

**ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT**



April 2015



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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 particu-

lar characteristics. Date recorded includes the incident’s location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified five anti-Semitic hate crimes in April. Two cases fall in the category of vandalism: in one case two Holocaust memorial plaques in the cemetery of Csömör were vandalized, and several images of the photo exhibition »70 years’ grandchildren« were sprayed with paint. Three of the cases are in the hate speech category: in one case a Holocaust denying image was shared in a Facebook group; in another, objects with symbols of autocracy were sold in an antiquity shop; and in the third case, Előd Novák said that the memorial objects placed on Szabadság Square were trash. The report also records several events connected to the Holocaust and anti-Semitism in Hungary.

The TEV Foundation filed one complaint in April 2015 because of the use of autocratic symbols. The objects found in the antiquity shop offended the human dignity or right of piety of the victims of national socialist or communist regimes.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION



The phenomenon of anti-Semitism is by no means new to Hungary. The hate speech encountered earlier has however become increasingly dominant in public life. The situation is further aggravated by the Jobbik Party, which openly declares anti-Semitic and racist views, having forty-three members of parliament making hate speech far more ever-present in both Parliament and other organized events. These circumstances brought Action and Protection Foundation into being.

Among the forms of civil association offered by Hungarian law, Action and Protection Foundation chose the form of foundation; it was registered in November 2012. The Foundation seeks to provide an alternative to the ineffectual legal steps taken against deteriorating standards of public discourse, exclusion, and the ignorance in which anti-Semitism is rooted, as well as atrocities and hate crimes.

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.

Unity

Action and Protection Foundation is a registered civil organization. Among those actively participating in the work of the Foundation are 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.

ABOUT THE REPORT



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

The fight against hate crimes bears exceptional importance, because they differ from other forms of criminal conduct. These crimes may be considered messages of a kind, and thus point beyond private actions. This additional import becomes manifest in various social realms: on the level of the individual, the group attacked, and of society as a whole. The victims may suffer a greater psychological and emotional trauma. In the case of these crimes not “only” the property, or physical integrity of victims is endangered, but also their self-respect. These offences question the right of

the individual to equality, even of belonging to society itself. It is important that in the course of such crimes the victims are the target of attacks because of some unchangeable characteristic, and for this reason may well feel more defenseless. The victims are often afraid that they may again become victims of further atrocities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents can easily lead to a secondary victimization of the targeted person. This type of criminal act also has a strong 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 on the one hand, encourage the perpetrators, or even others to commit further crimes in the same mold. On the other, it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society (Levin and McDevitt 1999, 92–93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19–21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17–18; Perry 2001, 10).

¹ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

It may be stated in general that fewer hate crimes are reported, and in the event documented, than are committed. Victims often do not report them to the police. A number of reasons may cause this implicitly. Firstly, many do not feel assured that the authorities will treat these incidents adequately, either because they are not sufficiently prepared, or due to prejudice. Certainly there are many victims who are not clear about the applicable legal regulations. Victims may feel shame, or fear that one of their concealed traits will be exposed. Lesser categorizations of the crimes are also frequent, where official authorities do not establish the hate-crime motivation. It is civil or-

ganizations that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs—such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor’s office—may be particularly beneficial.² Reports prepared by civil organizations can be expedient in alerting the official authorities to hate motivated crimes in the country. Long-term tendencies can be outlined on the basis of the collected data. Civil organizations can help in setting particular cases on track for legal process, may provide legal defense for the victims, and give various other forms of aid. These organizations may also serve as intermediaries between the victims and the police (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 34–36).

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

METHODOLOGY



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

hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people⁴

hate-motivated incident: an offence, also based on prejudice against a certain group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The heightened importance of individual hate crimes is indicated by the fact that the criminal code of numerous countries deals with these cases separately. Hungarian criminal legislation identifies two forms of hate crime: violent offences committed against the member of a group, and incitement to hatred of a community. The recently adopted Criminal Code (Act C of 2012) deals with these in Chapter XXI, Paragraph 216, on crimes against human dignity and certain basic rights, as well as Chapter XXXII, Paragraph 332, on crimes against public peace. The crime of violence against a member of a group may be established if the perpetrator assaults or otherwise coerces the victim, because they belong to a pro-

TECTED group. Additionally, this is also the case if the perpetrator demonstrates provocative behavior against a community that is apt to cause alarm. The crime is only affected if there is a concrete victim. Incitement against a community most often means hate speech, and it can only be defined as such on the condition that it is committed in public. Incitement to hate crimes does not target concrete individuals but a group of people. It is important to add that other crimes may also be categorized as having been committed on racist motives. In such cases the courts must pass a heavier sentence⁵ (TASZ 2012, 3–4). Apart from these, Paragraph 333 of the Criminal Code also describes the crime of denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regime. Furthermore, Paragraph 335 bans the distribution and use in wide public, or public display of the symbols of various autocratic regimes (among them the swastika, the SS insignia, arrow-cross).

Detailed descriptions of approaches to, and recent tendencies in the definition of hate incidents can be found in our May Report. The report also cites the findings of literature in this field internationally. The present report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, wherever perpetrator, target, means or message of a case

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

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

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

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

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

tions for online filing of reports, which allow even greater anonymity for the person placing the report.

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

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

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

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

6 These are described in the *Methods* section.

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

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

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics:

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

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

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

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

- Homicide: any attack on a person that causes loss of life
- Extreme physical violence
 - Any attack on a person that potentially causes serious bodily harm
 - Any attack involving weapons, or other tools that can cause bodily harm
 - Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - Bombs and letter bombs
 - Kidnapping
- Assault
 - Any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not serious

- Attempted assault, which fails due to self-defense, or if the victim runs away
- Throwing objects at a person or people, including where the object misses its target
- Damage to property
 - Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
- Desecration of property
 - Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson
- Threats
 - Any clear and specific threat, whether verbal or written
 - Any “bomb” which is assessed to be a hoax
 - Stalking
 - Defamation
- Hate speech
 - Public hate speech
 - Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media

- Abusive behavior
- Abusive literature sent to more than one person
- In literature and music
- Discriminatory incidents

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

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

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

APRIL 2015



The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified five anti-Semitic hate crimes in April, two of which fall in the category of vandalism, and three in hate speech.

Vandalism

70 Years' Grandchildren exhibition vandalized with paint spray

Budapest, Madách Square

Source: Index

On 5 April, unknown offender(s) sprayed paint on the images of the photo exhibition »70 Years' Grandchildren« organized by the EMIH (Unitary Jewish Religious Community of Hungary) on Madách Square. The exhibition displays photos of Holocaust survivors with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Some of the sprayed photos, *source: Index*

Holocaust memorial plaques in Csömör vandalized

Csömör, Pest County

Source: Website of Barankovics Foundation

On the night of 10 April, unknown offenders vandalized the two memorial plaques of the Isra-

elite Workshop of Barankovics Foundation in the cemetery of Csömör and the gravestone of private György Varga, who died in Csömör in 1944. The inscriptions on the memorial plaques of the Israelite Workshop: "Let this plaque be a memory for the victims of 20th century dictatorships, Nazism and communism! Let it remind us of those who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, but were destroyed by the red terror. This is the promise of the Hungarian people: never again!" and "Let this plaque be a memory for the encounter of national socialism and Bolshevism 70 years ago!"



Vandalised memorial plaques, *source: barankovics.hu*

The response to this case is detailed in *Official and Civil Reactions* part.

Hate speech

The Holocaust is a sensitive topic

Hungary

Source: TEV Foundation

A volunteer informed the Foundation on 19 April that on 16 April one (or the only) administrator of Facebook group »Community of People Blocked from the groups of Milla and Együtt 2014« shared a collage of four photos on which a terrified woman is talking to a police operator. The »punch line« is in the fourth photo.

Woman: "Help me, here's a psychopath and wants to stab me with a knife!"

Police operator: "Stay calm, ma'am, your call is our priority, right now all our units are busy, please try to call later..."

Woman: "ubhh... I think he is also denying the Holocaust!!!" (literal translation)

The final photo shows a police convoy with hazard lights on.



The photo suggests that the police prioritizes cases of Holocaust denial, source: TEV

Objects with symbols of autocracy sold in an antiquity shop

Budapest

Source: RomNet

RomNet published an article on 20 April in which the journalist reports that an antique shop near Budapest's shopping street, the Váci Street, sells objects with symbols of autocratic regimes. The author of the article visited the shop on 18 April. He claims that he saw in the shop window for example a seal ring with a swastika, a seal ring with an SS symbol, badges with the red star and the sickle and hammer sign, lighters and badges with the swastika, iron crosses, merit medals, and an SS-badge.

The Foundation filed a complaint on the basis of the photos because of the public use of symbols of autocratic regimes. Details of the denunciation will be discussed in the part *Official cases of TEV Foundation*.

Előd Novák called the mementos of commemoration "trash"

Budapest

Source: Előd Novák's official Facebook page

As part of the protests initiated by people who disagreed to the erection of the German occupation monument on Szabadság Square, a set of objects, stones, documents were placed near the monument which, under the name of »Living monument«, were intended to assist true commemoration.

On 23 April, Előd Novák shared on his Facebook page the letter he wrote to Minister of the Interior Sándor Pintér. He explained in his letter: "what the »protesters« collected there is in fact an illegal

pile of trash. Stones, pieces of wood, suitcases, waste paper, there is everything. Some people call this collection of junk and personal objects »Living Monument«. This, in my view, is unacceptable even if terrible things had happened with the family of some of the protesters, since the law applies to everybody.”

His questions to Sándor Pintér were the following: does the government support the creation of “living monuments”? “Really, what are the legal criteria for using junk for these estab-

lishments?” Then he goes on with guessing: “Can it be demolition debris too? Maybe this is the one and only »living monument« they will not take action against, but they will for any other illegal political pile of trash? If so, in what way is this one an exception? Due to the origin or political views of those who created this junk yard? What is to be expected for those patriotic Hungarian citizens who perhaps wish to deposit their trash in front of public statues commemorating another dictatorship?”

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS



The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation has not identified any case in April 2015 that is not part of the statistics.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES



House of Fates

Budapes

Source: MTI

Mária Schmidt presented during a tour the detailed concept of the “*House of Fates – European Education Centre*” established on the location of Józsefváros Railway Station to representatives of Budapest District VIII local government and the leaders of the Hungarian Academy of Arts (MMA) – the Józsefváros local government informed MTI on 29 April.

Mária Schmidt, chief manager of the Foundation for the Research of Central and Eastern European History and Society entrusted with the establishment of the House of Fates, related on the tour that they placed great emphasis on the presentation of personal stories through which young people may become familiar with the tragedy of the victims of the Holocaust.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES



Three young people suspected to vandalize the cemetery of Gyöngyös

Eger, Heves County

Source: MTI

Our March report informed that Péter Weisz, president of the Jewish community of Gyöngyös, reported on 22 March that unknown people vandalized 15-20 graves in the Jewish cemetery of Gyöngyös, among which two crypts, and scattered human remains. The offenders damaged the fence as well, but no inscriptions or scribblings were found on the location.

On 2 April, the website of Heves County Police Headquarters published that three young men from Gyöngyös (aged 15, 16 and 17) were suspected to have committed the vandalism in Gyöngyös cemetery. The boys were interrogated as suspects at Gyöngyös Police Headquarters, and police initiated proceedings against them for reasonable suspicion of the felony of vandalism.

Péter Weisz told MTI on 2 April that his suspicion seems to confirm that it was not an anti-Semitic event but the graves were vandalized for reasons of potential profit.

Responses to the vandalization of the photo exhibition 70 Years' Grandchildren

Budapest

Source: MTI, Democratic Coalition, Magyar

Nemzet

As reported in the part Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes, unknown offender(s) sprayed red and yellow paint on the photos of the »70 Years' Grandchildren« exhibition organized by EMIH (Unitary Jewish Religious Community of Hungary) on Madách Square.

On 6 April, János Grosser, member of the National Council of the Democratic Coalition, together with his son and friends, cleaned the photos of paint and shame. Budapest District VII Police Headquarters initiated legal proceedings for vandalism.

Slomó Köves, chief rabbi of EMIH thanked the volunteers that same day, and expressed his trust in the efficient action of the police and that the offenders would be caught in the shortest time possible.

In a statement from 6 April, the Ministry of Human Resources (EMMI) claimed it was shocking and outrageous that unknown people damaged the exhibition. *“By the vandal and meaningless damaging of the exhibition, the unknown offender or offenders did not only put to shame the survivors of the Holocaust, but also did harm to Jewish communities, the entire nation, and any well-meaning human being.”* – the statement claimed. They also emphasized: the government continues to act most rigorously against all extremist, racist, anti-Semitic manifestations, and does everything in its power to suppress hateful voices incompatible with European norms, and to protect all citizens of the country from such and similar offences.

Legal action initiated against Gergely Kulcsár

Budapest

Source: MTI

The Central Investigation Office of the Prosecution ordered the investigation of Jobbik MP Gergely Kulcsár for the suspicion of public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. According to information of M1 News, Gergely Kulcsár was denounced by a private person for calling the Holocaust “*hoaxcaust*” in a letter written to his colleagues in 2012. Andrea Nagy, spokeswoman for Central Investigation Office of the Prosecution reported that the investigation will also examine whether the MP denied or doubted the fact of crimes against humanity committed by national socialist regimes. Imre Vejkey (KDNP), president of the immunity committee of the Parliament, signaled: the parliament – on the recommendation of the committee – may decide to suspend the immunity of the Jobbik MP with a two-third majority of votes.

According to information from M1, Gergely Kulcsár was also denounced because of the desecration in 2011 of the sculpture composition »*Shoes on the Danube bank*« placed in the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, but the prosecution found that legal proceedings could only be instituted for defamation in case the crime has not been stalled.

Legal proceedings initiated against a woman from Szeged for Holocaust denial

Szeged, Csongrád County

Source: MTI, TEV Foundation

We reported in December 2014 that TEV Foundation filed a complaint against an unknown offender for the public denial of the crimes of the

Nazi regime on 3 December 2014, because the owner of Facebook profile A. V. Z. H. wrote the following comment to the article published on the event of the visit to Hungary of the grandson of Rudolf Höss, former Auschwitz concentration camp commander. The comment read: “*Let’s forget this holohoax, and even if it was true, what does this man have to do with his grandfather’s actions???*...” (literal translation).

Ferenc Szanka, spokesman of Csongrád County Prosecutor’s Office informed MTI on 10 April the District Court of Szeged would reach a verdict in the case in expedited procedure. According to the accusation, the comment doubted the existence of the Holocaust and referred to it as a lie, and also questioned the grandson’s relation to his grandfather’s deeds. The defendant publicly claimed that the genocide committed by the Nazi regime was a lie and doubted that it had happened by his comment and the expressions used in it.

The Szeged District Court condemned the woman aged 61, from Szeged. The court held the defendant guilty for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime, and convicted the woman for one and a half years probation and supervision. As a special behavioural rule, the court also ordered that the defendant must visit the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Páva Street, Budapest, and give an account of her visit to her supervisor. In justification of the verdict, Judge Krisztián Kemenes exposed that there was no question about establishing that the defendant was guilty as charged. However, due to the extenuating circumstances – especially the defendant’s confession and apology – he considered unnecessary to sentence her to prison.

Protests against the vandalized Holocaust memorial plaques

Budapest

Source: MTI

On 15 April, Dr. Imre Vejkey, deputy fraction leader of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) protested in the name of his parliamentary fraction against the vandalization of the two memorial plaques placed at the Gloria Victis spot in the cemetery of Csömör by the Israelite Workshop of Barankovics Foundation. It was reported in the *Anti-Semitic hate crimes* section that the event happened on the night of 10 April.

Imre Vejkey stated that such actions are outrageous, for failing to respect the memory of the innocent victims of fascism and Nazism. According to the Christian democratic conception, the common spiritual heritage of Christians and Jews is so vast that they cannot but recommend their mutual knowledge for everyone. He claimed: the Hungarian state must protect all its citizens from extremists, for these vandal actions offend Hungary and demolish its thousand-year-old values. The only valid answer to such actions and hateful and violent messages can be that Hungary and its laws will stand in the way for anyone who commits such things. The politician said a complaint was filed with the police.

Péter Weisz, President of Israelite Workshop István Barankovics Association, emphasized that

they fight for peaceful cohabitation and the vandalizing offenders demolish the common roots. He also remarked that the Gloria Victis Foundation will frame the broken plaques and leave them in place as a memento.

Three people banned from the events of MLSZ

Budapest

Source: MTI

According to the Budapest Court of Justice, right after the Ferencváros-Újpest champion's league football match in Ferenc Puskás Stadium on 22 September 2013, one of the defendants took out a flag with a swastika and gave it to two of his peers to display in front of almost 1,000 fans and the police. The second- and third-order defendants erected the flag and waved it for seconds while doing the Nazi salute.

The action of the defendants disturbed the public peace and the photos of the action were shared on fan pages as well, the court claimed. The Central District Court of Pest banned the three men from attending any of the sport events of the Hungarian Football Society and its member organizations for several years because of the use of symbols of autocracy on 22 April: the primary defendant, L. N., as instigator for 2 years, Z. P. secondary defendant as accomplice for 3 years, and Á. H. third order defendant as accomplice for 4 years. The verdict is final for all three defendants.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY



General Assemblies of IHRA held in Hungary

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: MTI

Szabolcs Takács, the Hungarian president of IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) and ministerial commissioner responsible for IHRA presidency, reported in a press conference on 7 April that the general assemblies of IHRA would be held this year in Budapest (8-15 June) and Debrecen (2-5 November). In a press conference held in the renovated Orthodox synagogue on Pásti Street, the state secretary of the Prime Minister's Office responsible for European Union affairs emphasized that plans during the Hungarian presidency are to increase the significance and visibility of IHRA, and to decrease anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and hate speech. He said that the majority of the Hungarian society condemns xenophobia, and all forms of racism. The state secretary called the Holocaust one of the most painful episodes of Hungarian history, a national tragedy. He said that the Hungarian government proved in many ways that anti-Semitism must be fought in every way. He spoke of the zero tolerance principle and emphasized that *"No one may live in fear in Hungary for being a member of a certain religious community."* At the same time, he added, the phenomenon of anti-Semitism can be found in many European countries, therefore the Hungarian presidency is also meant to be used to discuss the problem of spreading anti-Semitism at expert conferences. Szabolcs Takács thinks that education can be the best instrument

against any kind of xenophobia, therefore steps will be taken for the topic of the Holocaust to be more discussed in education, and the educational guidelines of IHRA to be better applied in teacher training in Hungary.

Csaba Latorcai, deputy state secretary for special social cases, said that it was not enough to just persecute anti-Semitism, but any means must be used to fight against *"repulsive actions"* like the defacement of the photo exhibition for Holocaust survivors that occurred on Easter. He also stated that Hungary is not an anti-Semitic country, *"we are proud of our multicoloured culture"*, which also includes Jewish culture.

László Papp (Fidesz-KDNP), Mayor of Debrecen, mentioned in reference to the Holocaust that there are still people who relativize the events or joke about it. Any such manifestation must be condemned, even if it is done by the representative of Debrecen local government – referring to Tibor Ágoston's Holocaust-mocking statement, for which he was ordered in the first instance to pay a fine of 750,000 HUF.

Ronald S. Lauder: anti-Semitism harms the image of Hungary

Budapest

Source: MTI

Ronald S. Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), arrived to Hungary for the March of Life in Budapest. He stated at his press

conference on 12 April that anti-Semitism, phenomena connected to it, and the activity of Jobbik are harmful to the image of Hungary. In his opinion, news related to the Jobbik's activity often tends to overshadow other fantastic things done by Hungarians, such as the Revolution of 1956. It is important to organize the March of Life because anti-Semitism seems to be strengthening all over the world the WJC President added. He explained that while anti-Semitism worldwide seems to be fueled primarily by Muslims' anti-Israel feelings, in Central and Eastern Europe the tendency is different. That is to say, anti-Semitism in Hungary is the same kind that existed before WWII. It is important to examine the reasons of increasing anti-Semitism in these circumstances and find out what we can do about it. He emphasized that he speaks because he wants to draw attention to the fact that anti-Semitism offends the image of Hungary, and he called for cooperation to make Hungary a better place.

Ahoron Tamir, director of international March of Life, also said that the strengthening of anti-Semitism is alarming. He added that *"what happens in Hungary is very bad"*.

Increasing number of anti-Semitic attacks worldwide

Tel-Aviv, Israel

Source: ATV

A report from Tel Aviv University, published on 15 April, exposes that in 2014 the number of violent anti-Semitic attacks increased worldwide by 38% compared to 2013. The Israeli experts recorded 766 incidents in 2014 – including everything from armed attacks to the vandalization of synagogues, schools and cemeteries – while the number recorded in 2013 was 554.

Regarding Hungary, the study quoted Slomó Köves, chief rabbi of EMIH, who said that anti-Semitism is perceivable on the street, although physical attacks against Jews are rare. The authors estimate that while the number of incidents did not increase, the greatest risk in Hungary is the attempts to *"clean"* the anti-Semitic past and rehabilitate certain aspects of the Horthy regime.

Commemorations at memorial places of former concentration camps

Fürstenberg, Germany; Sachsenhausen,

Germany; Bergen-Belsen, Germany

Source: MTI

A memorial plaque honouring the Hungarian Jewish victims and every victim deported from Hungary was inaugurated on 19 April at the Ravensbrück camp, the largest women's camp in Nazi Germany. The event was organized to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp. The main speaker was Johanna Wanka, German Minister of Education and Research, who emphasized that *"we are not only responsible for what we do, but also for what we tolerate"*, therefore one must not allow that anyone be offended in their dignity, for that offends the dignity of mankind, and *"we must not keep quiet if we experience racism, anti-Semitism, extremism."* After the celebration, a Hungarian memorial plaque was added to the plaques on the so-called wall of nations, inaugurated by Szabolcs Takács, state secretary for European Union affairs of the Prime Minister's Office and ministerial commissioner leading the Hungarian presidency of IHRA. He emphasized in his speech that *"Hungary took place in the execution of the Holocaust, which led to one of the greatest Hungarian tragedies."* The Hungarian government that follows the principle of zero tolerance for anti-Semitism, xenophobia

and racism places a memorial plaque on the wall of nations in sign of respect, “so that we send the message that no atrocity similar to the Holocaust must happen every again anywhere” – said Szabolcs Takács. Csaba Latorcai, deputy state secretary for special social cases of the Prime Minister’s Office, emphasized in his speech at the inauguration of the memorial plaque that the terrors of the concentration camps “are examples of human evil, against which any well-meaning person must act in the name of active solidarity.” He added: “we must join and say together a determined and clear no for any forms of racism, exclusion and anti-Semitism”.

A Hungarian memorial plaque was inaugurated on 19 April at the commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Sachsenhausen concentration camp. The ceremony was held at the memorial place established on the territory of the former camp. German Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier explained that the lesson learned from the Nazi atrocities is that “one must act against all forms of injustice, xenophobia and discrimination”. Günter Mosch, manager of the memorial, said that “the history of Hungarians in Sachsenhausen is the history of death”. Szabolcs Takács, ministerial commissioner lead-

ing the Hungarian presidency of IHRA, stated that Sachsenhausen was the prototype for other concentration camps, “the birthplace, where the evil was embodied, and even incorporated the efficiency of the industrial revolution and mass production”. It is the job of posterity to erect that “spiritual wall that shuts out even the thought of any genocide”, and it is of utmost importance for Hungary to take part in erecting this wall, for “our crimes and merits, our murderers and victims are just as many” added Szabolcs Takács.

On the 26 April celebrations organized on the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, speeches were given by German Prime Minister Joachim Gauck and Ronald S. Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC). Lauder stated in his address that after seventy years “we are going again towards the hell that we have once escaped from”. He emphasized that anti-Semitism is getting stronger in Europe, and one may not step out on the street in Paris, London or Copenhagen in a kippah – a skullcap expressing the respect for Jewish religious traditions – without fearing for their lives, and “extreme rightist, neo-Nazi groupings win parliamentary mandates in Hungary and Greece.”

OTHER NEWS



Holocaust memorial day commemorations

Budapest; Mád, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County
Source: MTI

A commemoration was organized in front of the House of Terror Museum in Budapest on 12 April. At the commemoration, Zoltán Balog, Minister of Human Resources, said that *“no country can be built on hatred anywhere, not in Budapest, not in Tapolca, not in North Borsod, nor in Baranya, nowhere.”* He pointed out that *“Race-based hatred can only stand at the basis of bad answers”*. The minister said that while a memorial culture of the Holocaust is shaping and the conversation on the human rights aspect of this topic continues, Christians are killed these days for their faith, Jews are killed on the streets, Hungarians are imprisoned at the edges of Europe. He added that extremist political parties have become stronger in many countries on the continent, which *“offer pseudo-solutions on racial or class basis on the basis of hatred”*. According to historian Mária Schmidt, chief manager of House of Terror Museum, we testify to ourselves and our age by how we answer the question *“what is next?”*, *“what can we hold on to when there is no excuse for what happened.”* *“Since the evil is incapable of creation, it only leaves behind the echo of fear and terror, lasting knowledge and moral content can only appear in our lives exclusively through the good, therefore I say, let us mourn for our compatriots, let us not forget the names of those who did it, but let us show to the youngest of us the examples of our rescuing ancestors”*, she said.

In a statement published on 16 April, the memorial day of the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stated, *“it is the purpose of Hungary to remain a country of security and peace for all its citizens in the future in a world increasingly insecure and restless”*. *“We clarify again in the spirit of our constitution: the community of Hungarian Jews can always count on the respect, friendship and protection of the Hungarian government”* Viktor Orbán added that the Hungarian constitution, renewed after the historical controversies and moral decline of the twentieth century, guarantees that Hungarian Jews are part of the Hungarian nation.

At the Holocaust commemoration of Páva Street memorial centre on 16 April, Colleen Bell, Ambassador of the United States, spoke about the genocide as the most tragic period in the history of mankind. She said that people must remember and learn from these events so that nothing remotely similar may happen again. Hungary has made important steps to face the tragic events of its history, including its role in the Holocaust. *“We can all do more, and indeed, must do more”* against those who proclaim hatred and denial, who would deny the right of Jewish citizens of Hungary to let their voice be heard when speaking about the country’s history. They use coded messages and doublespeak trying to get the vote of extremists and anti-Semites. She emphasized that hate speech and the attempts to oppose Jews and Christians must be condemned. We owe it to the victims of the Holocaust as well as to those who work on the creation of a world without prej-

udices and hatred. Ilan Mor, Ambassador of Israel in Hungary, called for everyone in his speech to “*stand up for human freedom and against anti-Semitism*”. He thinks that similar to recent events in Paris, it should be said in Hungary too an attack on the Jewish population of the country is an attack against the country, the nation. Szabolcs Takács, President of IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance), stressed that the lack of respect and tolerance for other peoples, nations, and religions leads to genocide. However, the culture of tolerance can only be rooted where there is no need and possibility for autocracy and oppression. He also mentioned that the Hungarian nation can and will never forget the Holocaust. The active involvement of Hungarian state institutions in the ghettoization and deportation, as well as deprivation of rights of the Jews make us “*deepen our commemorations by looking into ourselves and consciously accept responsibility in the future*”. Dezső Zoltán Adorján, bishop of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Cluj (Kolozsvár, Romania), talked about the importance of honest and sensible confrontation and commemoration. One must take moral responsibility for those who were killed in the Holocaust, but we must also trust that a world will come in which the language, culture, otherness of minorities “*will not mean a source of danger but a value for the majority*”.

On 16 April, commemorations were also held at the »*Shoes on the Danube bank*« monument. On this occasion Tamás Horovitz, President of the Alliance of Central and Eastern European Jewish Communities and Organizations, called upon Gábor Vona to depose the Parliament rep-

resentatives with “*openly Nazi*” views. He added that he will initiate law modifications so that the crime of the denial of the Holocaust and vandalization of graves and memorial places would not have a statute of limitation of three years. In addition, he also drew attention to the necessity of efficient representation which halts increasing anti-Semitism, “*people who talk about holohoax, spit in shoes, or have Nazi tattoos.*” “*We are here today to show and say it together: it was enough! [...] We are here today to say it together: we do not want to be afraid of political forces keen on Nazi ideas. [...] If we cannot defend the memory of our deceased, we will not be able to defend the living either*”, said Tamás Horovitz.

At the commemoration on 16 April held at Urania National Cinema, János Lázár, Minister heading the Prime Minister’s Office, stated that one cannot stay idle and speechless today in front of evil ideas. He added that after what had happened on the Danube bank in the winter of 1944 or in Auschwitz, there can no longer be harmless verbal abuse of Jews or Gypsies in Hungarian, there can no longer be harmless exclusion. “*We cannot make the slightest concession*” to the descendants of those who dragged their fellow citizens to the Danube bank seventy years ago, or to those “*who now spit into the abandoned shoes left behind the people murdered there.*” There is no medicine against evil ideas, only one thing can be done against such bacteria: Hungarians must enforce today “*our collective immune system, so that it may recognize and [...] defeat the infections in time*”, the minister claimed. He thinks that several symptoms of the near past warn us that today that “*we cannot be satisfied with our collective immune sys-*

9 János Lázár referred to Gergely Kulcsár, MP of the Jobbik, who self-admittedly spat in one of the shoes of the Shoes on the Danube bank monument in 2011.

tem.” József Pálincás, President of the National Office for Research, Development and Innovation, said that the memorial day of the Holocaust “is the Hungarian day of shame of European history”. He claims that one must see how our ancestors reached from discrimination and hatred to evil ideas, criminal temper, murder, and cooperation in genocide. András Heisler, President of the Alliance of Jewish Communities in Hungary (Mazsihisz), emphasized that during the Holocaust the values of allegedly enlightened mankind collapsed, which led to the elimination of six million people. The story that mankind knows as the Holocaust must be told from generation to generation, he warned. He also emphasized that openly anti-Semitic politicians or public figures, writers or artists cannot be accepted, no matter what intellectual values they created. Who accepts anti-Semitic views, excludes oneself from humanity’s value-creating part.

A commemoration was held at the Mád synagogue on 16 April. At the event, László Trócsányi, Minister of Justice, said that Hungary denied Hun-

garianness from Hungarian Jews during WWII, then humanity and finally even life by extraditing them to the Nazi death machine, but today there are constitutional guarantees that the Hungarian tragedy of the Holocaust would never happen again. He emphasized that we must do everything in order to prevent this from happening again. “First, we have the constitutional framework and the legal means. One starting point of the new Hungarian constitution’s choice of values is the denial of national socialist and communist ideas and practice”, he said. He added that the constitution protects the dignity of national, ethnic, racial and religious communities, and it also includes criminal laws against those who offend them. Slomó Köves, chief rabbi of EMIH, said that local Jews in Tokaj-Hegyalja are just a memory for decades, but such commemorations show how important Jews were in the life of the region, and the memory of this must be observed. Ilan Mor, Ambassador of Israel, said that never can there be a Holocaust again. He explained that an independent, strong, autonomous Israel is needed to help commemorate and protect those who need help.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS



Investigation suspended again in the case of Jobbik's organization of Nagyszénás

Orosháza, Békés County

Source: TEV Foundation

On 27 May 2013, the Foundation filed a complaint against unknown offender for doubting the fact of the genocide committed by the Nazi regime. On 1 December 2011, an article was published on the website of the Nagyszénás organization of the Jobbik, among national news, entitled »*Reader's letter – the Holocaust glows again...*«, authored as P. A., doubting the reality of the Holocaust. The author questioned the existence of gas chambers and the genocide. In his/her opinion the purpose of the Jews' deportation to concentration camps was not their annihilation, but the use of their labour force. The author made some calculations in the article which led him/her to state eventually that the concentration camps had no Hungarian victims at all. For lack of jurisdiction and authority, the case was moved to the Police Headquarters of Orosháza by a decree issued 10 June 2013. The Orosháza Prosecution Office decided, by a decree issued 6 June 2014, the suspension of the criminal procedure initiated in the case. The Prosecution stated that the offender did indeed publicly deny the fact of the genocide committed by the Nazi regime. But in order to investigate where the article was uploaded and find the offender, it was necessary to seek legal assistance from the judicial authorities of Slovakia,

within which witnesses had to be interrogated and data acquired. On 24 November 2014, the continuation of the investigation was decided, for the Slovakian judicial authority completed the requests of the Prosecution, the reason for the suspension of the investigation has ceased, therefore the investigation must be continued.

In a decision from 1 April 2015 the Police Headquarters of Orosháza suspended the investigation. According to the justification, the offender could not be identified, and the Slovak police also possessed no information about the offender.

The Foundation filed a complaint in the case of I. I. K.

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 7 January, the Foundation filed a complaint against Facebook user I. I. K. for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. We reported in March that the investigation authority stopped the investigation in a decision from 23 March, because the investigation authority claims that it is impossible to establish the identity of the author of the montage shared on 14 August 2014¹⁰ and another one, shared on 5 October 2014.¹¹

The Foundation filed a complaint on 3 April to continue the investigation. The Foundation

10 "This user hates the Jews and does not believe the legend of the Holocaust!" Above the inscription there is an arrow pointing at the user's profile picture.

11 A picture illustrating a schoolgirl leaning over her books, with the text under it reading: "This Holocaust really got me: half of it is impossible, the other half a lie!" (literal translation)

claims that a Facebook user can share a picture, post, or any content on his/her timeline by using the share button. This can happen in four ways: (1) on their own timeline, (2) on a friend's timeline, (3) in a group, (4) as a private message. The complaint presented the sharing of an image as an example to the first case: I. I. K. shared the image of A. I. on his/her own timeline. The shared post shows an image and the beginning of the accompanying text. The image shows a wounded child, and the beginning of the image reads: *"The child slaughtering monsters [line break] The Gypsy killers of Palestinians are Zionist Jews, like how Gypsies kill unpunished around here. In Palestine an intruder.."* (literal translation). I. I. K. commented on the shared post: *"This is why all Jews must be destroyed from the universe once and for all"* (literal translation). The complaint presented the montages referred to above, none of which fits any of the other three cases. Therefore the montages were not shared on I. I. K.'s timeline but by the add photos/video tag. In this case the Facebook user shared the content publicly from his/her own computer. This way I. I. K. either created the montages him/herself, or uploaded a montage created by someone else from his/her own computer to the social site. Undoubtedly, both montages fit into the category of the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime, and the uploading to a social site covers the large public. Investigating the authorship of the montages is only relevant as far as the person who created the work, if someone other than I. I. K., can be brought to justice as well. But this does not change the fact that user I. I. K. committed the crime.

Complaint in the case of J. B. rejected

Hajdúböszörmény, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: TEV Foundation

The Foundation filed a complaint against an unknown offender for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. The Police Headquarters of Hajdúböszörmény in a decree of 12 February 2015 decided to stop the investigation because the act is not a criminal offence.

The Hajdúböszörmény Police Headquarters, in a decree issued 12 February 2015, decided to cease the investigation because the action is not a criminal act. On 12 July 2014, user J. B. shared a montage on his/her Facebook wall, referring to him/herself, with the text: *"This person does not recognize Israel as a state and does not believe in the legend of the Holocaust!"* The police identified the offender who admitted to have committed the criminal and, therefore the investigation documents were sent to the Hajdúböszörmény District Prosecutor's Office, with the proposal to bring the suspect to justice. The prosecution observed the proposal, but B. J. claimed in court that he/she did not deny the Holocaust as such, only doubted some actions connected to it. J. B. exposed in the second hearing at the Police Headquarters that he/she believes in the Holocaust, but does not believe in the connected and unfounded *"confusing writings like legends"*. The investigation established therefore that J. B. did not deny, doubt or trivialize the Holocaust as the genocide planned and directed by the German Nazi government and executed during WWII, therefore the state of facts was not realized. The Foundation reported on 26 February that the grammatical analysis of the phrase *"the legend of the Holocaust"* reveals the following: presenting the Holocaust as a legend, the offender distances the concept from

the objective reality it denotes, and questions its existence. It must also be noted that the offender uses Holocaust as a proper noun, and “legend” in the singular, referring to the entire event, and not to “unfounded confusing writings connected to it”. The criminal act has already been committed by making public this grammatically unequivocal statement. It is not changed by the fact that during the trial the defendant attributed to it a sense contrary to its grammatical meaning.

The Hajdúböszörmény District Prosecutor’s Office rejected the complaint in a decision dated 8 April 2015. According to the investigation authority, J. B.’s act was not a criminal offence because the suspect did not deny or doubt the Holocaust.

Complaint filed for public denial for the crimes of the Nazi regime moved

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 20 March the Foundation filed a complaint with the Budapest Police Headquarters for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against an unknown offender. On 16 March, the Foundation published an article entitled »Dismissal of Jobbik member desecrating the memory of the Chief Rabbi«, and posted it on its Facebook page as well. User M. T. wrote the following comment on 17 March under the Foundation’s Facebook post: “Where’s that Holocaust monument on the Danube bank? I’ve been looking for it for twenty years, but have not found it... and I can’t imagine the Jews using pickaxes on the Danube... because the Danube was quite frozen then... clip clop? Karinty guffaws in his grave... for he invented the whole story...” (literal translation) and “There are no Hungarian Jews... there’re either Jews, or Hungar-

ians... I’ve got nothing to do with their invented humbug Holocaust... What kind of people lives on its own dead even after 60 years? and they kill Palestinian children after their Holocaust?” (literal translation)

By a decision issued 9 April, the Budapest Police Headquarters moved the case to Budapest District V Police Headquarters for lack of jurisdiction and authority. The justification exposed that the state of facts is realized by the following parts of the comments: “I’ve got nothing to do with their invented humbug Holocaust...” and “Where’s that Holocaust monument on the Danube bank? Karinty guffaws in his grave... for he invented the whole story...” The meaning of the word “humbug” is deception, cheating, swindle, the use of which is enforced by the adjective “invented”, which thus presents the fact of the genocide as a lie. In addition, the “hoax” part of the term “holohoax” is a clear impeachment of the reality and significance of the genocide.

Investigation suspended in the case of M. D.

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 27 October 2014, the Foundation filed a complaint for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regimes against unknown offender. Facebook user M. D. shared two pictures on his/her timeline on 7 October 2014. One is a picture illustrating a desperate schoolgirl leaning over her books, with the text under it reading: “This Holocaust really got me: half of it is impossible, the other half a lie!” On the other one there is the inscription “This user hates the Jews and does not believe the legend of the Holocaust!” with an arrow pointing at the user’s profile picture.¹²

¹² The legal actions against D. M. and K. I. I. are independent from each other. The two cases are only similar in that both Facebook users shared both montages on their timeline.

Budapest District V Police Headquarters suspended the investigation in a decision dated 14 April 2015 because the identity of the offender was unknown. According to the justification, the actions of the unknown offender, the two shares, the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime are suitable to establish criminal offence. However, it was not possible to reveal any personal or physical evidence that would identify the offender.

TEV Foundation filed a complaint for the use of symbols of autocracy

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

The Foundation filed a complaint on 21 April for the use of symbols of autocracy¹³ against unknown offender at Budapest District V Police Headquarters.

An antique shop in District V offered for sale several objects named in the Criminal Code that fit the notion of symbols of autocracy, most of which were displayed in a separate window, in a place well visible to potential customers. The photos accompanying the complaint showed, among others: a seal ring with swastika, a seal ring with SS symbol, badges with the red star and the sickle and hammer sign, lighters and badges with the swastika, iron crosses, merit medals, and an SS-badge. The shop is located in one of the busiest parts of Budapest, near Váci Street. Due to the crowded area, many victims of both national socialist and communist regimes could visit the shop. It is important to note that some of the items are original relics coming from these regimes and some of

are imitations. Thus the fact and memory of the genocides and other crimes against mankind is directly connected to the mere meaning of these symbols. Based on all this, the action is realized in a way that offends the human dignity and right of piety of the victims of autocratic regimes.

The criminal offence is realized by distribution. The Criminal Code specifies that distribution covers public dissemination which means the selling, sending, handing over, lending, sharing or public display of badges or other carriers embodying the forbidden symbols. The law of criminal procedure stipulates that the court, the prosecutor and the investigation authority orders the seizure of the thing, information technology system, or media storage containing data recorded by such system which can be confiscated in the name of the law. The Criminal Code prescribes that the thing with which the criminal offence was committed, or which was used to transport that thing after the crime must be confiscated. On the basis of this, the Foundation required that the criminal objects be confiscated.

Indictment issued against Z. Sz.

Vác, Pest County

Source: TEV Foundation

The Foundation filed a complaint on 30 September 2013 for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. Facebook user Z. Sz. shared on his/her timeline a photo of Slomó Köves with the inscription: *“Terrorist Jew who lives in Hungary, and is a threat to the entire nation!”*, and added the comment *“There was no Holocaust, but there’s great need for it!”* to the post.

13 On the basis of paragraph 335 of the Criminal Code, who (a) distributes, (b) publicly uses or (c) publicly displays the swastika, SS symbol, arrow cross symbol, sickle-and-hammer, five pointed red star or any symbol displaying these in a way that is suitable to disturb public peace – especially in ways that harms the human dignity of right of piety of victims of autocratic regimes –, if no more serious offence is realized, is punished by prison for misdemeanor.

The Vác District Prosecutor's Office informed the Foundation on 21 April 2015 that an indictment was issued against Z. Sz. to the District Court of Vác.

Investigation stopped in the case of endangering public transportation

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 4 September, the TEV Foundation filed a complaint on behalf of a private person against an unknown offender, at Budapest District II Police Headquarters, for endangering public transportation and violence against a member of a community. On 2 September, B. D. was taking his child to school in District II. At 7.50 AM, B. D. crossed the crosswalk with his/her child respecting the rules of road traffic. When they were at the middle of the crosswalk, the driver of the car waiting at the crosswalk suddenly sped up. Hearing the sound, B. D. instinctively pulled his son, who escaped being hit by the car, but his elbow was hit by the side of the vehicle. After that the driver stopped the car, got off, ran after them and shoved the person in the back, who told the boy to run into the school. Then the offender stroke down his or her hat and stomped on it, then shook him and shouted "*how dares someone of your sort touch my car*". Since the bystanders came to the help of the offended party, the offender stopped, got into the car and drove away. The religion of the offended party was obvious from his clothing and outfit, for instance his beard and hat. In addition, as well known, in far-right slang the distinction "*my sort – your sort*" serves for differentiating Jewish and non-Jewish people. The use of this term coupled with shoving and shaking covers the fact of violence against the member of a community.

The Budapest Police Headquarters stopped the investigation with a decision on 23 April. In the

justification they informed that they initiated the procedure for endangering public transportation on the basis of the Criminal Code. On the basis of the above, Budapest District II Police Headquarters ordered investigations for the reasonable suspicion of the crime of vandalism. In the course of the procedure both the person crossing the street and the driver were interrogated. In their confession they gave completely different accounts of what happened. The crosser told the story presented above, while the driver blamed it on the heavy traffic, the unsure behaviour of the person, and the unsuccessful nonverbal communication that he stopped right on the crossing, for which reason the pedestrian hit the car with anger. The driver saw it in the rearview mirror, he had time to get off the car because of the traffic jam, and wanted to call him to account. The pedestrian repeatedly failed to react, then – in the driver's opinion – he became offensive, so he got frightened and instinctively raised his arm, with which he accidentally tossed off the pedestrian's hat to the ground. He felt that this conflict must be ended as soon as possible, so he picked up the hat, placed it on a nearby pillar, and left the scene.

The parties were confronted, but the settling of contradictions between them was unsuccessful. There was no third party involved, or no recording of surveillance camera. Based on the above, it is not possible to establish beyond doubt that another individual's bodily integrity was directly endangered due to the driver's intentional public transportation endangering behaviour, or that he had any intention thereof. The driver requested the authorities to call the other party to account for damaging, but damaging can only be committed intentionally, which is not confirmed by the pedestrian's confession. Because the facts are unclear, the investigation was ceased.

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.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Incident</i>	<i>Category</i>
1	1 April	Investigation suspended again in the case of Jobbik's organization of Nagyszénás	Official cases of TEV Foundation
2	2 April	Three young people suspected to vandalize the cemetery of Gyöngyös	Official and civil reactions
3	3 April	The Foundation filed a complaint in the case of I. I. K.	Official cases of TEV Foundation
4	5 April	70 Years' Grandchildren exhibition vandalized with paint spray	Other anti-Semitic hate crimes
5	6 April	Responses to the vandalization of the photo exhibition 70 Years' Grandchildren	Official and civil reactions
6	7 April	General Assemblies of IHRA held in Hungary	On anti-Semitism in Hungary
7	8 April	Complaint in the case of J. B. rejected	Official cases of TEV Foundation
8	9 April	Legal action initiated against Gergely Kulcsár	Official and civil reactions
9	9 April	Complaint filed for public denial for the crimes of the Nazi regime moved	Official cases of TEV Foundation
10	10 April	Holocaust memorial plaques in Csömör vandalized	Anti-Semitic hate crime: vandalism
11	10, 16 April	Legal proceedings initiated against a woman from Szeged for Holocaust denial	Official and civil reactions
12	12 April	Ronald S. Lauder: anti-Semitism harms the image of Hungary	On anti-Semitism in Hungary
13	12, 16 April	Holocaust memorial day commemorations	Other news
14	14 April	Investigation suspended in the case of M. D.	Official cases of TEV Foundation
15	15 April	Protests against the vandalized Holocaust memorial plaques	Official and civil reactions
16	15 April	Increasing number of anti-Semitic attacks worldwide	On anti-Semitism in Hungary
17	16 April	The Holocaust is a sensitive topic	Anti-Semitic hate crime: hate speech
18	18 April	Objects with symbols of autocracy sold in an antiquity shop	Anti-Semitic hate crime: hate speech

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Incident</i>	<i>Category</i>
19	19, 26 April	Commemorations at memorial places of former concentration camps	On anti-Semitism in Hungary
20	21 April	TEV Foundation filed a complaint for the use of symbols of autocracy	Official cases of TEV Foundation
21	21 April	Indictment issued against Z. Sz.	Official cases of TEV Foundation
22	22 April	Three people banned from the events of MLSZ	Official and civil reactions
23	23 April	Előd Novák called the mementos of commemoration “trash”	Anti-Semitic hate crime: hate speech
24	23 April	Investigation stopped in the case of endangering public transportation	Official cases of TEV Foundation
25	29 April	House of Fates	Community news and reactions

CONTACT AND SUPPORT



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

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

Notifications of such incidents are received by the Foundation through any of the following means:

HOTLINE
(+36 1) 510 00 00

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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