

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT



March 2016



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 (APF) identified three incidents of anti-Semitic hate

crime during March monitoring. APF classified one incident as vandalism. A hung Star of David appears on the wall of Árpád-kilátó (lookout) in the Buda Hills. One incident falls into the category of threat. On the website of Betyársereg (Army of Highwaymen), a picture appears of three men (including the leader of the organization Zsolt Tyirityán) pointing at an individual wearing a T-shirt with *“Zyklon B”* printed on it. Zyklon B was the gas used in the concentration camps to kill victims. The third incident is classified as hate speech. Zsolt Bayer’s series of articles contains numerous statements that may be interpreted as anti-Semitic expressions. There were three other incidents, which we did not include in our most recent statistics, because the anti-Semitic intention cannot be proved. 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.

In March 2016, APF pressed charges on two occasions for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime. K. L. V. used the term *“holohoax”* in a Facebook comment he submitted. B. F. also committed the crime of Holocaust denial in a public post on Facebook. In May 2015, APF filed charges against an antique shop in downtown Budapest for selling objects with totalitarian symbols. In March 2016, the 5th District Police Department rejected the charges due to lack of criminal offense. In February 2014, APF pressed charges against Jobbik local councilor of Debrecen Tibor Ágoston for public denial of

the crimes committed by the Nazi regime. On 30 March 2016, the Court of Debrecen reached a final decision and fined the councilor HUF 750,000, which he may pay in monthly installments of HUF 50,000.

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

March 2016



APF identified three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during March monitoring. APF classified the incidents as vandalism, threat, and hate speech.

Vandalism

Gallows with a hung Star of David on Árpád-kilátó

Budapest

Source: Forró Drót — an individual's Facebook page

On 13 March 2016, APF received information that someone shared a photo on Facebook showing a gallows and a hung Star of David drawn on the wall of Árpád-kilátó.



Gallows with a hung Star of David on Árpád-kilátó, *Source: an individual's Facebook page*

Threat

Threatening photo on the website of Betyársereg
Budapest

Source: Betyársereg.hu

On 8 March 2016, a new photo appeared on the website of Betyársereg. The photo depicts leader of the organization Zsolt Tyirityán and two other people surrounding a fourth individual (presumably all members of Betyársereg). The group is pointing at the “Zyklon B” printing on his T-shirt. Zyklon B was the gas used in the concentration camps to kill victims, so the aim of the photo is clearly to provoke fear.



Photo on the website of Betyársereg, *Source: Betyársereg.hu*

Hate speech*Zsolt Bayer's series of articles about the Jews*

Budapest

Source: nol.hu

We wrote about the first of Zsolt Bayer's series of articles in the section titled Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents of our February 2016 report. The series is titled »Intolerable«. In March 2015, another 15 articles were published in Magyar Hírlap. The writings contain numerous anti-Semitic expressions, the majority of which reappear a number of times in the series. For instance, Bayer demonizes Jewish people, he identifies the offenders of the Red Terror during the Hungarian Soviet Republic with Jews, and refers to them as Jews. His anti-Semitic prejudice is exacerbated by claiming that Jews rule the world from the background, and they have control over Hungarian collective memory as well. He says Jews "magnify" the crimes committed against Jewish people, and they "pardon" "Jewish crimes". Bayer relativizes the Holocaust on multiple occasions: he justifies the introduction of the numerus clausus, he does not mind if a street is named after a man who encouraged the killings of the Jews, he describes anti-Semitism and Nazism as phenomena that are "masked" as though they were "uniquely terrible". He says the encouragement to kill Jewish people is just an "allegation" of anti-Semitism. Although Bayer cannot be taken to court for his articles, we do believe his writings are classified as hate speech. The following is a non-exhaustive list of Bayer's anti-Semitic statements.

»Intolerable (3)« — 1 March

"Right. This is exactly the reason why it is time we asked the question why we are surprised. If »Jews« invaded a farmer's village, beat the priest, the judge

and everyone they did not like to death, or hanged them from lamp posts, threatened to turn the village church into a cinema, why are we at all surprised that this simple farmer would feel »no compassion« twenty years later when gendarmerie officers take the Jews away from the village? This is important when we ponder the question of anti-Semitism, and it poses further questions. For example, who can have a statue in this country and who can make such a decision."

»Intolerable (10)« — 9 March

"In other words, sins and virtues are judged and condemned on the grounds of race, as if it was important. As if it was the most important matter. Important in a way that Jewish heritage is an excuse for crimes, while crimes committed against the Jews are considered aggravating factors. Victims of Nazism (mainly Jewish people) object that Nazi crimes are compared to communist crimes because such comparison would decrease the level of their martyrdom and question the uniqueness and singularity of their sufferings. Yet, these crimes are usually put on the same platform, regardless the fact that there is no connection between them. On the other hand, it is important to highlight that the victims of Nazism and the communist offenders have a rather large common subset, and that is the Jews. This may give grounds to my starting allegation that origin is an important issue with regards to the development of collective memory and the judgment of crimes, and Jewish origin is an excuse for crimes, while crimes committed against the Jews are aggravating circumstances."

»Intolerable (11)« — 10 March

"So let's face facts. The numerus clausus does not in any way refer to Jewish people, it only mentions different nationalities in Hungary. Let's not forget that in 1928 Bethlen — as a response to an increasing international pressure — repealed the parts of the

law which concerned the Jews. [...] Nonetheless, it was important to make sure that the proportion of students of different nationalities were equal to, but at least nine-tenths of, the proportion of people of the same nationalities or ethnic groups living in the country at the time. (Act XXV of 1920) [...] Still, no one mentions these measures along with the numerous clauses principle, and it is because of the double standards applied. Crimes committed against the Jews are exceptional and unpardonable, while crimes committed against non-Jews (especially when the offenders are Jewish) should be understood, forgotten and not brought up (»put the past behind! «).

»Intolerable (12)« — 11 March

“In 1956, when Arthur Miller was brought before the House of Un-American Activities Committee, he said the following (quoted and translated from László Lengyel: *Írástudók felelősége?*): »I was probably one of the few Americans who did actually hear Ezra Pound speaking on the radio in fascist Italy once. I thought I was listening to an American radio channel until the speaker started talking about why it was necessary to kill the Jews. His voice was so calm that first I was convinced I was just listening to a desperate comedian making some terrible and inappropriate jokes. Yet, as he carried on talking with his overwhelming enthusiasm, I had to realize he was serious. I was horrified. Europe, — he described happily — which consists of closely related nations, could easily solve its problems on its own. Only the Jews are to blame for this war, they had vowed to take revenge on the Christians, and take control of the

world in the meantime. Hitler, thank God, came up with the only solution, he was wise to realize that he had to exterminate this lousy nation for good.«

A number of cities have streets commemorating Ezra Pound in Italy, there are streets named after him in Rome, Lecce and Tirol. Castle Brunnenburg, which used to serve as Pound's residence, is situated in Tirol and it houses an Ezra Pound collection open for visitors today. There is a commemorative plaque on the building in London where the poet once lived, and there is a restaurant named after him in Perth, Australia.

Pound is just one example to show it is possible to separate one's greatness, talent and lifework from their political engagement! And it is possible to be great and talented despite being accused of anti-Semitism, fascism and Nazism.”

»Intolerable (18)« — 19 March

“Confession or denial of past incidents depends on one's motivation, and there is only one thing that motivates these false and biased policies of collective memory, language policy and the writing of official records. This motivation is to deny and conceal the crimes of communism, or if they cannot be denied or concealed, one shall make up excuses for them at least. Make up excuses, explanations and create understanding, and the most understanding and exemption shall be granted to Jewish offenders. Crimes of non-Jewish offenders and crimes against the Jews shall therefore be masked unique, exceptional, terrible and unforgettable.”

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS



APF identified three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crimes during March monitoring, which we did not include in our most recent statistics. Anti-Semitic intention of the first incident is probable but cannot be proved. With regards to the second incident, it is not clear what the anti-Semitic statements were about, and how serious they were. We do not know whether the third incident was motivated by anti-Semitic intention, or if it was a result of ignorance or misunderstanding.

Jobbik: “instead of, or besides, the display case of the Holocaust, there should be room for all the sufferings and revivals of the Hungarian nation”

Budapest

Source: MTI

On 15 March 2016, members of the New Hungarian Guard (Új Magyar Gárda) stood lines when Jobbik laid wreathes at the statue of Sándor Petőfi. Regional director of Jobbik in Budapest, János Stummer said that instead of the House of Fates (Sorsok Háza), a House of Hungarian Fates should be established at the same location, where *“instead of, or besides, a display case of the Holocaust, there should be room for all the sufferings and revivals of the Hungarian nation”*.

Jew-baiting at a 15 March ceremony

Budapest

Source: index.hu

Index published an article entitled *»Rainy celebration and demonstration«*. On 16 March

2016, a comment was submitted to the article saying *“Jew-baiting and »Orbán-get-out«-ing on Kecskeméti street”* (literal translation). Author of the comment, Spirk Joe, reported that there were two groups of demonstrators. People from one side were shouting *“Orbán, get out”*, while as a response from the other side *“some pensioners Jew-baited, but that was about all the interaction they had”*.

Story of the shoes on the Danube bank from a specific viewpoint

Budapest

Source: lobu.hu

On 13 March 2016, the Life of Budapest website presented the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial. The article includes numerous misinterpretations and distortions of history. The text is the following: *“Most of the tourists have no idea why those shoes are on the bank of the Danube. The majority of people look surprised when they see the shoes, as they do not know why they are there. We will tell you now how and why the shoes got there! Up until Ferenc Szálasi’s government took office, anti-Semitism was not supported in Hungary, but this changed completely between 1944 and 1945. The Arrow Cross Party was committed to Germany, therefore hundreds of thousands of Jews were deported from Hungary, and about 8,000 were ruthlessly killed (many were shot to the Danube). Approximately another 10,000 Jews fell victims of bombings, diseases or hunger. On 8 January 1945, members of the Arrow Cross Party took another 154 people to the Danube bank, but an employee of the Swedish Embassy, Károly Szabó*

finally said »enough« to the incidents and freed the people who, by then, had been turned to face the river. It is important to mention that some of these people later won Nobel prizes, and some became well-known doctors and teachers!.”

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES



A new Holocaust memorial in Békéscsaba

Békéscsaba, Békés County

Source: magyaridők.hu

On 8 March 2016, chairman of the board of trustees at the Békés Megyei Zsidóságért Alapítvány (Foundation for the Jewish Community in Békés County) György Goldman announced that a memorial wall will have been built by the beginning of June. The wall will commemorate victims from Békéscsaba and Békés County who were killed in the Second World War. Approximately 5,000 Jews were deported from Békés County in 1944, and about 3,000 of them were killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau. According to official data, 1902 out of the 2200 Jews from Békéscsaba were killed in the concentration camp. György Goldman mentioned that 2950 names will appear on the memorial wall, names which already appear on some other memorials in Békés County will not be gravated on this one. The majority of the almost 2,000 survivors left Hungary after the war ended, only few people stayed in Békés County. Today, only Békéscsaba has a small Jewish community in the region.

Nobel laureate Imre Kertész dies at 86

Budapest

Source: MTI

On 31 March 2016, Hungarian novelist and Nobel laureate died aged 86 after a long illness. Kertész

was born in Budapest on 9 November 1929. At the age of 14, he was deported to Auschwitz on 30 June 1944, and on to the Buchenwald concentration camp. He returned to Hungary after the liberation of the camps in 1945. Some of the works he wrote between 1955 and 1961 were included in his debut novel, *Fateless*, written between 1960 and 1973. In the 1980s, he made his living from writing and translating literary works, but he only became successful after the change of regime in Hungary. His works were appreciated in German speaking territories as well. In 2002, Kertész was the first Hungarian to win the Nobel literature prize. The Swedish Academy said the prize was “*for writing that upholds the fragile experience of the individual against the barbaric arbitrariness of history*”. Released in 1975, *Fateless* is still one of the most moving and genuine novels about the Holocaust. Imre Kertész was awarded the Attila József Prize in 1989, and the Kossuth Prize in 1997. He also received the Leipzig Book Fair Prize and the Budapest Grand Prize. He presented the Herder Prize in 2000, and was awarded the German Legion of Honor a year later. In 2002, Kertész became honorary citizen of Budapest. He was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary and the Goethe Prize in 2003. He was awarded an honorary degree by the Sorbonne in 2004 and by the Freie Universität in 2005. In 2014, he received the Order of Saint Stephen of Hungary.



Young Imre Kertész, *Source: index.hu*

Reactions to the death of the author are detailed in the section titled “*Official and Civil Responses*”.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES



The Hungarian government condemns the theft of the menorah

Zalaegerszeg, Zala County

Source: MTI

On 1 March 2016, the Prime Minister's Office condemned the theft of the menorah from the Holocaust memorial in Zalaegerszeg. We wrote about the incident in the section titled "*Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents*" of our February report. On the weekend of 27-28 February 2016, unknown persons stole the menorah from the Holocaust memorial in Zalaegerszeg. The Police Headquarters of Zala County ordered an investigation "*into low value theft of an object of religious worship*" against an unknown individual. The official statement of the Prime Minister's Office said they were shocked to hear about the incident, and they found it unacceptable that any memorials of Hungarian history are barbarically vandalized or desecrated. The statement highlighted that the Hungarian government applies zero tolerance against anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia. They also said the amended criminal code has declared that violence against a member of a community, incitement against a community and public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime are criminal offenses, like they had been before.

Sentence for the use of Nazi symbols

Székesfehérvár, Fejér County

Source: MTI

On 10 March 2016, the Court of Székesfehérvár found a man guilty of the use of totalitarian

symbols. The convict, who was wearing a coat with an SS badge at the »*Outbreak Day*« ceremony in Székesfehérvár on 6 February, was sentenced to one year probation. The accused person and the prosecutor took note of the decision, the defense lawyer filed an appeal. We detailed the incidents of the Outbreak Day ceremony in Székesfehérvár in the sections titled "*Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents*" and "*Official and Civil Responses*" of our February report. On 6 February, members of the New Hungarian Guard (Új Magyar Gárda), the Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement (Hatvannégyszög Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom) and Betyársereg (Army of Highwaymen) participated in the commemoration ceremony. Organizers invited former member of the Waffen-SS Klaus Grotjahn, who excused himself from the event because of his health conditions, but he later told his speech privately in Kisbér. Initially, Jobbik and its vice-president Előd Novák appeared in the description of the event on Facebook. Later, however, neither the political party nor Novák were named on the invitation. Novák canceled his participation saying he "*was surprised to see the program of the event*", by which he probably referred to the SS veteran Klaus Grotjahn.

The Székesfehérvár Tribunal told MTI that it was the Székesfehérvár Regional Prosecution and Investigation Office that brought the suspect with clean criminal record to court. On 12 February, investigators arrested the man, who confessed he had worn a Nazi German uniform with an SS-badge on it at the event. The SS-badge is considered a totalitarian symbol. The suspect was at the front

of the march wearing this uniform when they were walking along the high street (Fő utca) of Székesfehérvár. The act appears to have disturbed public peace, the police station received multiple notices criticizing the event. The diocese and the municipality of Székesfehérvár both distanced themselves from the event. The council of the city objected that “*extreme and inflammatory*” events are held in Székesfehérvár. MSZP pressed charges for “*collective crime committed in Székesfehérvár*”. Demokratikus Koalíció deeply condemned the “*shame*” that took place in the city. Leaders of several other political parties and Jewish organizations contacted Minister of Interior Sándor Pintér and expressed their outrage that such events may be held without consequences in democratic Hungary in 2016.



Outbreak Day ceremony in Székesfehérvár, Source: budapestbeacon.com

Stolpersteins now allowed in Debrecen

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: 444.hu, mazsihisz.hu

On 9 March, mayor of Debrecen Dr László Papp revised his former decision and granted permission for civilians to lay stolpersteins commemorating victims of the Holocaust. The mayor explained he had changed his mind because Jewish leaders had asked him, and he stressed that the matter of the Jews “*not only in words but also in deeds is of utmost importance*” to Debrecen.



Stolperstein on Frankel Leó Street, Budapest 2nd district. 10×10 cm. Photo: Fekist/Wikipedia, Source: 444.hu

Plan of Kecskemét: Street named after Albert Wass instead of József Nyirő

Kecskemét, Bács-Kiskun County

Source: NOL.hu

According to an official opinion requested from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, no public place may be named after József Nyirő in Hungary. Therefore, the street named after him in Kecskemét shall also be renamed — Népszabadság published on 23 March. The general assembly of Kecskemét city council discussed the renaming of several public places, including the lane named after József Nyirő. The two options available to rename the lane was after Antal Jakab (1909-1993, Catholic Bishop from Transylvania and colleague of bishop Áron Márton), and writer Albert Wass.

APF has initiated the renaming of József Nyirő streets at a number of locations in Hungary. Not only do we find the Antal Jakab option acceptable, but we also support it. However, the option to rename any one of these streets after Albert Wass is

absolutely unacceptable. The Foundation believes that “[a]lthough Albert Wass may not be officially listed among the people who participated in the establishment and operation of a totalitarian system, he was indeed a notorious far-right supporter and anti-Semitic.”

Reactions from public figures and political parties to Imre Kertész’s death

Budapest

Source: MTI, MNO.hu

We reported in the section titled “*Community News and Responses*” that Imre Kertész Nobel laureate died in his Budapest home on 31 March 2016. The section also detailed his life’s work.

Reactions to his death came from public figures, political parties and abroad. President of Hungary, János Áder, stated “*Kertész’s works spoke of the desire for freedom and happiness. Everyone could be grateful for the author’s courage and consistent honesty. He saw with a clear eye the nature of dictatorships and their »irrational times« like no other. He knew that in the absence of freedom, it was only possible to bear life with a free soul. He taught us not to forget our difficult past, because it forms part of our common fate.*”

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán was in Washington at the time. He wrote a letter to the Kertész family saying “*History has taught us to look to the future through the lens of the past. Reading Kertész’s novels, the whole of mankind can see life in a different light. Through his world-famous novel [Fateless], he showed that no tyranny may suppress man’s desire for life and freedom, his work gifted Hungary with the most prestigious literary prize.*”

On behalf of the Hungarian government, Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office János Lázár expressed his condolences on Kormányinfó. Fidesz, KDNP, MSZP, DK and LMP were the Hungarian political parties which reacted to the novelist’s death. We did not find any statements or reactions from Jobbik (the radical party had opposed that Imre Kertész might receive a state award).

A commemoration ceremony was held in the Petőfi Literary Museum, where contemporary writers gave readings. International reactions included messages from the President of the European Commission Jean Claude Juncker, the President of the Bundestag, the German and Austrian Ministers of Culture, the German press, French newspapers and the Israeli media.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY



Hungary handed over the chairmanship of the IHRA to Romania

Berlin, Germany; Budapest

Source: MTI

On 8 March, Hungary handed over the chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) to Romania in Berlin, the seat of the organization. Minister of State for EU Affairs, Szabolcs Takács, who managed the work of the Hungarian chairmanship as chair of the IHRA, told MTI that *“The role of Hungary in the IHRA presented a great honor. The period of the chairmanship is considered a success in the history of the organization, which tries to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and promote scientific research and education related to the Holocaust.”* The minister highlighted that they *“managed to increase the levels of »visibility« and awareness of the IHRA, and they succeeded to prevent that the new EU data protection regulation would limit the access to the archives in connection with the Holocaust. According to the Secretariat, the member states and experts of the field, the latter has been the most important success of the organization, since it was the first time they were able to apply their considerations against another international organization.”*

The Hungarian chairmanship held over a hundred exhibitions, academic discussions, commemorations, book tours, concerts and other events all the way from Canada to Australia in order to promote awareness of the IHRA and help the realization of its goals. During the Hungarian

chairmanship, the IHRA participated in high-profile political events, too. They were invited to the General Assemblies of the United Nations (UN) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for the first time. *“The importance of the work of IHRA is reflected by the fact that there is growing anti-Semitism of a »new kind« in a number of European countries, which presents »security concerns« as well.”* Anti-Semitism spreads in Central and Eastern Europe mainly on the internet. This is the reason why the Hungarian chairmanship organized a conference with the IHRA Committee on Holocaust Denial and Distortion. The conference called *“The Holocaust in public discourse”* was held in Budapest in November 2015. Szabolcs Takács also stated that besides the chairmanship, he represented the Hungarian government’s policy, *“including zero tolerance against anti-Semitism and all manifestations of hatred.”* The appreciation he received for his work pointed out that the Hungarian government *“took the work of IHRA and the chairmanship seriously”*. On 9 March, Balassi Institute hosted an event on the occasion of the end of the chairmanship.

Holocaust commemoration in Zagreb

Zagreb, Croatia

Source: MTI

On 11 March, the Embassy of Hungary to Croatia and the Hungarian Institute (Magyar Intézet) organized a symposium and exhibition titled *»Memory of the Holocaust, Holocaust memorial sites and Roma genocide«*. The event was held in Zagreb

and was opened by Minister of State Szabolcs Takács and the Croatian Minister for Foreign Affairs Miro Kovac. Szabolcs Takács talked about what Hungary accomplished until 8 March 2016, during the year of the Hungarian chairmanship of the IHRA. Miro Kovac gave a speech about the long-term effects of the Holocaust. Branko Lustig,

Oscar winner Croatian film producer with Jewish heritage (producer of Schindler's List, Holocaust survivor), and Israeli Ambassador to Croatia also spoke at the conference. Director of the Budapest Holocaust Memorial Center Szabolcs Szita opened the exhibition.

OTHER NEWS



Dániel Bodnár's article about the Donáth statue

Budapest

Source: Nol.hu

On 16 March, Népszabadság published APF Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dániel Bodnár's opinion about the Donáth statue. The article, published on the Opinions page of the newspaper, reacted to the different beliefs and points of view in connection with the statue. The following is

an extract from the article: *“if it is anti-Semitism or any other disgraceful sentiment that constitutes »the work« of a historical figure, so they actively affect our history and politics, the lives and fates of others depend on their activities and beliefs, then it is impossible to separate this historical figure's work from their human qualities. This is one of the most important differences between Dezső Kosztolányi and Bálint Hóman or György Donáth.”*

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

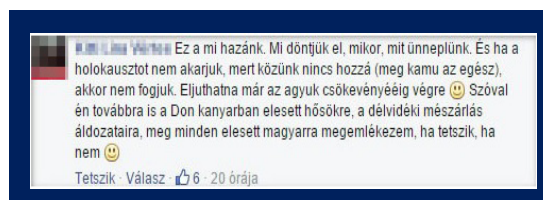


APF pressed charges against K. L. V. for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime
Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 1 March, APF pressed charges against an unknown person for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime at the Budapest 5th District Police Department. On 27 January 2016, Facebook user K. L. V. posted a written image on Facebook that read “*GET HOME FUCKING JEWS*”. K. L. V. also submitted the following comment under the post: “*This is our country. We decide what to commemorate and when. And if we decide not to commemorate the Holocaust because we do not feel like it and have nothing to do with it (and because it’s all a hoax), we won’t. They could finally get the bloody message :) So I will still only commemorate the heroes that died at the Don River, the victims of the communist purges in Serbia in 1944-1945, and every fallen Hungarian, whether you like it or not :)*”

In August 2015, APF filed charges against Norbert Juhos for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime. Juhos had used the term “*holohoax*” on Facebook. In December 2015, the Esztergom District Court found Juhos guilty for the crime of public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime, effected by using the term “*holohoax*”. The court sentenced Juhos to a 400-day custodial sentence, or a HUF 800,000-fine.



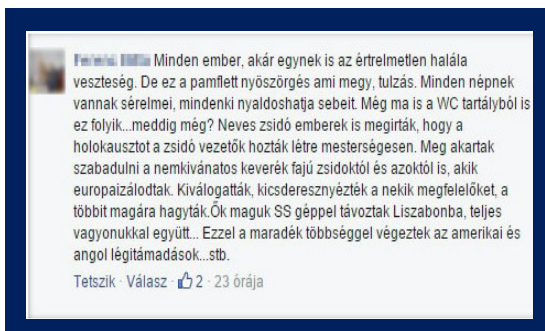
K. L. V.’s comment, *Source: an individual’s Facebook page*

APF pressed charges against B. F. for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime
Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 1 March, APF pressed charges against an unknown person for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime at the Budapest 5th District Police Department. On 27 January 2016, Facebook user B. F. shared a kuruc.info article titled »*You will not believe, but today is again a holoremembrance day*«. Facebook users could submit comments under the article. A comment by an individual under profile name B. F. violated the law by publicly denying the crimes committed by the Nazi regime: “*The pointless death of people, even of a single individual is a loss. Yet, the moaning that has been going on is too much. All nations have been harmed, we could all lick our wounds. But this has been on a constant loop...how long for? Prominent Jewish people have written that the Holocaust was initiated by Jewish leaders. Leaders who wanted to get rid of the Jews of mixed descent and those who had been Europeanized. They singled out those who were*

appropriate and the rest were abandoned. Then they flew back to Lisbon with an SS plane, taking all their wealth... And the people they left behind were killed by American and English air strikes... etc.” (literal translation)



B. F.'s comment, *Source: an individual's Facebook page*

Trial date in Zs. D.'s case

Szeged, Csongrád County

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 27 May 2013, APF filed charges against an unknown person at the Department of Investigation of the Budapest Police Department (BRFK) for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime. The free monthly publication of the Jobbik Committee of Üllés issued an article titled *»Holocaust — jigsaw«* in its May 2011 issue. With regards to the Holocaust, the author of the article wrote that *“no material proof has been found that could confirm the Jewish genocide. No pictures, no plans, no documents. Nothing.”* The article also claimed that the Holocaust is *“the biggest and meanest scam of world history”*. Due to lack of jurisdiction and power, the case was transferred to the Szeged Police Department on 10 June 2013. The article was first published on the website of the Jobbik Committee of Üllés: ulles.jobbik.hu. T. B. was suspected of uploading the article. In a decision dated 19 August 2014, Szeged District Attorney's Office suspended the investigation since T. B.'s suspect interrogation

was not plausible due to the fact that his or her health conditions limited their communication abilities and significant improvements were not to be expected in the future. In a decision filed on 11 June 2015, Szeged Police Department separated different parts of the offense based on the different places of publication. The decision reasoned that further investigation revealed that the article was published on the following sites: www.xfree.hu, www.kinehagyd.hu, www.joforras.hu, www.antigodma.hu, www.linksite.hu, ellenkultura.info, yorickblog.hu, ellenkultura.info, yorickblog.hu.

Experts of the Szeged Police Department examined the websites and they concluded that kinehagyd.hu and joforras.hu are automatic link collectors, from where every entry is deleted once they are deleted from xfree.hu. An investigation revealed that it was impossible to find evidence against the person suspected of uploading the article to blog.xfree.hu, therefore the investigation was terminated. Since it was virtually impossible to identify the offender who uploaded the article to antidogma.hu, the investigation was suspended on 11 June 2015. Regarding linksite.hu, it was again impossible to identify the offender, and the investigation was suspended on 11 June 2015. With regards to ellenkultura.info and yorickblog.hu, the statute of limitations of the offense expired.

A hard copy of the article was published in *»Árpád's People Jobbik Newsletter«* in its May 2011 volume. As chief editor of the newsletter, Zs. D. was suspected of the publication and the distribution of the article. The volume was distributed in Üllés, thus it was accessible and available to the broad public. Zs. D. was facing indictment. However, with regards to cases of the websites enlisted above, as it was impossible to identify offenders and the statute of limitations of the offense expired,

judgment of Zs. D. was significantly hindered. As a result, a separation of the cases was ordered on 11 June 2015.

On 7 March 2016, APF Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who had filed the charges, received summons to appear as a witness in a criminal case hearing at the Court of Szeged on 7 April 2016.

*Investigation terminated in the antique shop case
Budapest*

Source: Budapest Police Department, Budapest 5th District Police Department, Action and Protection Foundation

We presented in our May 2015 report that a journalist of romnet.hu reported that an antique shop near Budapest's most popular shopping street, the Váci Street, sold objects with totalitarian symbols. The author of the article claimed that he saw in the shop window a seal ring with a swastika, a seal ring with an SS symbol, badges with the red star and the hammer and sickle sign, lighters and badges with the swastika, iron crosses, merit medals, and an SS-badge. On 21 April 2015, APF filed charges against an unknown person for the public use of totalitarian symbols. The 5 May decision of the Budapest 5th District Police Department rejected the charges claiming there was no criminal offense. It referred to a decision by the Constitutional Court which says that *"the symbols specified by the law represent ideas and events that are connected to the forcible acquisition and dictatorial exercise of power. [...] The distribution, using in front of a large public gathering, or the public exposition of symbols specified by the Criminal Code are punishable if the symbols — as totalitarian symbols — are symbolizing or promoting behavior realized by dictatorships in the 20th century."* Based on this, the police decision reasoned that the intent of the perpetrator was only

to be judged after having investigated and evaluated the specific circumstances of the particular offense. APF filed a complaint against the decision on 26 May 2015. We reasoned that the rejecting decision referred to an inappropriate decision of the Constitutional Court, as this decision first replaced previous legislative text and new text was delivered afterwards. The new legislative text did not include the part that an offense is only committed if a symbol is used in connection with the relevant totalitarian system and/or if the offender identifies with the symbol, but it says that an offense is committed if the act is capable of disturbing public peace, specifically in a way that offends the dignity of victims of totalitarian regimes and their right to sanctity. Therefore, a crime can be committed even though there is no actual disturbance of public peace. In addition, the symbols specified by the law may always provoke feelings of threat in individuals belonging to certain religious or ethnic groups. Based on these, the complaint reasoned that the investigation should not examine offenders' emotional engagement, but the fact whether the act in question was capable of offending the human rights of victims and their right to sanctity. This could only be answered after having thoroughly investigated all the relevant circumstances of the act. According to the complaint, one of the most cardinal points would be the examination of the symbols; and the symbols appear to be medals, insignia, pin badges that have been worn by leaders of totalitarian regimes. While wearing those emblems, these individuals committed genocide against millions of people, they committed offenses against humanity, even under the flag of the National Socialist regime and under its ideology. Due to the nature of the objects of the offense, not only are these symbols associated with National Socialist ideology but they carry further connotations. If totalitarian symbols are sold in

large quantities in a shop that may be visited by people — even by victims or relatives of victims of totalitarian regimes, and these objects of offense may not carry underlying messages, the act is still capable of offending the dignity of victims of totalitarian regimes and their right to sanctity, and it may even propagate totalitarian systems.

In a decision filed on 9 June 2015, Prosecutor's Office of Budapest District 5 and 13 rejected the complaint since the Foundation had no legal rights to file the complaint. However, the rejecting decision dated 5 May 2015 was repealed, and the Prosecutor's Office ordered the investigation to be relaunched ex officio.

On 26 June 2015, Budapest 5th District Police Department informed the Foundation that on 20 April 2015, I. T. private individual also pressed charges against the antique shop for the use of totalitarian symbols. Because the subject matters of the allegations were the same, charges were joint and they are dealt with in the same proceedings.

On 22 March 2016, APF received the decision of the Budapest 5th District Police Department filed on 7 March 2016 that they terminated the investigation due to lack of criminal offense. The decision reasoned that *“based on the 4/2013 (II 21) AB decision of the Constitutional Court, the criminalization of the use of totalitarian symbols was modified so that instead of a general ban, it is illegal to distribute, use in front of the broad public, and display totalitarian symbols in a way that is capable of disturbing public peace. In other words, criminalized behavior has been narrowed down. In this respect, the criminal offense in question shall be subject to the rules in the chapter of the crimes against public peace of the criminal code as such offenses lead to detectable disturbance and confusion in public perception. The*

right and social interest for a threat-free public life is attacked by such criminal offenses. The conduct only forms part of the facts constituting the charge if it is really capable of disturbing public peace. In this regard, thorough assessment is necessary to decide when conducts which may disturb individuals' peace are capable of disturbing public peace. Based on the above, it shall always be examined whether a conduct is capable of disturbing public peace. Public peace is disturbed if a conduct significantly harms public order and negatively affects the general sentiment of a great number of people. [...] According to the data available, the present case concerns objects from a shop called Bolhapiac (Flea market), which is situated at 5 Ferenciek tere in the 5th district of Budapest. The shop has two rooms, one on the ground floor and one in the basement. The objects with totalitarian symbols that appeared in the allegations were stored in the basement of the shop. The shop is open to the public and the objects were placed in a way that they were visible to everyone, so there was an objective chance that victims or relatives of victims of totalitarian regimes might enter as customers and see these symbols. However, considering the circumstances of the conduct — the objects that appeared in the allegations were stored in a display case at the back of the basement level of the shop —, it may have disturbed some individuals' peace, but it did not reach the extent to disturb public peace. In this respect, it is not fact that the conduct of this case was capable of disturbing public peace, therefore further investigation is not justified.”

MP Tibor Ágoston's sentence for Holocaust denial
Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: MTI, Action and Protection Foundation

APF filed charges against Jobbik local councilor of Debrecen, Tibor Ágoston, for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime on 17 February 2014. On 30 March 2016, the Debrecen

Tribunal reached a final decision and fined Ágoston HUF 750,000 for Holocaust denial. The first instance sentence, reached by the Court of Debrecen on 26 March 2015, was modified so that it “*allowed monthly installments of HUF 50,000 for 15 months due to the changes in the convict’s personal circumstances*”. In the event of failing to pay the installments, the whole sum of the fine is overdue and the sentence turns into custodial sentence.

Klára Kemeceiné Hársfalvi, judge of the second-instance council, reasoned that Tibor Ágoston committed the crime of public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime when he used the terms “*hollókamu*” (holohoax) and “*hollókaszt*” (holocaust) at a public event in Debrecen in January 2014. On 12 January 2014, Jobbik Debrecen held a commemoration ceremony in the city of Debrecen. Participants gathered at the war memorial on the Medgyessy promenade to commemorate the soldiers who had lost their lives by the Don River. Around 30-40 people took part in the commemoration, and 24 policemen were sent to the scene. The event was held in front of the broad public as any passer-by could see what was happening. Jobbik councilor, Tibor Ágoston, was a speaker of the event. He was sarcastic and made deliberate slips of the tongue during his speech. He said that “*Hungary is preparing for two major commemorations in 2014. One of them will commemorate Hungarian victims, heroes and casualties, while the other one will commemorate the victims of the »holohoax«, sorry »holocaust«. Still not good. The “holocaust” – this was deliberate, I am sorry.*” Someone recorded the speech and uploaded the recording on a video sharing site. As a result, Ágoston’s speech and expressions, including the offensive remarks, were accessible to the broad public. His statements were capable of causing outrage and indignation among people who are

committed to the protected values of the basic law. The second-instance court did not accept the defense of the accused claiming what Ágoston said was just unfortunate wording. Ágoston said himself at the event that his slips were deliberate and he also shared anti-Semitic and Holocaust denying content on his Facebook site. At the hearing, he claimed his slips of the tongue were not deliberate, he only tried to reinterpret the meaning of the “*Holocaust*”. The court rejected his claims and reasoned that the word “*Holocaust*” today clearly refers to the Jewish genocide committed by the Nazi regime. The judge considered it an aggravating circumstance that Ágoston carries out public function as a municipal councilor, and therefore he should pay extra attention to abiding by the laws.

The general assembly of Debrecen also discussed the case and ordered Ágoston to apologize for his speech. They also talked about his dismissal from the city council. Tibor Ágoston then released an official statement and apologized from the Jewish community in Debrecen for his “*unfortunate wording*”.



Tibor Ágoston, Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Lajos Kósa, Fidesz mayor of Debrecen at the time, distanced himself and his municipality from Ágoston’s speech. The case received wide coverage in the press. A number of complaints were filed against Ágoston, which claimed he had made such

remarks when he was councilor candidate. For instance, on 10 February 2014, using false data, he claimed that only slightly over one hundred thousand people died in Hungary during the Second World War, so it is impossible that “600 thousand” “Jewish” “victims” “were deported” from Hungary. Another time, Ágoston recommended the works of Holocaust denying historian David Cole, and he published an article on kuruc.info

that “denied” the mass executions in Auschwitz. He also made anti-Semitic statements on his Facebook page. One time he referred to a book of Holocaust denying philosopher Roger Garaudy, and stated that Zionists organized the deportation of the Jews.

Jobbik Debrecen municipal councilor Tibor Ágoston has been an official member of Jobbik since 2010.

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	1-19 March	Zsolt Bayer's series of articles about the Jews	Anti-Semitic hate incidents: Hate Speech
2	1 March	The Hungarian government condemns the theft of the menorah	Official and civil responses
3	1 March	APF pressed charges against K. L. V. for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
4	1 March	APF pressed charges against B. F. for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
5	2, 9 March	Stolpersteins now allowed in Debrecen	Official and Civil Responses
6	7 March	Trial date in Zs. D.'s case	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
7	8 March	Threatening photo on the website of Betyársereg	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Threat
8	8 March	A new Holocaust memorial in Békéscsaba	Community news and responses
9	10 March	Sentence for the use of Nazi symbols	Official and Civil Responses
10	11 March	Holocaust commemoration in Zagreb	News and opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary
11	13 March	Gallows with a hung Star of David on Árpád-kilátó	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents: Vandalism
12	13 March	Story of the shoes on the Danube bank from a specific viewpoint	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
13	15 March	Jobbik: "instead of, or besides, the display case of the Holocaust, there should be room for all the sufferings and revivals of the Hungarian nation"	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
14	16 March	Jew-baiting at a 15 March ceremony	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
15	16 March	Dániel Bodnár's article about the Donáth statue	Other news
16	22 March	Investigation terminated in the antique shop case	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
17	23 March	Plan of Kecskemét: Street named after Albert Wass instead of József Nyírő	Official and Civil Responses
18	30 March	MP Tibor Ágoston's sentence for Holocaust denial	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
19	31 March	Nobel laureate Imre Kertész dies at 86	Community news and responses
20	31 March	Reactions from public figures and political parties to Imre Kertész's death	Official and Civil 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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