

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



October 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 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 identified five incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during October monitoring. One incident falls into the category of vandalism: a window of a shop in Harkány was broken because it featured a poster of a Star of David. APF classified the other four incidents as hate speech: football fans of Békéscsaba were shouting “*Filthy Jews!*” at a football match, a customer at the Mini Coop on Orczy street regularly Jew baits, locals at the Synagogue on Teleki square Jew baited, László Bogár detailed the Jews’ ambition for world domination during a theater performance. There was one other incident, which we did not include in our most recent statistics, because we do not know where that hate crime happened. We have included these incidents in the section titled Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents. We also report on a number of events in connection with the Holocaust in Hungary, as well as a number of incidents related to anti-Semitism.

APF filed no charges in October 2015. With regards to a denouncement filed in June 2014, APF was informed this month that police decided to pursue the matter as two separate cases. This meant the termination of investigation for one case and the suspension of investigation for the other.

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 incidents¹ 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 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 és McDevitt 1999, 92–93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19–21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17–18; Perry 2001, 10).

¹ See detailed definitions in the Methodology section.

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

that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs—such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor’s office—may be particularly beneficial². Reports prepared by civil organizations can be expedient in alerting the official authorities to hate motivated crimes in the country. Long-term tendencies can be outlined on the basis of the collected data. Civil organizations can help in setting particular cases on track for legal process, may provide legal defense for the victims, and give various other forms of aid. These organizations may also serve as intermediaries between the victims and the police (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 34–36).

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

METHODOLOGY



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring of these media channels is covered in part by a paid team of experts within a professional framework, 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 selfdefense, 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

October 2015



APF identified five incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during October monitoring. APF classified one incident as vandalism and four incidents as hate speech.

Vandalism

Shop featuring a Star of David vandalized

Harkány, Baranya county

Source: HVG

On 26 October, a shop in Harkány was vandalized. The owner of the shop had previously displayed a poster of a yellow Star of David with a “*Jude [Jewish]*” inscription in a window, as a sign of protest against Deputy Mayor of Harkány Ferenc Remmert⁹. The shop window was then broken at two separate places, a crossed-out Star of David was drawn on the window near the poster and a swastika was drawn on the windowsill.

Hate speech

Football supporters shouting

Békéscsaba, Békés county

Source: Sportmindig online site

The next match of the Hungarian National Championship (NB I) took place in Békéscsaba on

3 October. During the Békéscsaba—MTK match, supporters of Békéscsaba were shouting “*Filthy Jews, filthy Jews!*”. The organizers of the match did not intervene, and the police officers on site just “*smiled merrily*”.

Jew baiting in a grocery

Budapest, Orczy street

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 19 October, APF was informed through its hotline that in the Mini Coop on the corner of Orczy street and Rozgonyi street (8th district), a regular customer makes anti-Semitic remarks, e. g. “*You damn Jew*”, at another customer. Such remarks were made on 18 October, too. According to the insulted customer, the owner of the shop does not react to the remarks and tolerates the man’s hate speech.

Inhabitants of Teleki square complaining

Budapest, Teleki square

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 19 October, APF was notified that a number of inhabitants of an apartment building on Teleki square, where a house of worship operates, expressed their displeasure and/or Jew baited because of people gathering in the house of

⁹ Deputy Mayor of Harkány (Fidesz) Ferenc Remmert posted a picture on Facebook making fun of Hitler and refugees. After a day or two, he deleted his post and said in his defense that he had been inattentive and had only posted the picture by mistake.

worship. There were numerous occasions when such expressions were made, especially during Jewish festivities. The last time was the weekend before the notification.

A woman living on the second floor takes every opportunity to Jew bait loudly, and she usually shouts at children in the hallway. Once she pushed back a child when a group of children was entering the building and she was trying to leave. At a Jewish festivity last year, a police officer was standing at the gate when the lady went along the ground floor and shut the gate, while loudly Jew baiting. The police officer asked the witness — a member of the community — whether he or she wants to file a complaint because the woman had disturbed an announced event.

A couple living above the house of worship is also hostile to people going to the synagogue to pray. On a weekday afternoon, the man from the couple entered the house of worship and demanded that prayers are stopped because his pregnant partner could not relax. During a Jewish festival that lasted several days, the couple once opened their window — although was only 14 degrees outside — and listened to Arabic music. On another day, they listened to death metal. The pregnant woman also took a video of some members of the community, without their permission, as they were building a tent.

“Truth” revealed in the theater

Budapest, Paulay Ede street

Source: Index

On 24 October, a journalist of Index wrote that he or she saw the theater performance titled Pénzfolyó (Money river) in Újszínház on 21 October. The performance featured actor György Dörner, economist László Bogár, and the Hungaro band.

László Bogár explained he shall start the train of thought at the fact that a few thousand years ago, there was a nation at the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea that realized how to conquer the world. According to Bogár, the nation had three secrets, which he revealed. These People — whose name the performers could not say for some reason, according to their own account — realized that they need to concentrate trade under their commands, because trade is the movement of goods. Then they need to bring money under their rule, because finance is the movement of *“symbolic goods”*. And finally, they need to rule the media, because it is where the symbols of symbols move. Some other arguments also backed the secrets. Bogár explained that one of the most important narratives of the Bible in this regard is the cleansing of the Temple, when Jesus expels the money changers from the Temple. It is because all three secrets: trade, money and media are present in this narrative.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS



APF identified one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime during October monitoring, which we did not include in our most recent statistics, because we were unable to determine where the incidents occurred.

Jew baiting on Facebook

Hungary or Romania

Source: VS.hu

On 20 October, VS.hu published an article about the Facebook posts and comments of a Szekler Self-Determination Council founder Károly Csiby.

On 13 October, Csiby posted on Facebook that Fanni Faludy auctions off her deceased husband's

— the poet, writer and literary translator György Faludy's — memorabilia. Csiby made the following comment to the post: *“Poor Jewish bitch. She must be starving. And so she has to sell the »legacies« of the old Jewish trickster, who was 63 years older than her... Oy vey!”* (verbatim quote)

On 15 October, he shared an English article titled *“International Red Cross Report Confirms the Holocaust of Six Million Jews is a Hoax”*. The introduction of the article states that only 271 thousand people died. Csiby entered the following comment to the article: *“Oy vey! Only 271 thousand instead of the holohoax of six million?”*.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES



Righteous Among the Nations awards and Badges of Courage

Budapest

Source: MTI

The Righteous Among the Nations awards¹⁰ and the Badges of Courage¹¹ were given on 29 October. Minister of Interior Sándor Pintér said at the event that he “*will not let go of his citizens’ hands any more*”, it is his duty to protect his people from murderous intents, from external enemies and internal betrayals. The minister highlighted that we have to take action against all efforts that jeopardize the democratic society. “*We cannot and we do not tolerate if anyone is labeled, humiliated, or maltreated because of their ethnic or religious origins*”. He recalled that already at the arrival in office in 2010, the government’s standpoint was that extremist expressions have to be turned down and this is why they developed their zero tolerance policy. Pintér also said that our duty and mission is to prevent the repetition of events that took place at the time of the Holocaust. He believes that the vast majority of Hungarians condemn those who follow or support anti-Semitic, racist and exclusionary notions, or notions that incite hatred.

Israel’s Ambassador to Hungary Ilan Mor stressed that Europe has come far since the atrocities of the Shoah, but “*freedom is in danger again*”. He stated that the toleration and rationalization of anti-Semitism are unacceptable. Not only does the reemerging hatred against the Jews and Israel endanger Jewish communities, but it also threatens the notions of democracy, liberty, equality and pluralism all over the world. The Ambassador believed that the ceremony reminded us that when we encounter either a slight or a severe manifestation of anti-Semitism, racism or injustice, we must not give up the fight or stay silent. We have to speak up, face hatred and “*by sympathizing with others, we will triumph in the end*”.

Ödön Mózsai, András and Julianna Ács, their daughter Margit, Katalin Csáki, Alajos Balla, Rozália Bozsik, István Gedei, Ervinné Gosztonyi, Tiborné Nemes, Margit Vági, József Víg and his wife, Mária were awarded posthumously at the event.

10 The Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem — according to an adoption of law by the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament in 1953 — awards the Righteous Medal to those non-Jews who saved the lives of Jews during the Holocaust. A commission, headed by the judge of the Supreme Court in Israel, consists of public personalities, and their task is to prove that rescuers voluntarily risked their freedom, safety and lives on territories controlled by the Germans or their allies, and did not act in order to receive any form of compensation.

11 The Badge of Courage was established by the Ministry of Interior in 1992, and it is awarded to people working at agencies under the control of the Minister of Interior or other private individuals, for their outstanding performance and especially courageous conduct in situations with imminent threat of physical integrity.

(source: <http://www.kozlonyok.hu/nkonline/MKPDF/hiteles/MK12104.pdf>)

Sándor Pintér said that since 1995, it has been a tradition that Hungarians who received the Righteous Medal are also awarded the Badge of Courage for their heroic and courageous performance.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES



Loránt Hegedűs reproved

Miskolc, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county

Source: Átlátszó

On 3 November 2013, reformed pastor Loránt Hegedűs inaugurated a Horthy bust during a church service in the Homecoming Church on Szabadság square. Further information about the event may be found in our report titled »*Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes and Incidents in Hungary during the May 2013–April 2014 period*«.

On 19 October 2015, Átlátszó online portal wrote that there were calls on both the Facebook page of the Homecoming Church and the Facebook page of Loránt Hegedűs' wife, Jobbik politician Lorántné Hegedűs. These calls invited everyone to stand up "*with dignity, in the spirit of Hungarian Christian brotherhood, for 'the pastor of the nation', as audience in his show trial*" (verbatim quote). A second instance trial of the repeated disciplinary proceedings was held on 20 October 2015 in the Bishop's Office of the Tiszáninnen Reformed Diocese.

Budapest-North Reformed Diocese convicted Loránt Hegedűs on 7 March 2014. In July 2014, Court of the Tiszáninnen Reformed Diocese annulled the verdict because Budapest-North Diocese had made a severe procedural error. In addition to the annulment decision, a new procedure was initiated in the first instance, and

Egervölgy Reformed Diocese was appointed to conduct the proceedings. Átlátszó did not manage to gain access to the first instance verdict either officially or informally.

On 29 October 2015, Átlátszó wrote that on 20 October, Tiszáninnen Reformed Diocese approved the 9 June 2015 decision of Egervölgy Diocese. The decision laid down "*reformed pastor Loránt Hegedűs' disciplinary liability*¹² *for misconduct and he therefore received a written reprimand*". Justification stated that Hegedűs was not prepared to hold church service, the preaching had no biblical message and it only served the preacher's (Loránt Hegedűs') individual targets. The preacher made value judgments in his preaching, while not paying enough attention to the content of his words. Tiszáninnen Diocese clarified that "*this church service [on 3 November 2013] did not denote Christ, or the redeeming love of God through Christ's cross, nor did it denote faith and unconditional trust in him, or his example, but denoted a man.*" Loránt Hegedűs' following words were also deemed unworthy of a pulpit: "*Yes, we had a governor who took firm action and who called this sinful city to account. His actions were tough and determined, and he was right. [...] The crucial question is not whether one can erect a statue to Miklós Horthy. The crucial question is where you, my dear brother, stand? Now, here and now, do you or not condemn anti-life actions? Do you or not justify the terror state of Israel? Do you or not confirm Shimon Peres' blaming*

¹² Based on point (f) of Article 30 of Act I of 2000 on Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in the Reformed Church, all actions and defaults constitute misconducts that are contrary to pure ethics in evangelic terms, harm the prestige of the assigned post in the church, reduce the credibility of the church, or may undermine the trust necessary for the assigned post.

declaration? We are going to stand the heritage of the governor and fight for our people, fight for the restoration of sovereignty in Hungary, and fight for Hungarian Christianity to remain and serve for the glory of God. Amen.”

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY



Hungarian politicians spoke at the European Commission's meeting

Brussels, Belgium

Source: MTI

The European Commission hosted a two-day human rights conference on actions against anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. The theme of the event was: »*Tolerance and respect: preventing and combating antisemitic and anti-Muslim hatred in Europe*«. Some Hungarian politicians spoke on the second day of the event, on 2 October.

According to the Ministry of Justice, Minister of State for Cooperation in European and International Affairs of the Ministry of Justice, Barna Berke, described provisions against hate speech in the Fundamental Law of Hungary and the Hungarian Criminal Code. The minister highlighted certain provisions of the Fundamental Law, which state that the right to freedom of speech may not be exercised with the aim of violating the dignity of the Hungarian nation or of any national, ethnic, racial or religious community, and that racist, anti-Semitic and other prejudicial intents constitute aggravating circumstances when imposing penalties. Berke mentioned that the Standing Orders of the Parliament also sanction hate speech, and that the government applies zero tolerance to anti-Semitism. "*Legislative changes in recent years have also reacted strongly to the actions of certain paramilitary organizations that provoke fear*", he added.

MEP (KDNP) György Hölvényi warned that the European Union should pay attention to anti-Christian incidents as well, as in addition to Jewish and Muslim communities, Christians are increasingly becoming victims because of their religion and beliefs.

With regards to the conference, MEP (MSZP) Tibor Szanyi released an official statement and stressed that it is also important to decrease discrimination against people of no religion.

Following the colloquium, State Secretary for EU Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office Szabolcs Takács told MTI by phone that attacks against European Jewish communities at the beginning of the year gave the grounds for this first annual conference on fundamental rights. He mentioned that not only did he represent the Hungarian government at the conference, but also the IHRA by being the Chair of the alliance for 2015. He told MTI that by teaching and researching the Holocaust, the IHRA's aim is to contribute to the fight against anti-Semitism. Takács also talked about the actions of the Hungarian government, highlighting for example the introduction of Holocaust education, the observation of Holocaust Remembrance Day, and the Wallenberg Memorial Year.

OTHER NEWS



Academic forum in Budapest

Budapest

Source: MTI

Starting on 20 October, the Hungarian National University of Public Service (NUPS) hosted a two-day long Israel-Hungary academic forum with the theme »*Science and State-Building*« in Budapest. A mutual agreement about the development of bilateral academic and scientific cooperation, called the »*Ludovika memorandum*«, was signed at the forum.

In his opening speech, Israel's Ambassador to Hungary, Ilan Mor, stressed that the relationship between two countries is defined by the relationship between the people, and that is why academic cooperation is also important. Politics should be conducted by politicians, others should focus on relationships and cooperation between different societies, because that is the way one can effectively fight against prejudice, anti-Semitism, and racism.

Colleen Bell's disapproval

Budapest

Source: Népszabadság

On 28 October, United States Ambassador to Hungary, Colleen Bell, gave a speech about US-Hungary relations at Corvinus University of Budapest. The Ambassador expressed the concerns the US has about Hungary. However, she welcomed the fact that the Hungarian government objects to the erection of the Bálint Hóman statue, as Hóman supported "*some of the most destructive anti-Semitic laws*" before WWII.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS



Separation of a case: public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime and incitement against a community — final decisions taken

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 17 June 2014, APF filed a complaint against the editor of the Facebook profile Magyarország Szerelmesei és Felszabadítói (Lovers and Liberators of Hungary) and B. B. private individual, for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime and incitement against a community. In June 2014, the editor of the profile Magyarország Szerelmesei és Felszabadítói published a written piece under the title »*JEWISH INVASION IN DEBRECEN!!! (new line) GOD AND VIRGIN MURDERER JEWS HAVE ORVERRUN THE CIVIC CITY!!!*« (verbatim title). According to APF, the following sentence of the communication is in violation of the law against public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime: *“The terrorist Jews are holding a conference in Debrecen about how Hungarian society is still not willing to believe the compulsive Holofoax pushed by the Holocaust industry!!!”* Among the comments entered under the post, it was a sentence by B. B. that was a crime of incitement against a community, with: *“Murderous race! Must be exterminated!”*. According to APF, a single procedure to rule on the matter is expedient, as the factual basis of the two criminal offenses are connected.

On 6 October 2015, BRFK Department of Criminal Investigations informed APF that the

cases had been separated. Decisions dated 6 October 2015 were brought to both cases.

Investigations into incitement against a community were terminated. The Prosecutor’s Office of Budapest District 5 and 13, which supervised the investigation, agreed with the decision. It was concluded that individuals who entered comments under the virtual post (B. B. private individual with a Facebook profile among them) did not commit a crime, because their expressions did not aim to incite such hatred that provoke actions. The unfavorable, offensive, shocking, or emotive expressions were not able to inflame such passion in a large public that would incite hatred and lead to the violation of social order and public peace.

Investigations into public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime were suspended. The individual who had published the written piece could not be identified by the data that was available on Facebook (*“MATT after MTI”* was provided as signature). The BRFK Department of Criminal Investigations turned to the International Crime Cooperation Authority (NEBEK) to be able to gain more information about the individual (IP address, uploaded data) and identify him or her. NEBEK however, informed BRFK that they could only contact the appointed units of foreign law enforcement authorities in the event of international police cooperation. NEBEK is not able to trace private individuals or legal entities, and according to their official knowledge, internet service companies of the US, like Facebook, do not provide data to foreign police authorities.

These companies only deliver data following the order of a competent US court. The Facebook Law Enforcement Response Team (LERT) did not respond to the BRFK's direct request either. In addition, Facebook regulations state that they only retain information for a year, and the piece in question was uploaded in June 2014.

Verdicts in Slomó Köves' defamation case

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 30 September 2013, Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH), Slomó Köves, informed on unknown culprits at the Pest Central District Court for defamation. A user called F. D. posted a photo of Slomó Köves on his or her Facebook page on 4 September 2013. A caption on the photo said: "*Jewish terrorist living in Hungary and posing a threat to the whole Hungarian nation!*" (verbatim quote). Between 5 and 16 September, 37 other people shared the photo on Facebook. The 25 June 2015 order of the Pest Central District Court terminated the prosecution of T. Cz., the first accused of defamation, because Slomó Köves — through his representative — dropped the charges in a submission to the trial after T. Cz. apologized in front of the court.

A second trial was held on 15 October 2015. The attorney representing some of the defendants expressed that the word '*terrorist*' in the given context was simply an opinion, which any public figure shall endure. The attorney stressed that even Cardinal Péter Erdő could be called a terrorist. He also claimed that Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves wanted to gain special rights for the Jews by this lawsuit. The court considered it proven that the defamatory pictures were posted by the defendants, since Facebook accounts may only be accessed with the right usernames and passwords, and the above-mentioned picture was available on the defendants' walls for a long time. Decisions, non-binding for the time being, were reached at the trial. According to the verdict, all defendants were released on a one-year probation and were obliged to pay the expenses. The judge's justification expressed that although executive rabbi Slomó Köves could be considered a public figure, there must be a distinction between different public figures. A politician who appears in the press daily is not the same as a church leader who only takes part in certain social debates, and therefore, they do not have the same tolerance thresholds. Calling someone a terrorist who poses a threat to the nation crosses the line and it is beyond what anyone should tolerate.

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	2 October	Hungarian politicians spoke at the European Commission's meeting	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
2	3 October	Football supporters shouting	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech
3	6 October	Separation of a case: public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime and incitement against a community – final decisions taken	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions
4	13, 15 October	Jew baiting on Facebook	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
5	15 October	Verdicts in Slomó Köves' defamation case	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions
6	18 October	Jew baiting in a grocery	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech
7	19 October	Inhabitants of Teleki square complaining	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech
8	20 October	Loránt Hegedűs reproved	Official and Civil Responses
9	20 October	Academic forum in Budapest	Other News
10	21 October	" <i>Truth</i> " revealed in the theater	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Hate Speech
11	26 October	Shop featuring a Star of David vandalized	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Vandalism
12	28 October	Colleen Bell's disapproval	Other News
13	29 October	Righteous Among the Nations awards and badges of Courage	Community News and Responses

CONTACT AND SUPPORT



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

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

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

HOTLINE

(+36 1) 51 00 000

The website of Action and Protection Foundation:

www.tev.hu/forrodrot

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

[vedelem-alapitvany](https://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:

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2015 Budapest

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