, in his blog on the 21st of July revealed that the Hebrew inscription on the monument "to the memory of the victims" is not correct. For one, the order of words should have been reversed in Hebrew, but this was not done, also, for the word "victims", the word "korbán" was used, which means animal sacrifice shown in the sanctuary.

The translation of the inscriptions on the German Occupation monument from Hungarian to four languages were conducted by the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation (OFFI), the information centre of the government told the MTI on the 21st of July. To their statement, they attached the document in which the OFFI assigned by the Prime Minister's Office and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences certified the grammatical correctness of the foreign language inscriptions.

The German Occupation Memorial will not be unveiled in an official ceremony, stated János Lázár, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office on the 21st of July in Budapest in his press briefing. Responding to a question, he confirmed that taking into account the social debates of the last few weeks and the grief of the complainers based on "misunderstanding", the government decided to cancel the inauguration ceremony of the Freedom Square monument in Budapest. The Minister did not wish to form an opinion concerning issues of "taste" in the fine arts, according to him, "this matter is not a question of like or dislike". The monument was not designed against any people, but "is supposed to remind us all", the government would not like to hurt anybody's personal sensitivity, he added. "We have tried to act in a fair, honest and consistent way," he said. "There may have been mistakes in coordination, which have cast a shadow on our decisions", he said. He emphasised, however, that they wanted to engrave in stone, to make it clear for the present generation and for posterity that "the Hungarian Holocaust, the deportation of Jews from Hungary could not have taken place without the country's German occupation" he said. "To my mind it is only fair, if we can talk about the Holocaust, the Hungarian responsibility in it, and the German responsibility in causing the Hungarian Holocaust together at the same time in a normal way", said János Lázár, who feels sorry "that there has not been a normal dialogue". He also tried to emphasise that the fact that without a German occupation there would have been no deportation, does not mean that they would absolve the personal and communal responsibility of the Hungarian authorities or state officials. "The crimes Germany committed against Hungary do not relieve us of the responsibility for our own crimes", declared the Minister. Concerning the fact that there may be translation errors on the monument, he said: he is going to have the case examined, and, if they did make a mistake, they will apologise and he will make sure it gets corrected.

The German Occupation Memorial is an expression of the pain and tribulation that the Hungarian nation suffered because of its loss of independence, wrote Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in his statement to MTI on 21st July on the Monument in Budapest Szabadság Square. According to the Prime Minister, by putting the monument into its place, the government fulfilled its obligation which "we owe the constitutional order, the victims of the past and the Hungarian people today". The monument "reminds us all that the loss of our independence had tragic consequences". We warn our children and grandchildren, he continued, that if they want free, peaceful, and happy lives, if they want understanding among the people living in Hungary, and if they regard the preservation of the values accomplished by our predecessors important, we must first and foremost defend Hungary's independence and sovereignty and if needed, we must regain it. "Be it a lesson, remonstrance and an order together for all of us", finished his statement the Prime Minister.

Ira N. Forman, the envoy of the US Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism visited Hungary on the 21st of July. He went to see the erected monument, but did not make any comments on the statue. However, he said that "successful thing in the US is not something that they would open during the middle of the night." The memorial to the German occupation would not have been erected in the middle of the night had there been a greater dialogue and if the parties involved had devoted greater energy to the matter. According to the US Foreign Office, more dialogue and even more energy would have been needed to face the past of World War II and would still be needed now.

The Hebrew translation made for the German Occupation Memorial is accurate, but the inscription was engraved onto the memorial with the wrong word order, stated the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation (OFFI), who did the translation, on the 22nd of July in their press release to MTI. The OFFI pointed out that according to their translators, revisers, and other native speakers they contacted, the criticized Hebrew expression (korban) "is widely used in contemporary spoken Hebrew as a neutral and general expression meaning victims, including the victims of the Holocaust". Concerning the other problem with the Hebrew inscription's word order, the Office agreed that it was indeed not correct. The mistake in this case was made by those "laying out and engraving" the inscription onto the Monument as "the order of two elements in the possessive structure was changed", which caused the actual misunderstanding.

An interview was published with Péter Párkányi Raab, the sculptor of the monument in *Heti Válasz* of 24 July. In his interview, he said that the monument is not a Holocaust memorial, and he also talked about the symbols of his work of art: "the state and through this the victims are embodied by the orb falling out of the Patron of our nation, Gabriel's hand. The hand from the archangel, who defended us for a thousand years, but now Gabriel is enduring with closed eyes as the imperial eagle strikes on him, which unlike what the critics say, is not an imperial eagle." When the reporter interrupted him he said that "the [eagle] in reality was not that [imperial eagle], because – since I did not want to stigmatise any nation – I did not take the German eagle symbol as a model, but I transformed it."

BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

The *Népszava* article on the 24th of July quotes the MSZP Roma MPs, who claim that the tense and unbearable situation around the monument is dangerous for the society "therefore they warn the government in good time to respect the survivors of the Holocaust, and the opinions of their descendants, including the Roma in Hungary".

According to the Népszabadság article on the 30th of July, Tibor Pásztor, local MSZP representative turned to the 5^{th} District notary concerning the monument because it was erected against the law. He initiated an infringement procedure against the government, as well as the termination of the offensive conditions. In January, at a rather scandalous board meeting, the right wing majority under the leadership of the Mayor of District 5, Antal Rogán (FIDESZ), approved of the territory at Szabadság Square on behalf of District 5 municipality as the owner. The construction however did not start immediately, since, as a result of national and international protests, the government made a new decree in February, in which the deadline changed to the 31st of May, instead of the earlier 19th of March. The new government decree no longer talked about the monument of the "German occupation of Hungary", but about "the victims of the German occupation in Hungary". But it was not only the name that changed. Tibor Pásztor emphasised, the second government decree overruled the first one, and therefore entailed a new procedure. In agreement with this regulation, District 5 municipality should have placed the proposal concerning the owner's permission on the agenda again, since the board made its decisions based on the earlier, now invalid government decree. The socialist politician had no information regarding whether the Prime Minister's Office had turned to the District 5 municipality again. It is quite certain, declared Pásztor, after the decision made in January by the municipality, which in the meantime was repealed, that the case was not discussed in any form by the board. It was a protester at Szabadság Square who drew the attention to these legal controversies. Tibor Pásztor reminded the board that in the second government decree the deadline was the 31st of May. The statue was finally erected more than one and a half months later, on the 20th of July in Szabadság Square: the government committed an offence here as well.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

One year for holohoax

Budapest

Source: Index, Nol.hu

On the 2nd of July, the man who wrote the following phrases on the back of his van: "No, no, never!" and "Holohoax" and had been travelling like that for years, was given a suspended prison sentence by the court. The Pest Central District Court gave the man a one year prison sentence with two years suspended sentence for openly denying the crimes of the national socialist regime. The judgement is not yet enforceable.

According to the court, the Holocaust cannot be denied even in the form of an ironic pun. Péter P., in his defence, said that he only wanted to draw the attention of the public to the fact that the Jews monopolise the concept of the Holocaust, while there have been other "holocausts", like the ones against people of African descent, Indians, or Armenians. The court took it as a mitigating circumstance the fact that the accused person had no criminal record, while they regarded as aggravating circumstances the continuous increase of the number of hate speech crimes. The accused man had been travelling in the van with the above mentioned phrases for three years.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

German Occupation Memorial - in the international press

Vienna, Austria; Prague, Czech Republic; Warsaw, Poland, Washington, United States Source: MTI, Népszava

An article entitled "Statue of Limitations" on the 7th of July in *Foreign Policy*, American Foreign Policy magazine, argues that 70 years after the Holocaust, the right wing Hungarian government is trying to whitewash the country's wartime sins "by building a garish monument to a past that never existed". The paper gave an account of how for months in Szabadság Square the police have been standing face to face with people demonstrating against the statue, mainly gray-haired protesters, who believe that the statue tries to whitewash the Hungarian government's sympathy towards the Nazi regime and their complicit role in the deportations, depicting the collaborator Hungary as an innocent victim of the Third Reich. The article warns that Viktor Orbán and his populist government "under pressure on their right flank from Jobbik, a popular, anti-Semitic far-right party" would like to rewrite history.

During the cover of the night they usually carry out actions, which the police later investigate because they should not have happened, writes the *Hospodárské Noviny* Czech political and economic daily about the erection of the monument for the victims of the German Occupation in Budapest on the 21st of July. "If they need to erect a statue to commemorate the heroes during the cover of the night, and even under police supervision, it means there is something wrong with the whole society," argues the paper in its short note entitled "Modified history", illustrated with photos. According to the paper, the allegory of Budapest "slightly forgot" that the Hungarian Monarchy joined World War II in 1940 as an ally to Germany, and that they sent almost half a million Hungarian Jews to their death. Monuments are memorials of the time in which they are made; they tell us what we are like, and how we want to be seen in the future. It is understandable, that the majority of Hungarians would like to see themselves as innocent victims of the Nazi aggression. "To interpret their history, however, no monument gives them any help", concludes the article.

The German Occupation Memorial was erected in a hurry Saturday night through to Sunday, which has been generating strong debates for a long time, according to an article published in the 21 July edition of the *Rzeczpospolita* Polish daily newspaper. The controversies caused by the monument will remain one of the main subjects of political historical debates in Hungary, writes Jaroslaw Gizinski, a foreign affairs editor of the newspaper, who regularly publishes articles about Hungary. In his article entitled "The Hungarian controversy-Memorial" he discussed the debates concerning the erection of the monument. Besides his criticism on aesthetic issues, his major counter-argument was that the concept of the monument "contradicts the historic facts, since it avoids making those Hungarians

responsible, who collaborated with the Germans or as members of the arrow cross movement, committed crimes themselves".

The Victims of the German Occupation Memorial in Szabadság Square is symbolic and transmits an unprecedented message, states Paul Lendvai, an Austrian journalist, in his commentary in the Der *Standard* Austrian liberal newspaper on 21st July. Since Viktor Orbán's government does not wish to understand the responsibility for the Hungarian Holocaust and for the murder of almost 600,000 Jews. According to Lendvai, it would be important if, on the subject of the debate surrounding the monument, Viktor Orbán, who governs with almost absolute majority, would be given a tough lesson on the interpretation of the past from Angela Merkel, German chancellor following the EU summit.

"Anti-Semitism is getting stronger in Hungary, especially due to the far right Jobbik", writes the *Gazeta Wyborcza*, a liberal Polish daily, on the 22nd of July regarding the Monument on Szabadság Square. In their article entitled "The Orbán-government erected a monument, the opposition threw eggs at it", the author, Michal Kokot, discussing the debates surrounding the erection of the memorial, called the victims of the German Occupation Memorial controversial. The article points out that: "The Jewish World Congress has long been saying that, although Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has personally never been accused of anti—Semitism, he too often allows his own people such outbursts". The article provides the example of Sándor Szakály, the Director of Veritas historical institute, who, in January, declared that the deportation of the Jews in 1941 from Hungary was a "police action against aliens".

The Hungarian Holocaust was commemorated in Jerusalem

Jerusalem, Israel Source: MTI

A commemoration was held in Jerusalem on the 1st of July marking 70th anniversary of the Hungarian Holocaust. The Hungarian Embassy and an association of local Hungarians organized the commemoration.

Andor Nagy, Hungary's ambassador in Israel, said the following about the events that took place 70 years ago: "the Hungarian Holocaust was the tragedy of the Hungarian nation, Hungarian sin, responsibility and pain". "We, Hungarian people of today, have to face ourselves as well, that the Hungarian state did not fight against the will of the Germans, what is more, they became their servants, and served them. It cannot be an excuse or justification that the same happened in other European countries as well. It is a common loss, pain and grief for the Hungarian people of today and for the generations coming after them. We need to act against anti-Semitism in time because it was a big shock for the Jews, the Hungarians and Europe", said the Hungarian ambassador. "The majority of the Hungarians are not anti-Semitic and do not judge people based on their ethnic origin, although the ones frustrated by the economic crisis are manipulated by the Jobbik party", said Andor Nagy adding that despite the growing anti-Semitism in Hungary nobody has lost his or her life due to his or her Jewishness, and the government has pledged zero tolerance against

anti-Semitism, hate-speech is strictly forbidden, and Holocaust denial can result in a three year prison sentence.

Political Capital has conducted a survey on Anti-Semitism in Hungary

Budapest

Source: atlatszo.hu/PCBlog

In June 2014, Ipsos Zrt., on behalf of Political Capital, conducted research to examine anti-Semitism in Hungary. The survey was conducted by asking personal questions from 1000 people. The sample represents the adult Hungarian population above the age of 18, according to sex, age, educational background and types of residences. The margin of error was +/- 3.1 percent. The results were published in two parts at the beginning of July on Political Capital's blog.

Researchers examined to what extent respondents believe in anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and to what extent are they anti-Jewish relative to their political party preferences. To investigate this issue, they asked 6 statements⁹ from the respondents.

Based on responses given by those surveyed to the 6 statements, that the data shows that, among Jobbik voters, 46 percent believe in anti-Jewish conspiracy theories, while 31 percent reject these theories. For Fidesz and left wing voters, the rate of the believers in conspiracy theories is similar: among Fidesz supporters it is 30 percent, while among left wing supporters it is 31 percent. There is only a small difference concerning the proportion of people, who reject these views: 39 percent of the Fidesz voters and 44 percent of the left wing voters reject conspiracy theories. It is important to mention that in every group the number of uncertain people, and the ones who do not wish to answer are high, which may indicate secret anti-Jewish feelings.

In addition to this, they examined the larger social and political background of the conspiracy theories. It can be definitively stated that the more somebody is interested in politics, the more likely he or she will have an opinion on these issues. The proportion of the conspirator anti-Semites is usually the highest with small groups of people who are very interested in politics (49 %). With the gradual loss of interest in politics, the proportion of anti-Semites decreases as well. Among those, who were not interested in politics at all, only every fifth (21 %) believe in these anti-Jewish conspiracy-theories. It is also interesting at the same time that the proportion of people, who reject such views, is the lowest among those who are very interested in politics (35 %).

Compared to this, the influence of different socio-demographic features does not seem significant. On the basis of the answers given to the questions measuring conspirator anti-Semitism, there is no real difference among the different social groups in Hungary whether it be

⁹ The statements were the following: "The Jews want to extend their influence in the world economy.", "The Jews often act in secret behind the scene.", "The Jews often meet in secret to discuss matters that are important for them.", "The Jews want to rule the world.", "The Jews want to play a defining role in the international financial institutes." and "The Jews want to achieve their common goals by making secret deals."

groups categorized by sex, age or educational background. More significant differences can be seen with regards to financial backgrounds. Among the people who are in debt and the ones who live on their savings, the proportion of anti-Jewish conspiracy believers is significantly lower than in the case of those people who can just about make ends meet, or are able to save money. With the increase of the net income of the family, the proportion of uncertain people decreases, while at the same time, the proportion of anti-Semites increases. In striking contrast to the commonly held belief that anti-Semitism is more prevalent among poorer, less educated groups, anti-Semitism is, in fact, more prevalent among affluent people.

An American Court has initiated the arrest of the owner of kuruc.info

Budapest and Los Angeles, United States Source: MTI, The Press Democrat

An American Court has initiated the arrest of Béla Varga, who owns and registered the domain name of the far right kuruc.info news portal, who allegedly fled to Canada from the authorities according to an article published in the Californian news site, *The Press Democrat* on 12th July.

The 51 year old man with dual American-Canadian citizenship has been prosecuted for alleged harassment and death threats. The San Francisco court dealing with the case initiated Béla Varga's arrest after he had not appeared in court on two occasions. The man had once been taken into custody before in this case; however, he was released on bail of 250 thousand dollars (cca. 57 million HUF) in May. Since then he has been defending himself on parole. The court has set a new bail of 300 thousand dollars (cca. 68 million HUF); Béla Varga would need to pay this amount to be able to defend himself on parole, if the authorities catch him. Béla Varga has been prosecuted for harassing the lawyer of the Action and Protection Foundation in late April. This individual filed a complaint against Varga in the United States regarding the kuruc.info issue. With the law case, in which Béla Varga was called on as a witness, the Foundation wishes to close the news portal, and tries to find out who the authors and editors of the kuruc.info news portal are. Béla Varga failed to appear in court in this case, as well.

In the trial launched by the Action and Protection Foundation, the San Francisco District court called the Cloudfare Company who provides the server for kuruc.info. The company told *The Press Democrat* that they are willing to cooperate with the authorities in this case. The representative of the Cloudfare Company, on the other hand, was not willing to give any information regarding whether the kuruc.info portal is still allowed to use their server.

The American courts procedure is that if a person does not obey the summons, i.e. fails to turn up at the trial launched against him or her, the court may issue a bench warrant for the individual. In this case, the police do not chase the given person, but if the person is brought to the attention of or detained by the police for some reason, for example, he or she wants to renew a driving license; he or she will be caught and will end up in jail. In this event, the person can only be released on bail, which in the present case is 300 thousand dollars.

Ira N. Forman has visited Hungary

Budapest Source: MTI

Ira N. Forman, the envoy of the US Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, visited Hungary on the 21st of July. Forman met Gergely Prőhle, Deputy Minister of State for International and EU Affairs, Ministry of Human Capacities, representing the government, and leaders of Jewish organizations on his one-day visit to Hungary, during which one of his main aims was to receive information about the state of affairs in Hungary. In his interview given to MTI, besides his above described view on the German Occupation Memorial, he said that the most fundamental way to combat anti-Semitism even during the 21st century is to get to know history, and the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Páva Street is a perfect place for that. He said, the museum, and any centre dealing with this matter shows that Germany is primarily responsible for the Holocaust. But every country had its own role, there were collaborating regimes, which executed the will of the Nazi and there were those, who took advantage of the sufferings of others.

Ira N. Forman said that, since the beginning of the 21st century, anti-Semitism has been growing continuously. In several countries of Europe, which have significant Muslim communities, there is violence against Jews. In Hungary, there is a different, a "classic 19-20th century, Nazi type of anti-Semitism". He argued that Hungary belongs to those few countries, which has been monitored, and one of the reasons is its large Jewish population. He said they are worried that an openly anti-Semitic party has a significant parliamentary representation and that a "military organization" is linked to it. "It does not characterize the whole country, but it refers to one element of anti-Semitism", he said.

Anti-Semites have been whitewashed

United States Source: Nol.hu

In Hungary, concerning the freedom of religion guaranteed by the government, there have been a few improvements in certain respects. (Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, for example, has pledged zero tolerance against anti-Semitism), but a few negative incidents have also taken place, such as when they tried to whitewash the reputation of several anti-Semites during World War II, stated the American Ministry of Foreign Affairs in their 2013 annual international report on freedom of religion, published on the 28th of July. According to the report, the "extreme nationalistic" Jobbik continues with their anti-Semitic rhetoric. Government officials have spoken out in public against such incidents caused by members of Jobbik. "The observers have remained critical about the fact that the government has not reacted systematically and at the highest level against the rehabilitation of the reputation of certain anti-Semitic historic personalities by members of the government coalition", states the document.

OTHER NEWS

The person to be nominated for Italian Ambassador has caused outrage

Budapest

Source: MTI, ADL website, ATV, MTI-OS, Szombat Online, WJC website According to a press release of 20 July published by the Democratic Coalition (DK) party, the Hungarian government appointed Péter Szentmihályi Szabó for the post of Hungary's Ambassador to Italy. The DK was against his appointment because "Szentmihályi Szabó often published his writings in the most extremist Hungarian newspapers, for instance, in Magyar Fórum (Hungarian Forum) established by István Csurka, in Kárpátia, in Nemzetőr (Guard of the Nation). At present he has a regular column in the Magyar Hírlap, and a program in Echo TV. Szentmihályi Szabó does not speak Italian; his appointment was a surprise even in Fidesz circles." In DK's view "the new role intended for Szentmihályi Szabó is meant to justify the Orbán-regime's affiliations with the far right." The Democratic Coalition believes: "it is not only about an allowance given to Jobbik, but about a coalition formed with Jobbik. The reason why it is so dangerous is because this view seems to determine Hungary's politics towards Europe." The Democratic Coalition objects to the fact that Péter Szentmihályi Szabó and other people with similar racist views should receive any role in the Hungarian diplomacy. Considering the above mentioned arguments, they urged for his immediate withdrawal from the appointment.

Szentmihályi's appointment was criticized due to the publication of his writing entitled "Agents of Satan" in 2000. In this article he wrote the following about the Jews: "Pharisees, hypocrites, Satan's agents. They are around in every party, in every church, in every community. They are ready to betray anybody since they are empty. They do not have a God, a nation, a language, a home country, a world view, they only have bank accounts. They have no families, only temporarily. Their families are replaceable. They only use everything, but nothing is their own. [...] The Satan's advocates are the followers of Globalization; they do not stick to their own names, their own companies, and their own nation. They have no attachments, only to their bank accounts. They are born to be betrayers, since they have never had a home country. They have no face, since they are faceless; they neigh in every commercial radio channel and television, among each other about everything, that is Hungarian, laughing, slimily burring, and whining in a singing voice. They make a living of being frightened. It is their profession to be frightened. They are internationalists and cosmopolitans."

In their press release of 21st July, Együtt-PM demanded that Péter Szentmihályi Szabó not be appointed Ambassador to Rome, since he is not only unsuitable for the position but is also unworthy.

According to their statement on the 22nd of July, two European MPs from DK, Csaba Molnár and Péter Niedermüller, turned to the Italian Foreign Minister in a letter concern-

ing the issue. They state that the candidate had earlier been nominated for parliament by the far right MIÉP political party, regularly publishes articles in the "far-right" *Magyar Demokrata*, *Magyar Fórum*, *Magyar Hírlap* and Echo TV, "his writings, speeches, perfectly fit the trend and spirit of the previously mentioned media". The EP members of the party, therefore, informed the Italian Foreign Minister, Federica Mogherini in a letter about the above mentioned facts asking the Italian government to consider the circumstances when they decide to grant approval to the appointed Ambassador. In addition to this, they also asked in a letter the Members of the Italian Democratic Party to intervene in this case.

Abraham H. Foxman, the Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), representing the organization met the President, Giorgio Napolitano and the Italian Foreign Minister, Federica Mogherini on 23rd July to express his disapproval of the appointment of Péter Szentmihályi Szabó. ADL also urged Italian Foreign Minister to refuse to accept Szentmihályi's credentials hoping that the Italian government will support the Hungarian government in selecting the appropriate candidate instead of the "man of hatred". He asked the Italian President as well to not accept the nominee for the post of ambassador.

In their press release on the 24th of July, the DK wrote that Csaba Molnár and Péter Niedermüller turned to other members of the European Parliament and asked them to protest against the nomination of Péter Szentmihályi Szabó for the post of ambassador in Rome.

Ronald Lauder, the president of the World Jewish Congress (WLC) in his letter dated the 24th of July urged Italy to refuse to accept Szentmihályi's credentials, since his nomination is "clearly an affront to Jews". According to Lauder, a man who suggests that Hungary's Jews are 'agents of Satan', 'greedy, envious, evil and ugly' is not fit to represent his country abroad. He also added that "it is particularly sad and irritating that Hungary, which declared 2014 as Holocaust memorial year, is once again in the news with this sort of thing".

In their press release of 25th July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade stated that Péter Szentmihályi Szabó informed the Ministry that he does not intend to fulfil any post as an ambassador.

In the Italian newspaper, *Corriere della Sera* of 26th July, a telephone interview can be read with Péter Szentmihályi Szabó. Szentmihályi in the interview said that the reason he resigned was that he did not want to disturb the relations between Italy and Hungary. He emphasized, the accusations against him were not based on real facts, but on prejudice and false assumptions. "I do not regard myself to be an anti-Semite. Any kind of racism or feelings of hatred against aliens is far from me." In his answer to the newspaper's question of what he thinks of the increasing anti-Semitism in Europe, Szentmihályi declared: "I believe the fear is a bit exaggerated. I read that in almost every country in Europe anti-Semitism is growing. But I believe that things should be seen in the right dimensions, and here we are talking about isolated issues. Anyway, I can say that it is not the case for Hungary. Very few people are interested in that problem."

IMPORTANT STEPS TAKEN BY ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

APF filed a complaint concerning the K. A. Gój case – the complaints have been approved

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

As detailed in our June *Report*, the investigation concerning the K. A. Gój case was suspended on the 6th of June. The Foundation informed against him for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazis. He told a joke which claimed the Holocaust had only one victim, and, in one of his other comments, he wrote that "There was no Holocaust!!!".

On the 8th of July, the Foundation filed a complaint against the resolution made at the Somogy County Chief Prosecutor's Office. One the one hand because K. A. Gój modified the joke, so that it expresses that the Holocaust had only one victim, and by doing this he denied the crimes committed by the national socialist regime, therefore, he committed the above mentioned crime. On the other hand, the Chief Prosecutor's Office cannot close the investigation on account of the fact that no evidence can prove that it was a crime. In such cases, the investigation should be continued.

In addition to this, analysing the portal of the perpetrator's community website, it becomes clear that the perpetrator in his comment in question did by no means use the word "Holocaust" in the context of the crimes committed by the Mexican military junta, as he stated. To prove this, the complaint has listed a few shares and comments. For example, on 17th November 2012 K. A. Gój shared a picture, with 2 small children, to which his comments were the following: "I would shoot at Jewish children without thinking! A small Jew will become a big Jew!" In another case, also on 17th November 2012, he commented on a picture showing a small child wearing a yellow star: "Target". On 8th December 2012 he shared a song with the following comment: "I am still here, lousy Jews! [New line] As long as blood is running in my veins, [new line] while there is air in my lungs, [new line] until my last drop of blood runs out, [new line] I will fight against you! [New line] God may help me!" He wrote the following comment to a posting of 15 December 2012, which he shared on the same day: "Since it is in question marks, I cannot be held responsible. But for the following I can: NEM VOLT HOLOKAUSZT!" (There was no Holocaust) (Exact quotation).

On the basis all of this, one can clearly see that the perpetrator was absolutely aware of the meaning of the word Holocaust and that it was genocide carried out by Nazi Germany in the territories which were under its control during World War II, planned and executed by the national socialist German government. The main motive of the internet activities of the accused person is promotion of anti-Semitism. He has never dealt with Mexico, not with its history in his public comments.

The resolution of 17 July made by the Kaposvar Regional Prosecutor's Office of Barcs repealed their earlier resolution concerning the suspension of the investigation. Since it found the complaint valid and, taking into account the new facts referred to in the complaint, it ordered further investigations concerning the case.

Proposal issued by APF for the dissolution of Magyar Hajnal Mozgalom Párt (Hungarian Dawn Movement Party) has been rejected

Miskolc, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Source: Action and Protection Foundation

In our May *Report* we mentioned that, due to a new regulation which became effective, the Attorney General is entitled to initiate the dissolution of a party, but the Attorney must decide on possible court action according to the facts that officially came to his knowledge. Therefore, on the 30th of May, the Foundation provided The District Attorney's Office with data concerning the activities of the Hungarian Dawn Movement Party.

The Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Chief Prosecutor's Office, in their resolution of 9 July, dismissed the Foundation's request for the dissolution of the Hungarian Dawn Movement Party, since the activities of the party are practically only restricted to the operation of the magyarhajnal.com website. The party hardly ever appears in public in other ways, therefore it cannot have a great effect on a lot of people. In addition, the campaign video of the party does not pose a danger beyond a certain limit, which would make it possible to restrict their right for the freedom of expression. The Foundation primarily charged the party with committing crimes, concerning which the Ózd Regional Attorney's Office declared that the statements and declarations made by the leader of the party did not comply with the crimes that would justify the claim for the dissolution of the party. In the speech made at the party meeting and in the interview conducted with a member of the party there was no concrete evidence for the violation of the rights of the individual, or the rights for freedom. The legal action for the dissolution cannot lead to the sanctioning of the right for expressing unjust, offensive, or even shocking opinions until other rights are also violated to such an extent that before that the freedom of expression should also be withdrawn.

The investigation concerning the article posted on deres.tv website was suspended – the article as electronic data was initiated to be made inaccessible

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

In our May *Report* we mentioned that the Foundation reported against the public denial of the national socialist system on the 13th of May. The author of the article, which was posted on deres.tv website, used the photo of the infamous entrance of Auschwitz - Birkenau concentration camp and replacing the inscription "*Arbeit macht frei*" to be seen above the entrance to "Hooray! It is holiday time!!" By this he rendered the genocide committed by the regime as unimportant. The lead beside the photo, and the last paragraph of the article con-

tain the words "holokacsa" and "holokamu" (i.e. Holohoax, Holocaust-lie). The denunciation contains a request to make the article temporarily inaccessible.

With its 17th of July decision, the 5th District Police Department suspended the investigation because no personal or material evidence could be found which would allow the identity of the accused to be established. If the identity of the perpetrator is established within the limitation period, the legal action against him is resumed.

Regardless of the fact that no legal action was taken against any actual accused person, the article in question committed the crime of making comments accessible and publicly available in the electronic media, therefore the 5th District Police Department transferred the appeal to the 5th and 13th District Attorney's Offices to make them permanently inaccessible.

The legal action initiation by APF due to anti-Semitic calls at Erzsébet Square was dismissed

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

In our June Report we outlined that on the 17th of June, the Foundation initiated a legal action for violence against a member of a community due to Anti-Semitic calls made at Erzsébet Square during the Football World Cup held in Brazil.

In the resolution of the 22nd of July, the Reconnaissance Department of the Budapest Police Headquarters dismissed the claim for legal action, because it was based on internet accounts and the comments made in connection with them were within the members of the protected group, i.e. among the Jewish people no anxiety was raised, therefore no behaviour targeting any community, or the legal condition of violence against members of the community can be established.

APF has taken legal action due to defamation against several perpetrators

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 29th of July, the Foundation took legal action at the Pest Central District Court against defamation committed in wide publicity against individuals unknown. On the 23rd of July, the Foundation was informed that a photo of Dániel Bodnár was being spread on the internet with the following comments: "A harmful organism posing a remarkable threat to the Hungarian nation, beast, can be shot! A Jewish terrorist living in Hungary, who can operate a terrorist organization with the permission and support of the government." (exact words translated) To make the photo easier to be identified, the name of Dániel Bodnár can be read, and the fact that he is the president of the board of trustees of Action and Protection Foundation.

The fact that Action and Protection Foundation was described as a terrorist organization means that a crime was committed by using derogatory expressions that violated the social respect of the Foundation. The photo was shared by P. J., K. N. and H. Gy. on the Facebook community portal, therefore their action is regarded as a crime committed in front of a wide public. The Foundation requested an investigation in order to find the persons, who committed the crime.

Dániel Bodnár has taken legal action for defamation against several perpetrators

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 29th of July, Dániel Bodnár also took legal action as a private individual at the Pest Central District Court for defamation of honour committed in a wide public against individuals unknown since, as we described above, Dániel Bodnár's photo papered with the following inscription "A harmful orgasm posing a remarkable threat to the Hungarian nation, beast, can be shot! A Jewish terrorist living in Hungary, who can operate a terrorist organization with the permission and support of the government." (direct quotation). In addition to this, a certain H. U user wrote the words "TERRORIST" on Dániel Bodnár's forehead.

The assertions that Dániel Bodnár is a harmful organism posing a remarkable threat to the Hungarian nation, and that he is a terrorist operating a terrorist organization are regarded to be especially rude, offensive, derogatory expressions which hurt human dignity, and social respect. P. J., K. N. and H. Gy. users, who shared the photo, committed the above mentioned crime in front of a wide public.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

All the cases and events mentioned in the *Report* are shown in a chronological order in the chart below. The *Category* column shows in which part of the *Report* the given event is described in more detail.

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	1st July.	The Hungarian Holocaust was commemorated in Jerusalem	News and Options about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
2.	2nd July	One year for holohoax	Official and Civil Responses
3.	4th, 11th July	Political Capital has conducted a survey on Anti-Semitism in Hungary	News and Options about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
4.	8th, 17th July	APF filed a complaint concerning the K. A. Gój case – the complaints have been approved	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
5.	9th July	Proposal issued by APF for the dissolution of Magyar Hajnal Mozgalom Párt (Hungarian Dawn Movement Party) has been rejected	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
6.	12th July	An American Court has initiated the arrest of the owner of kuruc.info	News and Options about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
7.	14th July	Volunteer work in the kindergarten	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech
8.	17th July	The investigation concerning the article posted on deres.tv website was suspended – the article as electronic data was initiated to be made inaccessible	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
9.	20-26th July	The person to be nominated for Italian Ambassador has caused outrage	Other News
10.	21th July	Ira N. Forman has visited Hungary	News and Options about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
11.	22nd July	The legal action taken by APF due to anti-Semitic calls at Erzsébet Square was dismissed	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
12.	26th July	Hanged David star on the pavement	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech
13.	26th, 29th July	MLSZ meted out punishment due to anti-Semitic calls from the supporters of Pécs team	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech
14.	27th July	Pyrotechnic device was thrown on the steps of the Synagogue	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech
15.	28th July	Anti-Semites have been whitewashed	News and Options about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
16.	29th July	APF has taken legal action due to defamation against several perpetrators	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken

No.	Date	Incident	Category
17.	29th July	Dániel Bodnár has taken legal action for defamation against several perpetrators	Action and Protection Foundation steps taken
18.	_	It is not important to commemorate the Jewish victims	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech (not included in the statistics)
19.	_	Graffiti in Újbuda	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech (not included in the statistics)
20.	_	Desecrated the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech (not included in the statistics)
21.	_	Anti-Semitic Graffiti at the Uránia Film Theatre	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech (not included in the statistics)
22.	_	German Occupation Memorial	Community News and Responses
23.	_	German Occupation Memorial- in the international press	News and Options about Anti-Semitism in Hungary

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 manifestations of anti-Semitism.

If 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 authorities who can take appropriate measures!

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

HOTLINE

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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 offenses. 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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