



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

# ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS REPORT

AUGUST 2014  
HUNGARY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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One of the most important requirements for the struggle against anti-Semitism is an investigation of the actual prevalence of anti-Semitism. One of the aims of Action and Protection Foundation is to eliminate ignorance of this issue. Instrumental in achieving this objective is the continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes that occur public life. The community cannot really be protected unless current information on anti-Semitic acts and other hate crimes are collected and analyzed. Results of the monitoring are published, monthly by the Foundation.

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: anti-Semitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report refers to both types of behavior as “hate incidents”. An anti-Semitic hate crime is distinguished from other hate crime by possessing an anti-Semitic motive. Anti-Semitic hate crime is a violation of criminal law, not all hate-motivated acts are regarded as criminal. Nevertheless, a record 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 to record their particular characteristics. Date recorded includes the incident’s location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

Action and Protection Foundation discovered five hate incidents during the course of its hate-crimes monitoring in August 2014. One incident counts as damage to property: at the German occupation memorial on Szabadság square, a far-right demonstrator took the video camera off an organizer and protester and shattered it on the ground. Four incidents classify as hate speech. Of these, one incident is the symbolic hanging of effigies in Érpatak, another is the case of anti-Israel writings on the fence surrounding the construction site for Sorsok Háza (House of Doom). The third incident occurred when anti-Israel protesters displayed pro-Palestinian banners at the pro-Israel demonstration in Debrecen. The fourth case involved a man from Fajsz spraying swastikas on the base of a monument and on a building wall in Baja.

Action and Protection Foundation identified further hate incident that cannot be dated exactly and therefore do not appear in the statistics; this is recorded in the section Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents. This report also details several other events connected to the Hungarian Holocaust and anti-Semitism in Hungary.

In August 2014, Action and Protection Foundation reported two hate incidents to the police: one offense was breach of peace, the other was public denial of the genocide committed by the Nazi's and their partners. Action and Protection Foundation (APF) initiated legal proceedings in one more case. Accused of breach of peace is Mr. Mihály Zoltán Orosz who

symbolically hanged effigies in Érpatak. The other accused posted several messages on Facebook denying the Holocaust and used language prone to incite hatred against a community. Legal proceedings were initiated against the Érpatak municipality as the municipality's website shares different conspiracy theories with its visitors.

# 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.

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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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 incidents<sup>1</sup> 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).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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).

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<sup>2</sup> 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

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The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows<sup>3</sup> (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 people<sup>4</sup>
- 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 sentence<sup>5</sup> (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

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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 period<sup>6</sup> 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.

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<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup>

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-

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<sup>7</sup> 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
  - 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.<sup>8</sup> In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

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

# ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

## – AUGUST 2014

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Action and Protection Foundation identified five hate incidents in the course of its monitoring in August 2014. Of these, one count as damage to property, while the other four are categorized as hate speech.

### DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

#### **Jew-baiting at the memorial to the German occupation of Hungary**

*Budapest, Szabadság square*

*Source: Népszabadság (daily newspaper)*

Following the regular protest against the memorial to the German occupation of Hungary on 8 August, a discussion entitled »Living Monument« was held. Towards the end of the discussion a group of approximately 15 far-right demonstrators appeared and started shouting: “Go back to Israel, filthy Jews!” A female organizer and permanent protester of the memorial took out her video camera in order to record the events but a far-right female demonstrator took it off her hands and shattered it on the ground. Thanks to police assistance that arrived in minutes the conflict did not result in a fight. The organizer reported the incident to the police. The attacker was found and questioned.

### HATE SPEECH

#### **Hanging of effigies in Érpatak**

*Érpatak, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county*

*Source: MTI (Hungarian News Agency)*

Érpatak municipality, Érpataki Modell Országos Hálózata (National Network of the “Érpatak” Model) and Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom (Sixty-four Counties Youth Movement) held an “autonomous and civilian protest” called “Glory to the anonymous Palestinian heroes! Justice to Palestine!” in Érpatak on 2 August. According to a video posted on Youtube, after giving a speech at the protest, Érpatak mayor, Mr. Mihály Zoltán Orosz, hanged two puppets representing former President of Israel Shimon Peres and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The incident is further discussed in sections *Official and civil responses*, *News about anti-Semitism in Hungary* and *Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions*.



**Writings on the fence surrounding the construction site  
of Sorsok Háza (House of Doom)**

*Budapest, Fiumei út*

*Source: Fórum az antiszemitizmus ellen (Forum against anti-Semitism)*

Fórum az antiszemitizmus ellen posted several pictures on their Facebook page on 4 August, documenting writings painted on the fence surrounding the construction site for Sorsok Háza museum that is being built at the location of the old Józsefváros railway station. It was clearly visible on the photos that unknown culprits had painted writings and symbols that abuse Israel and Jews on the temporary fencing. Different versions of the followings were to be found on the fencing: “Terrorist Israel”, “Child murderer Israel”, “400 Palestinian children”, while an illustration depicted a man holding a Star of David above a waste bin.



**Writings on the fence surrounding the construction site for Sorsok Háza.**

**Source: Fórum az antiszemitizmus ellen**





### **Pro-Israel demonstration in Debrecen**

*Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar county*

*Source: MTI*

The »Peace for the world, peace for Israel!« demonstration was held in Debrecen on 11 August. Israeli ambassador to Hungary, Ilan Mor also talked at the event. According to Ilan Mor, Israel is alone at trying to protect its country, its people and those living in diaspora. He raised several questions regarding why people in Hungary don't speak out, why Hungarian Christians don't raise their voices when Christians are also preyed upon in the Middle East. We must raise our voices against disgrace, we have had enough of silence, of anti-Semitism and of modern anti-Semitism, i. e. anti-Israelism!" – said the ambassador.

Counter protesters also attended the event, they were holding up Hungarian flags and banners displaying "Palestine", the Palestinian flag and "Don't kill children" signs.

### **A man painted swastikas in Baja**

*Baja, Bács-Kiskun county*

*Source: MTI*

On 27 August, a man spray-painted a swastika on a building at Szentháromság square and another one on the base of a memorial in the Déri gardens in Baja. Passersby tried to prevent him from spraying the memorial but the man threatened them with a knife, then walked away.

Based on the description of the man, investigation officers in Baja soon arrested and questioned the 46-year-old man from Fajsz.

Police Headquarters of Bács-Kiskun County started an investigation against the man for using autocratic symbols and for reasonable suspicion of having committed other crimes.

## FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of the August 2014 monitoring period Action and Protection Foundation identified an anti-Semitic hate incident that do not appear in the statistics as it cannot be dated exactly.

### **Anti-Semitic writings on a billboard**

*Hungary*

*Source: Fórum az antiszemitizmus ellen*

On 14 August Fórum az antiszemitizmus ellen shared a photo on their Facebook page of a billboard at an unknown place saying “Children never start wars”. An unknown culprit added the following message to the advertisement: “but damn Jews”.



Anti-Semitic writing. Source: Fórum az antiszemitizmus ellen

# COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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## **Memorial to the German occupation of Hungary**

*Budapest*

*Source: Heti Válasz (weekly journal entitled 'Weekly response')*

Our annual summary reviews have been continuously reporting on the events and comments regarding the erection of the memorial to the German occupation of Hungary.

An interview given by László Kövér, speaker of the House of Parliament was published in Heti Válasz weekly newspaper on 14 August. With regards to the memorial he stated that “we don’t [...] want to wash away the shame of the late representatives of Hungary who collaborated with an occupying power and therefore contributed to the genocide of hundreds of thousands of Hungarians. Since the change of regime we have apologized and paid tributes to the memory of the victims on behalf of the Hungarian state a thousand times. However, we are not going to take part in a game of adjusting the perception of history to the autocratic needs of a political minority and declare the whole of Hungarian society fascist and anti-Semitic. The memorial conveys this message and that is why it is important that it makes no difference between victims of the German occupation.”

## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

### Investigation into the hanging of effigies in Érpatak

*Budapest*

*Source: MTI, Népszabadság, morvaikrisztina.hu*

The incident of 2 August has been reviewed in section Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents.

In a statement sent to MTI on 4 August, Israeli ambassador to Hungary Ilan Mor voiced shock at “last weekend’s anti-Israel and anti-Semitic horror show that the mayor of Érpatak and his companions performed”. He explained that a Hungarian far-right politician “is again using the worst inflammatory language possible against prominent Israeli leaders. To his supporters’ applause Mr. Mihály Zoltán Orosz basically incited murder.” The ambassador made it clear that as a democratic state Israel respects the freedoms of assembly and expression but rejects anti-Jewish acts and expressions or ones that promote racism and xenophobia or encourage people to kill others, “like we saw in Érpatak”.

On 4 August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade also voiced dismay over the mayor’s actions. According to the foreign ministry, the mayor of Érpatak uses the Gaza war and its innocent victims as an excuse to promote his hate-inducing propaganda. They added that it is against European norms and the rule of law to arbitrarily judge leaders of other countries.

Spokesman for the Chief Prosecutor’s Office, Géza Fazekas, told MTI on 5 August that the Israeli ambassador had filed a charge with the Chief Prosecutor the day before because of what had happened in Érpatak on 2 August. With regards to its content, the charge constitutes an allegation of crime and it was transferred to the Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Prosecutor’s Office. On 5 August Nyíregyháza District Attorney’s Office ordered an investigation into the suspicion of inciting hatred against a community which was to be conducted by the Nyíregyháza Police Department, said the official statement.

However, on 5 August the communication division of the National Police Department (ORFK) posted on the police’s website that they appointed the Rapid Action Force National Investigation Agency to be in charge of the investigation into the demonstration in Érpatak on 2 August.

On 5 August, vice-president of Demokratikus Koalíció (DK – Democratic Coalition) and member of parliament Ágnes Vadai released an official statement that the mayor of Érpatak publicly condemned today’s leaders of Israel to be hanged by a hangman. Demokratikus Koalíció therefore requested the Chief Prosecutor to investigate the matter immediately.

On 5 August, mayoral candidate for Együtt-PM (Together-PM) Gábor Szóllósi announced that he would start gathering signatures in order to make Mihály Zoltán Orosz resign. The mayor's continuous anti-Roma, xenophobic and anti-Semitic actions and statements have now reached a level where we need to say "Stop!" – added Szóllósi who also apologized for what had happened on behalf of the respectable residents of Érpatak.

Member of the European Parliament for Jobbik, Krisztina Morvai, sent an open letter to the Chief Prosecutor on 6 August defending Mihály Orosz who, according to Morvai, had only expressed his outrage with his "performance".

# NEWS AND OPINION ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

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## **Accepting violence in Hungary**

*Budapest*

*Source: [pcblogger.atlatszo.hu](http://pcblogger.atlatszo.hu)*

The results of our survey performed in June commissioned by Political Capital (PC) were published in our July Report. On 4 August, Political Capital shared their results regarding the acceptance of violence on their blog.

This part of the survey aimed to find out how justifiable people consider violence against 14 particular social groups to be<sup>9</sup>. The study was conducted by personal inquiries from 1,000 people. The 1,000 member sample represented the Hungarian adult population over 18 years of age by age, sex, qualifications and location of housing. The results of the study were published in two parts on Political Capital's blog.

Respondents considered violence against homosexuals and the Jews the least acceptable. Only 14% and 16% of the respondents found violence against these groups justifiable, the rest condemned it. It was different with Romani people: 29% of the respondents regarded violence against the Roma somewhat or completely justifiable. Among respondents with a clear party preference, supporters of Fidesz were more accepting of violence against the Jewish people while the number of those who condone violence against the Roma was roughly the same between supporters of Fidesz and Jobbik.

## **Foreign reactions to the hanging of effigies in Érpatak**

*Berlin, Germany*

*Source: MTI*

The incident of 2 August has been reviewed in section Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents.

On 6 August, the conservative German newspaper Die Welt published an article on its online platform about the execution of effigies in Érpatak. In the article entitled »Netanyahu-execution by Jobbik politician« author Boris Kálnoky emphasised that “anti-Semitic incitement is not rare in Jobbik's politics”. He added that news about Hungary “sometimes appear as bad caricatures” in which the picture unfolds that Hungary is a “fascist, anti-Semitic, little but loud [state that is] somewhat ridiculous in general”. This image is “sometimes rather unfair”, but other times “things are indeed that bad or even worse”, wrote the author of Die Welt. Detailing the hanging of effigies in Érpatak, Mr. Kálnoky claimed that it was the result of a

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<sup>9</sup> Criminals; terrorists; radical right-wing groups; radical left-wing groups; enemies of the nation, the treasonists; the Romani people; politicians; banks; the Jews; multinational companies; drug users; people who damage the environment; homosexuals; authoritarian leaders that threaten democracy.

“cold calculation” for the municipal elections coming up in autumn and one reason behind it may be that Jobbik is trying to retain those activists who prefer “severe verbal attacks against the Jews and the Roma” to presentable political expressions and who have left the party due to its recent “softy” and moderate image.

On 8 August, Boris Kálnoky published another article in *Die Welt* entitled »Hungary investigates the hangman-mayor«. Kálnoky highlighted that authorities started an investigation into the Érpatak mayor’s action for his hanging of effigies and anti-Semitic rhetoric. The author stressed that the investigation procedure was possible because of the new rules of the Orbán-regime that aim to thwart incitement to religious or ethnically aggravated hate crimes. It would seem that the conservative press welcomed the strong measures of the prosecutor’s office, while the left-wing opposition journal, *Népszabadság* “contented itself with a short report”, said the author. He added that “Hungarian left-wing opposition likes to accuse the government of their radical right slips but they are less prone to report on the government’s actions against extremism.”

### **Raphael Vago’s opinion**

*Budapest*

*Source: Népszabadság*

On 13 August, an interview given by Raphael Vago, senior lecturer at the University of Tel Aviv, was published in *Népszabadság*. He was asked what could be done against anti-Semitism in Hungary and replied that “the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust shed light on how complicated the situation is in Hungary. There is much more to be done against anti-Semitism and extremism especially for the government but for civil society as well. I often pay visits to Hungary. We Israelis suffer from these things and we are concerned by the relativisation of the Holocaust and the Horthy era. I need to add however that several Hungary-related commemorations have been held in Israel on the occasion of the anniversary. Hungarian ambassador to Israel, Andor Nagy, attended these events and his speeches were very well received.”

### **Growth of anti-Semitism in Hungary**

*Budapest*

*Source: MTI*

Conductor Ádám Fischer talked about the growth of anti-Semitism in Hungary at the opening ceremony of the Jewish Summer Festival in the Dohány Street Synagogue on 31 August. He claimed that Jewish organisations and humanitarian individuals will have to meet the challenge of collusive and coded anti-Semitism that must not continue to be accepted since tolerating it is more and more poisonous to society. According to Ádám Fischer, anti-Semitism in Hungary will increase, escalating economic problems. He said that from insight gained living abroad, he feels that Hungary is becoming more and more isolated in Europe.



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## OTHER NEWS

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### Zoltán Balog on Roma Holocaust

*Budapest*

*Source: MTI, ATV, Magyar Rádió (Hungarian Radio Corporation), MTI-OS*

On 3 August, Minister for Human Resources, Zoltán Balog, talked about the Roma Holocaust on the state's radio program entitled »Vasárnapi újság« (Sunday News). Mr. Balog said that "no Hungarian Roma were ever deported from Hungary, only from Austria and so Hungarian Roma were deported from Austria too and therefore Hungary is indeed affected."

Member of Parliament for MSZP (Hungarian Socialist Party) László Teleki said in a telephone interview to ATV's program entitled »Egyenes beszéd« (Clear speech) that Zoltán Balog hurt a lot of people with his statement, especially people whose relatives were taken to concentration camps. Mr. Teleki stated that many historians had written about gathering Roma in Hungary and then taking them to concentration camps, from where 5,000 people never returned.

On 5 August, education spokesman of LMP (Politics Can Be Different), Ágnes Osztolykán, told in ATV's »Reggeli Start« (Morning Start) program that the minister's comments on the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust show plain ignorance. According to Osztolykán, had Balog read up on the subject matter or asked researchers of the Roma Holocaust, he would not have made such statement.

On 5 August, director of Cigányságkutató Intézet (Roma Research Institute), Ágnes Daróczi, told in ATV's »Egyenes beszéd« that she was shocked and perplexed by the minister's statement as it was not in line with previous announcements. She also expressed her hope that Zoltán Balog only said that no Roma were deported from Hungary during WWII due to his ignorance.

On behalf of MSZP, head of the party's cultural committee, Ágnes Kunhalmi, demanded Zoltán Balog's resignation from his post.

Vice-President of DK Ágnes Vadai's official statement of 5 August said the following: "Hungary is currently on the point of letting a minister of the Orbán-regime, a Mr. Zoltán Balog relativise the Holocaust." She also inquired when Zoltán Balog would apologise to the Roma people of Hungary.

An announcement of Együtt-PM on 5 August voiced disapproval: "Zoltán Balog went as far as to deny late Hungary's responsibility for the genocide of Roma in the Nazi era."



On 5 August Fidesz released a notice declaring that left-wing parties misunderstand a sentence taken out of context for political reasons because “for years before becoming minister, Balog had been commemorating Roma victims on Holocaust Memorial Day and through many other forums as well.”

Attacks against Minister for Human Resources, Zoltán Balog, were called outrageous and disgraceful in a notice released by the director-general of the Fővárosi Roma Oktatási és Kulturális Központ (FROKK – Budapest Roma Educational and Cultural Center) on 5 August. Violinist, composer and member of the Európai Tudományos és Művészeti Akadémia (European Academy of Science and Arts) Lajos Kathy-Horvát highlighted in the notice that Zoltán Balog has long been working on the integration of the Hungarian Roma community, he promotes the tradition and heritage of Roma culture and as a protestant priest he is a spokesman for all of us to “the Father”.

On behalf of several organisations<sup>10</sup> Magyar Ellenállók és Antifasiszták Szövetsége – Összefogás a Demokráciáért (MEASZ, Association of Hungarian Resistance Fighters and Anti-Fascists) announced on 5 August: “We are against the government’s denial of the Hungarian Roma Holocaust! Zoltán Balog’s recent expression on behalf of the government was a denial of the Hungarian Roma Holocaust.” They demanded Zoltán Balog to resign from his post.

TernYpe – Nemzetközi Ifjúsági Hálózat (International Roma Youth Network) said to MTI on 5 August that they were shocked that “on the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day a minister responsible for Roma integration could question that during WWII masses of Roma were deported from Hungary to concentration camps where they were methodically killed with their Jewish fellow countrymen.”

On 6 August, Országos Roma Önkormányzat (National Roma Council) declared in a statement that “minister Zoltán Balog has been and is doing a lot for social inclusion and Roma integration and Hungarian Roma appreciate his efforts”. Their sorrow was also expressed that “opposition political circles do not take into account the minister’s achievements of the past decade.”

On 7 August, Civil Összefogás Közhasznú Alapítvány (Civil Collaboration Charitable Foundation) claimed that left-wing politicians put a false construction on Zoltán Balog’s speech and they deliberately “forget the efficacy of his work in the past years and they demand his resignation”. “We believe, just as the minister believes, that it is inevitably important for every Hungarian to know our Roma-related history .”

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<sup>10</sup> Antifasiszta hálózat (Anti-fascist Network); Demokratikus Polgári Ellenzék (Democratic Civilian Opposition); Hét Olajfa Egyesület (Seven Olive Trees Association); Magyar – Cigány Országos Biztonsági Hálózat Béke és Jogvédő Egyesület (Hungarian – Roma National Security Network Peace and Defender Association); Magyar Ellenállók és Antifasiszták Szövetsége (Association of Hungarian Resistance Fighters and Anti-Fascists)

On 7 August, Roma department of MSZP raised several questions to Minister of State for social affairs and inclusion Károly Czigere. They all inquired about whether he agreed with Zoltán Balog's opinion that was expressed on Magyar Rádió.

On 8 August, board member of DK, Tibor Nagy-Huszein made an official statement that they would report Zoltán Balog for the denial of Holocaust. Nagy-Huszein wondered how the minister thinks the Roma got to Austria. Did they emigrate to demand their own deportation? Nagy-Huszein was also curious whether the minister thinks that Komárom is in Austria and if not then why the government (which Balog was then already member of) planned to commemorate the Porajmos on 2 August in Csillagerőd, the Hungarian Roma deportation centre in Komárom, said the statement.

On 8 August, Magyarországi Cigányok Fóruma – Összefogás Magyarországért Párt (Hungarian Roma Forum – Together for Hungary Party) announced that they had reported Zoltán Balog for denial of the Holocaust. Leader of the party, János Bogdán Jr., said that they oppose not letting innocently murdered relatives, children and elderly rest in peace 70 years after the Holocaust. "Minister Zoltán Balog and anybody who challenges or belittles facts of the Holocaust will need to pay for it humanly, morally and legally, too. It is important to highlight that the more power one has, the more responsibility it comes with." said the party's official statement.

On 8 August, Művészeti-Oktatási-Kulturális-Közéleti Alapítvány (Foundation of Arts, Education, Culture and Public Life) stood up for Mr. Zoltán Balog since "he has been working for the betterment of marginalised, mainly Roma, people's lives since he was young. As a young humanist and Protestant priest he was active in helping the Roma and he has been organising and holding commemorations since the 1990s. He has since been standing up for Roma people [...]."

### **Demonstration against a racist conference**

#### *Budapest*

*Source: MTI, [cink.hu](http://cink.hu), website of Magyar Ellenállók és Antifasiszták Szövetsége (Association of Hungarian Resistance Fighters and Anti-Fascists, [npiamerica.org](http://npiamerica.org))*

On 4 August, [cink.hu](http://cink.hu) published that The National Policy Institute (NPI) was to organize a conference entitled »Európa Jövője« (The Future of Europe). The American organization which promotes white supremacy was to hold the conference in Budapest between 3-5 October together with American racists and Russian nationalists.

Among the proposed speakers at the conference were Jared Taylor of the US, former director of NPI, advocate of "racial interests" and coiner of the phrase "racial realism"; Alexander Dugin of Russia, advocate of Eurasian supremacy, ideologist of Putin's aggressive Russia; and Márton Gyöngyösi of Jobbik. The invitation to the conference branded Jobbik as one of Europe's most promising traditional political parties.

On 7 August, Együtt-PM, in an official statement, requested Jobbik to cancel the conference because it shames Hungary.

On 15 August on behalf of eleven organisations<sup>11</sup>, president of Magyar Ellenállók és Antifasiszták Szövetsége (Association of Hungarian Resistance Fighters and Anti-Fascists), Vilmos Hanti, sent an open letter to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and asked him to “use his two-thirds majority in the parliament and forbid international radical figures to come to Hungary – just because they found no better place – and make our country become the world’s rubbish dump.”

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<sup>11</sup> Antifasiszták Egységbe Facebook Csoport (Unite Against Fascism Facebook Group), Antifasiszta Hálózat (Anti-Fascist Network), Demokratikus Polgári Ellenzék (Democratic Civilian Opposition), Ellenállók Nemzetközi Szövetsége (FIR, International Federation of Resistance Fighters), Hét Olajfa Egyesület (Seven Olive Trees Association), Magyar Antifasiszta Liga (Hungarian Anti-Fascist League), Magyar–Cigány Országos Biztonsági Hálózat Béke és Jogvédő Egyesület (Hungarian – Roma National Security Network Peace and Defender Association), Magyar Ellenállók és Antifasiszták Szövetsége (Association of Hungarian Resistance Fighters and Anti-Fascists), Nemzetközi Roma Internetes Hálózat (International Roma Internet Network), Nagy Imre Társaság Budapesti Szervezete (Budapest Committee of Imre Nagy Association), Romák és Mindazok, Akik Elutasítják a Faji Megkülönböztetést Facebook Csoport (Roma and Everyone Against Racism Facebook Group)

# ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

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**Action and Protection Foundation initiated legal proceedings – the proceedings were transferred, the allegations were rejected**

*Budapest*

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation*

On 5 August, APF initiated legal proceedings against Érpatak municipality at Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office. The municipality's website disseminates conspiracy theories familiar with far-right subculture on its »A mi hazánk« (Our motherland) page. One writing is entitled »Julius Evola: Occult war – Weapons of the occult war« whose main reference is The Protocols of the Elders of Zion which is an anti-Semitic booklet circulated in the early 20th century and which tries to endorse an international Jewish conspiracy. However, Hungarian Basic Law declares that freedom of speech must not violate human dignity, dignity of the Hungarian nation, or dignity of national, ethnic, racial and religious communities.

The website of Érpatak municipality also shares a video about conspiracy theories related to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the US. A parliamentary resolution of 2001 states, on the contrary, that "All expressions that try to find justifiable reasons for these unreasonable barbarian acts against humanity that killed innocent people are deeply and strongly condemned."

On 14 August, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office sent a letter to APF informing that the initiated legal proceedings concern local government operations, decision making processes and the legality of the operations. The body responsible for these legal proceedings is the Police Headquarters of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County and therefore the municipality transferred the case to them.

On 27 August, the Police Headquarters of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County announced that following original accusations by APF, they started legal proceedings for incitement against a community. In order to conduct an investigation, a supplement report was needed, which helped to decide that the »Julius Evola: Occult war – Weapons of the occult war« article does not contain elements inciting hatred. Nor do conspiracy theories related to 9/11 contain such information or expressions that could be used to incite readers of the website to hate any national, ethnic, racial or religious groups and therefore allegations were rejected.

**APF informed against Zoltán Mihály Orosz for breach  
of peace – the allegation was transferred**

*Budapest*

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation*

On 6 August, Action and Protection Foundation filed a complaint against Mr. Zoltán Mihály Orosz at the Nyíregyháza Police Department for breach of peace at a public event. On 2 August, Érpatak mayor, Zoltán Mihály Orosz, gave a half-hour speech at an event entitled »Protest against the genocide of the Israeli Freemason terror state«. Although the police department had ordered an investigation into incitement of hatred already, APF initiated proceedings for breach of peace, too. This is partly because Mr. Orosz placed a paper made Israeli-like flag with Freemason symbols on the ground in front of his audience and he theatrically wiped his boots on it so that it would tear to pieces; and partly because after having done this, he ordered the man behind him with a hood over his face to execute effigies of Benjamin Netanyahu and Shimon Peres in what he claims was a political performance.

“Violent” behaviour required for the offense of breach of peace may manifest itself in violence against a thing. Violence against things often come with damage to the dimensions of the things. This happened in the case of the flag. Furthermore, offenses of breach of peace are defined as actions that provoke alarm and outrage in others. Critical reactions, disapproval and anger from others or any other expressions of such feelings are considered as outrage. Reactions to the mayor’s actions (See: Official and civil responses) clearly prove such feelings.

On 13 August, the Police Headquarters of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County decided to transfer allegations of breach of peace to the Nemzeti Nyomozó Iroda Nemzetközi Bűnüldözési Főosztály (National Bureau of Investigation International Law Enforcement Department) since the body took over the investigation after a private individual and Israeli Ambassador to Hungary Ilan Mor also reported the incident, and since it is preferable to investigate these allegations as one case.

**Charge for breach of peace because of Jew-baiting  
on Erzsébet square was dismissed**

*Budapest*

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation*

In our reports of June and July, we outlined that the Foundation reported a crime of violence against a member of a community on 17 June because of Jew-baiting on Erzsébet square during the Brazilian World Cup.

On 13 August, the Administration Department of Budapest Police Department (BRFK) 5th District Police informed the Foundation that a preliminary investigation into the allegation had begun. However, no suspect could be identified and supplementary investigation would not provide further results either, therefore the allegation was dismissed.

## **APF informed against an unknown culprit for publicly denying the genocide committed by national socialist system**

*Budapest*

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation*

On 15 August, the Foundation informed against an unknown culprit for publicly denying the genocide committed by the Nazis and their partners. The Foundation published an article on their website related to the riots in Paris on 13 June 2014, to which – using Facebook module – Z.A.J. commented the following: “Filthy mangy lousy MURDERER JEWS all to gas chambers” [sic]. This aroused the Foundation’s curiosity and after studying Z.A.J.’s facebook page, the following comments from him were found:

On 15 July: “I hope the Jewish guard takes pleasure in these, too. While the circumcised feel sorry for themselves because of their Holocaust-lie...”

On 18 January: “They are not only filthy but they are also anti-life and anti-human! All JEWS TO GAS CHAMBERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Holocaust is just a lie, too!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”.

On 17 July 2013: „Filthy damn lousy pet breeders mangy GYPSIES!!!! Die YOU ALL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Tremble, Hitler’s mother is pregnant again!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”.

According to the Foundation, the comments above constitute public denial of the genocide committed by the Nazis and their partners because they use the phrase “Holocaust-lie” and say “Holocaust is just a lie, too”. Incitement against a community is realised by „All JEWS TO GAS CHAMBERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!” and „GYPSIES!!!! Die YOU ALL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”.

## **Investigation into Jobbik Committee in Üllés was suspended**

*Szeged*

*Source: Action and protection Foundation*

On 27 May 2013, APF reported an incident of public denial of the Holocaust to the Budapest Police Department (BRFK) Crime Detection Department. The free monthly publication from the Jobbik Committee issued an article entitled »Holocaust – jigsaw« in its May 2011 volume. With regards to Holocaust the author explained that “no material proof has been found that could confirm Jewish genocide. No pictures, no plans, no documents. Nothing.” The article also claimed that Holocaust is “the biggest and meanest scam of world history”. Due to lack of jurisdiction and power the case was transferred to Szeged Police Department on 10 June 2013.

The investigation was suspended on 19 August 2014 by Szeged District Attorney’s Office because the interrogation of suspect, accomplice T.B. who had uploaded the article to the website of Üllés Committee is not plausible due to the facts that T.B.’s health condition limits his communication abilities and significant improvements in his health are not to be expected in the future.



## 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.	2 August	Hanging of effigies in Érpatak	Hate incidents: hate speech
2.	4 August	Writings on the fence surrounding the construction site for Sorsok Háza (House of Doom)	Hate incidents: hate speech
3.	4 August	Acceptance of violence in Hungary	About Anti-Semitism in Hungary
4.	4-6 August	Investigation began into the hanging of effigies in Érpatak	Official and civil responses
5.	5, 14, 27 August	APF initiated legal proceedings – the proceedings were transferred, the allegations were rejected	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions
6.	6, 8 August	Foreign reactions to the hanging of effigies in Érpatak	About Anti-Semitism in Hungary
7.	6, 13 August	APF informed against Zoltán Mihály Orosz for breach of peace – the allegation was transferred	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions
8.	8 August	Jew-baiting at the memorial to the German occupation of Hungary	Hate incidents: damage to property
9.	11 August	Pro-Israel demonstration in Debrecen	Hate incidents: hate speech
10.	13 August	Raphael Vago's opinion	About Anti-Semitism in Hungary
11.	13 August	Charge for breach of peace because of Jew-baiting on Erzsébet square was dismissed	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions
12.	14 August	Anti-Semitic writings on a billboard	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
13.	14 August	Memorial to the German occupation of Hungary	Community News, Reflections
14.	15 August	Charges by APF for publicly denying the genocide committed by national socialist system and for incitement to hate crime against unknown culprit	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions
15.	19 August	Investigation into Jobbik Committee in Üllés was suspended	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions
16.	27 August	A man painted swastikas in Baja	Hate incidents: hate speech
17.	31 August	Growth of anti-Semitism in Hungary	About Anti-Semitism in Hungary
18.	–	Mr. Zoltán Balog about Roma Holocaust	Miscellaneous news
19.	–	Demonstration against a racist conference	Miscellaneous news

## CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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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!

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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](http://www.tev.hu/forrodrot)

The Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany](https://www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany)

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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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