

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT

APRIL 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 seven incidents of Anti-Semitic hate crime during April monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech. In Tiszaeszlár, several extreme right-wing organizations held a service commemorating Eszter Solymosi. Several speeches were shared which were classified as hate speech. In Budapest district 7, a swastika was painted on the wall of a house in Dob street. Also in Budapest at March 15 square, a Holocaust monument was defaced with writing that denied the Holocaust. In Népliget, a hateful sign against Jews was posted at a popular spot. Lóránd Schuster made comments classified as hate speech at an event of Jobbik (political party) in Budapest district 11. On the wall of the Great Church of Debrecen, a swastika was painted. At a popular hiking spot in Bükk Mountains, on Bél-stone a swastika was painted. No items were found for the “Further anti-Semitic hate incidents” in April.

In April 2016, two complaints, filed by Action and Protection Foundation were suspended. One of the suspected offenders was CS. T. and the other was V. L. K. In neither of the cases was an offender identified. The Government Office of Pest County made its statement concerning street Nyíró József. Consequently the street had to be renamed. The Foundation filed charges against offender A. D. with the charge of denial of the Holocaust at the Chief Police Department of Budapest district 5. The District Court of Szeged made its sentence, nonlegally binding against Zsolt Dodi, head of press relations of Jobbik of Csongrád County. The president of Jobbik in Üllés was sentenced for the denying the Holocaust. The politician was sentenced to 100 hours of community service, he is also obliged to visit the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Páva Street and write a report about it for his probation officer, which is becoming more and more common for similar sentences.

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, exclu-

sion, and the ignorance in which anti-Semitism is rooted, as well as atrocities and hate crimes.

UNITY

Action and Protection Foundation is a registered civil organization. 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.

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 op-

erational **HOTLINE** that can be reached by dialing the number (+36 1) 51 00 000, where incidents of anti-Semitic and anti-Jewish behavior can be reported.

Beyond regular publication of the monthly monitoring reports the *Brussels Institute's* research plan incorporates a comprehensive research project related to Jewry using both quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as a survey on the current situation concerning anti-Semitism that encompasses society as a whole. Furthermore, the program includes development of a differentiated training program that prepares different levels and participants of state administration for action and appropriate procedure on racist and anti-Semitic phenomena, in the form of teaching materials for the educational system and further training.

ABOUT THE REPORT

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

The fight against hate crimes bears exceptional importance, because they differ from other forms of criminal conduct. These crimes may be considered messages of a kind, and thus point beyond private actions. This additional import becomes manifest in various social realms: on the level of the individual, the group attacked, and of society as a whole. The victims may suffer a greater psychological and emotional trauma. In the case of these crimes not “only” the property, or physical integrity of victims is endangered, but also their self-respect. These offences question the right of the individual to equality, even of belonging to society itself. It is important that in the course of such crimes the victims are the target of attacks because of some unchangeable characteristic, and for this reason may well feel more defenseless. The victims are often afraid that they may

again become victims of further atrocities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents can easily lead to a secondary victimization of the targeted person. This type of criminal act also has a strong effect on the group to which the victim belongs. The victims of such crimes are often interchangeable, because in countless cases the attack does not target a certain individual, but anyone who, in the given instance, is a member of the group under attack. In the event, members of the group also become involved emotionally, and might live in fear of the future when they themselves may become the target of such prejudice-motivated crimes. This is especially true of groups, which have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length that Jewry belongs among such groups. These crimes violate the norm that holds the members of society equal. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the whole of society. It may on the one hand, encourage the perpetrators, or even others to commit further crimes in the same mold. On the other, it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society (Levin and McDevitt 1999, 92–93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19–21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17–18; Perry 2001, 10).

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

¹See detailed definitions in the Methodology section.

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 beneficial.² Reports prepared by civil organizations can be expedient in alerting the official authorities to hate motivated crimes in the country. Long-term tendencies can be outlined on the basis of the collected data. Civil organizations can help in setting particular cases on track for legal process, may provide legal defense for the victims, and give various other forms of aid. These organizations may also serve as intermediaries between the victims and the police (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 34-36).

²A 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, arrow-cross).

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

³The 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵The 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.

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.

⁶These are described in the Methods section.

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

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

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

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics:

- Anti-Semitic hate incidents that are related to Hungary and Hungarian Jewry, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in Hungary)

- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online fora, and have not been personally reported to Action and Protection Foundation.

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

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

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

- Homicide: any attack on a person that causes loss of life
- Extreme physical violence
 - Any attack on a person that potentially causes serious bodily harm
 - Any attack involving weapons, or other tools that can cause bodily harm
 - Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - Bombs and letter bombs
 - Kidnapping

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

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

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

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

APRIL 2016

Seven anti-Semitic hate incidents were identified in April in the course of Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity, all falling in the category of hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Commemoration of Eszter Solymosi

Tiszaeszlár

Source: Indavideo online video portal,

YouTube video

On the 2nd of April, a commemoration was held by the Hungarian National Front in memory of Eszter Solymosi in Tiszaeszlár. Approximately 100 people, including members of several far-right organizations participated in the commemoration. A speech was held by László Tompó Jr. and Magdi Högyesi, both known in Hungarian nationalist, extremist circles. Several elements of the speeches contained references offensive to Jews with the potential interpretation of hate speech. In his speech, László Tompó Jr. made reference to literary and historical authors and works (e.g., József Bari, Lipót Huber) who took it for granted that, in certain Hasidic Jewish communities, ritual murder at Passover and human sacrifice occurred. On the homepage of Indavideo, the text of the video presenting the lawsuit in Tiszaeszlár also assumes that Eszter Solymosi was murdered by the Jews. Extracts from the text: "This is a lawsuit which remained unsolved not only for the past 134 years but for tens of thousands of years. The series of hidden crimes still destroy goy families now which legitimately raises the question: how does the number of detected crimes refer to the number of committed crimes? How can a legal system of a society work in a healthy and effective way by using permanent double standards? But let us stay with

the Christian child murdered innocently, for whom the law still hasn't stood up for. She suffered, she bled to death and became the victim of a Jewish ritual murder under unclear circumstances. The affair known as the "blood libel in Tiszaeszlár" could not have been kept a secret. Especially at Easter, Christian children must die according to Jewish ritual in order to serve as an ingredient for unleavened bread: matzos. (...) That time period is characterized by the fact that the judgment eventually resulted in riots and the accused Jews escaped from the country. Later it became clear that the acquittal of all the accused cost 60 million forints and several civil servants reported corruption. "The video is more than an hour long and starts with a song about the incident, a quotation from the song: "Remember her, light a candle You Hungarian perhaps it will be you tomorrow covered by a tomb. (...) Eszter Solymosi is crying, the hatred is murdering (...), those who take our blood are free to walk away, the guilt of this famous city pollutes our air, no press cries, let the Hungarian die, for them, it is no crime." While struggling with his tears, the head of the Hungarian National Front concluded the commemoration at the bier with the simple line: "In the defense of our nation and homeland, all means are permitted."

Followed by the speeches, the following organizations placed a wreath to the later established shrines of Eszter Solymosi: Hungarian National Front, Hungarian National Guard, Miskolc Faculty of the Hungarian Self-Defense Movement, Guard Motorcyclists, Hungarist Movement, Hajdúnánás Wing of Jobbik party, Conscience 88 group, Tiszaeszlár wing of Jobbik party, Mountain Hunter Club of Bükk.

The commemoration was uploaded to YouTube where it was viewed by 1017 people.



The participants of the commemoration of Tiszaeszlár. Source: YouTube



Commemoration in Tiszaeszlár. Source: YouTube

Swastika painted on a house at 31 Dob utca

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 4th of April, APF was informed that unknown individuals painted a swastika on the wall of a house at 31 Dob utca, Budapest District 7. The members of the ATID Jewish Youth organization helped APF staff to remove the totalitarian symbol.



Swastika on the wall of the house. Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Unknown individuals vandalized a monument at March 15 Square

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 10th of April, the Police Office of Budapest District 5 called the hotline of APF reporting a Holocaust denying writing on the Holocaust monument at Budapest March 15 Square. The writing states: "This, in its present form is a lie." The police requested the staff of APF to go to the site to represent the victim. A member of the staff of APF arrived at the location, the police officers recorded the traces. In the name of the foundation, a complaint was filed. Followed by the trace recording, a member of staff of APF removed the sign.



Holocaust denying sign on Square March 15.

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Unknown individuals wrote an offensive graffiti against Jews at a commonly used spot in Népliget

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 14th of April, a member of staff from the Action and Protection Foundation discovered an offensive sign against Jews at a commonly used spot in Népliget with a size of nearly 30 centimeters. The graffiti says: "Never trust a Jew." The text is accompanied by a painted swastika.



Sign in Népliget.

Source: Action and Protection Foundation



Swastika in Népliget.

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Lóránd Schuster jew-baiting at a Jobbik event

Budapest

Source: ATV

On the 20th of April, Lóránd Schuster was the guest of Jobbik, Budapest District II in response to the invitation of the Vice President of Jobbik, Előd Novák.

The public event was organized in relation to the new book of Schuster entitled “Kaptafá” (the title is in relation to a Hungarian saying: “A szuster maradjon a kaptafánál – Let the shoemaker stick to his last” – note of the translator). “Where did the immune system of the Hungarian nation go, my dear ones?” he asked right at the beginning, introducing the essence of his lecture which can be summarized: “The media, controlled by “we all know by whom”, lies to the people day and night, as a result there is a lot of stupidity around so one must reach out for an authentic source of information.” Then he went on: „It was all laid out already in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. It is a forgery of course, but a very perfect one, as everything happens in it as it is written.” The majority of his lecture was about revealing and presuming the Jewish origin of

certain musicians and politicians highlighting their roots. The ex-MIÉP rock musician quoted a few sentences from Theodor Herzl and from the London based newspaper, The Jewish Chronicle. He also discussed that the profit of each and every drop of oil goes to the Jews. He also shared that he is planning to write even more books, out of which the last one will be entitled “Antikrisztus/Anti-Christ” and “they will surely not like that”. According to László Semsei, the author of the article at ATV, Schuster declared – after the 90-minute long lecture – that he is keeping fingers crossed for Jobbik in order to remain loyal and to avoid dissolution, like in the case of MIÉP.



Swastika in Népliget.

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Unknown Individuals painted swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: MTI

An unknown individual or individuals painted an inverted cross and a swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen on the 21st of April – the spokesman of the Chief Police Department of Hajdú-Bihar County informed MTI. Dénes Dobó reported that one of the priests reported the case at noon on Thursday. The police officers went to the scene immediately and started collecting data in order to identify and search for the offender.

The Police Department of Debrecen launched the investigation for the suspicion of committing the crime, vandalism. The investigators started to analyze the recordings of the video surveillance nearby added the spokesman.



*Swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen.
Source: Népszava*

Swastika was painted at a popular hiking spot in Bükk Mountains

Bélapátfalva, Heves County

Forrás: !!444!!!

The portal !!444!!! reported on the 12th of April that unknown individuals drew a swastika on the top of Bél-stone, situated near Bélapátfalva, on the stones of the former limestone mine. The mountain, classified as a protected, is part of the Nature Reserve of Bükk.



*Swastika on the mountain Bél-kő
Source: !!444!!!*

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of its monitoring activity for April 2016, Action and Protection Foundation identified no incidents that can be included in the category of further anti-Semitic hate incidents.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

March of Life Movement: The descendants distance themselves from the crimes of Nazi ancestors

Budapest

Source: NOL

“The Nazi used the synagogue as a stable. I am so very ashamed.”, said the 33-year-old Anne Möller, clutching the plaque at the event of Bálint House on the 5th of April. “This is how I try to do penance for the crimes committed by my ancestors. I would like to place it in the Synagogue of Dohány Street so no one will ever forget what happened here.” The March of Life movement was initiated by Jobst Bittner Lutheran pastor in 2007 in Tübingen. It differs from the March of the Living movement in the respect that the descendants of the former Nazi perpetrators are invited as well. Möller learned the past of his own family at the March in 2008 when one of his relatives told him about the crimes his grandfather and great grandfather committed. He didn’t want to believe him but an archive confirmed what he had been told: his grandfather — who he knew as a silent, introverted person — did his service in Budapest in 1944 and was one of the intruders of the Synagogue in Dohány Street. “I am a descendant of murderers.” “I have been a Nazi for a long time” — said 23-year-old Samuel Haas from Leipzig. In the school, jokes about Jews were common. He never knew why, but he hated the Jews. It was several years ago that his father suggested that he should participate at the March of Life initiated by Bittner and it was he who had told him about the crimes committed by his ancestors. “All my great-grandparents were Nazis, they took part in several mass murders. As if xenophobia was always present inside”, said Haas. “As if anti-Semitism and xenophobia was a social phenomenon, independent from us”, said Anne Möller, adding that for the majority of German families, up until now, it is not usual to dig into the past. There is not much said on membership of the Nazi party or on

the persecution of Jews. The elderly would rather forget and repress what they have done or seen. Although, unsaid feelings and attitudes are passed down from generation to generation.

Lawsuit launched dealing with the renewal of Bálint Hóman’s membership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Budapest

Source: MTI

On the 12th of April at the Budapest-Capital regional Court, a lawsuit was launched in order to renew Bálint Hóman’s membership to the Academy. The plaintiffs — represented by advocate István Varga, a former MP of Fidesz — are the descendants of the scientist and head of the Ministry of Culture who lived in the period between the two world wars. The defendant is the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA).

The point of the lawsuit is to be declared by the Court: in the summer of 1945, Bálint Hóman was not legally excluded from the Academy. More precisely, his exclusion was invalid, the decision did not even come into force. At the lawsuit, István Varga explained that, in legal terms, the decision doesn’t even exist in which 14 members out of 250 excluded the former historian and academic some months after the world war during the Soviet invasion of the country. István Varga drew the attention to the fact that 25 years ago, the Academy renewed the membership of formerly excluded members during the change of regime with three exceptions. In 1946, Bálint Hóman was sentenced to life imprisonment for committing war crimes after the decision was made of his exclusion from the Academy. Last year, Budapest Capital Regional Court invalidated the judgment of 1946 and declared Bálint Hóman innocent. The petition contained a request for the Court to declare that the fact that Bálint Hóman was representing Arrow

Cross principles was defamatory, within the President of the Academy's declaration. The legal representative of the Academy requested the rejection of the petition. He partly questioned the fact that the plaintiffs can sue the Academy at all in this case and partly argued that the procedures of 1945 met the regulations at that time. Seventy years have passed and the academy has no means to revise the exclusions of that time and to disapprove their original reasons. Only those with membership of the academy from that time, had the opportunity to examine the questions, stated the Academy lawyer. At the request of the plaintiff, the Court invited the academy to attach relevant court documents. The legal representative of the Academy indicated that such documentation is not available and that they work from extracts themselves. The lawsuit continues in June at the Court.

March of the Living for the 14th time

Budapest

Source: MTI

On the 17th of April, the March of the Living was organized for the 14th time. The march was led by László Bandi, the chairman of the board for the March of the Living and Géza D. Hegedűs, an actor. The head spokesman of the event was Géza Röhrig, actor, poet and the protagonist of *Son of Saul* who won the Kossuth award in March. This year, for the first time, the representatives of historic churches commemorated together on a stage built in front of the St. Stephen's Basilica: János Székely Catholic bishop, István Szabó Bogárdi the priest president of Hungarian Calvinist Church Council and Péter Gáncs, the bishop-president of the Hungarian Lutheran Church. Ilan Mor, Israeli Ambassador to Budapest, said that the most important message of the March of the Living is that "to be different is not a sickness and the hatred of others is not a remedy." The participants commemorated Imre Kertész, a Nobel Prize winning writer who passed away at the end of March with a half-minute long silence. The people had balloons with signs of "Never again"

and flags of Hungary, Israel and the European Union. There were 30,000 participants at the event and there was no public disturbance.



March of the Living departs. Source: Nol.hu

The Nazi friends of Gábor Vona

Budapest

Source: Index

On the 22nd of April on Index news portal, a video was published with Gábor Vona, the president of Jobbik. He was asked about how he relates to Betyársereg (no official translation of it on their homepage). He answered that he doesn't follow the daily activity of the organization, as he knows it is an organization dealing with sport but there is a lot of distorted press information surrounding them. He was asked the question that Zsolt Tyirityán, the leader of the organization identified himself as Nazi and also a friend of Gábor Vona, he answered that apparently he has Nazi friends but this is not the foundation of their friendship and he has other friends, those that belong to the socialists, Fidesz and Hit Gyülekezete. As we presented in our March 2016 report, on the 8th of March 2016, a photo was published on the home page of Betyársereg. The photo showed the leader of the organization, Zsolt Tyirityán, and three others standing by a fourth member wearing a T-shirt with a "Zyklon B" sign with all three of them pointing at the sign. The Nazis used Zyklon B gas to exterminate victims in the gas chambers of the death camps. Consequently, the aim of the photo was certainly to generate fear.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Responses to March of the Living in April

Sources: Facebook profiles of parties and politicians

All political parties of Parliament responded to the March of the Living, either one of its representatives participated at the March or published a statement – except for Jobbik. In this case we found no response during our monitoring activity. Colleen Bell, the ambassador of the USA participated at the event.

Ilan Mor Ambassador of Israel to Budapest wrote a letter of protest concerning the series of articles of Zsolt Bayer

Budapest

Source: Szombat Online – Sabbath Online

We have presented in our March report the series of articles entitled “Unbearable” published in Magyar Hírlap. Several parts are categorized with hate speech. Ilan Mor ambassador to Budapest wrote a letter of protest to Péter Petán on the 4th of April concerning the series of articles. We introduced the entire letter:

“Dear Mr. Petán,

I am deeply astonished and disturbed by the fact that a leading Hungarian political daily newspaper, such as yours can publish a series of articles entitled “Unbearable” written by Zsolt Bayer. What is really unbearable is the fact that these publications contain highly elaborated history-cleansing remarks introducing an “alternative history” to the readers of the paper which lead to the distortion of the real story of Holocaust, the Shoah. What is really unbearable is the clear fact that these writings promote openly anti-Semitic views, they excite again the Jewish nation and the State of Israel (e.g. article number 10 and 14). The attempt of the author that is also unbearable with which he accuses

the Jewish people to force the remembrance of lost victims and/or of those offended at that time in the Shoah, and thus – supposedly- to blur the remembrance of other martyrs of history. The notions appearing in the articles of Mr Bayer “competing victimizing” or “pain competition” (as it is phrased by French philosopher Bernard Henry-Lévy) lead to modern anti-Semitism clearly named by several experts and politicians. I find these articles fully unacceptable which do not only put the Shoah – a crime without any examples and parallels in history – in a relative context but also phrase generalized and fake accusations against the Hungarian Jews as if they were to blame for the Hungarian tragedies of the 20th century. In this context, it is important to call the attention to the words of Jonathan Sacks, the Executive Rabbi of Great-Britain: The Jews were hated because they were rich and they were poor, they were capitalist and they were communist, because they were introverted within themselves and because they were everywhere, because they believed in tradition and because they were rootless cosmopolitans...” It is very unfortunate that the articles of Mr. Bayer reflect this specific perspective about the Jewish people, as it stands “All this is the fault of the Jewish - anti-Semitism exists because of what they do, what they say, what they believe in and the Jews have to be stigmatized for all the deed of the world – of the past, the present and the future...” Furthermore: the slanders and the assumptions, the false charges of Mr Bayer against the Jewish people and the State of Israel are not only false and misleading but are in complete opposition of the official statements and positions of the Hungarian Government which declare the friendship and cooperation with the State of Israel. All the above is unacceptable. This is unbearable! Thus, from today onward, the Embassy of the State of Israel is not subscribing for your newspaper.”

The Court ordered the inaccessibility of an article denying the Holocaust

Budapest

Source: MTI

The Court ordered the inaccessibility of an article denying the Holocaust

Budapest

Source: MTI

On the 14th of April, the Central District Court of Pest, for the proposition of prosecutor's office of Budapest District 5 and 13, ordered in a way that cannot be appealed that an article published by Deres.tv which denies the Holocaust has to be permanently inaccessible, said the Chief Prosecutor of the Budapest Capital Region. In his statement, Tibor Ibolya wrote that the article contains such statements that the fact of Holocaust was publicly denied, questioned and presented as an insignificant chapter of history. Consequently, investigation was carried out in relation to the open denial of crimes committed by the national socialist and communist regimes. The homepage was operated in the United States so those who committed the crime were impossible to identify. The Chief Prosecutor noted that the measure which is integrated to the new Criminal Code – making online data inaccessible in a final way – makes it possible that in similar cases the Court can order the elimination of wrong internet data. The service provider which is operating the website can be compelled to implement this action. He added that if the foreign service provider doesn't fulfill the legally binding order of the Court within 30 days, then, according to law, the Court can re-issue an order with a different content to invite Hungarian internet service providers for preventing the access to the wrong internet content. Tibor Ibolya stated: the Chief Prosecutor's Office of Budapest Capital Region is consequent in a way to take the necessary measures for which it is legally entitled at the assigned Court against any kind of article or homepage on the internet which fall into the category of crime. That already happened several times. A similar proposal was made by the Prosecutor's Office Budapest District 2,3,5 and 13 against the internet news portal kuruc.info and its sub-page called "Holokamu" operated in the United States and its articles openly denying the Holocaust.

The Mayor of Debrecen and the Office of the Prime Minister condemns the abuse of the Great Church of Debrecen

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: MTI

As we earlier detailed in the section "Anti-Semitic hate Incidents", on the 21st of April, unknown individuals painted a swastika and an inverted cross on the Great Church of Debrecen. László Papp, the mayor of Debrecen (Fidesz-KDNP) wrote in his statement sent to MTI on the 21st of April that he condemns it and finds it outrageous that vandals painted a swastika on the iconic building of the town. Debrecen is proud to announce that religious congregations run their activity in the atmosphere of cooperation and they organize their members' religious life by respecting each other, he said. "We don't tolerate that people with bad intentions destroy this peaceful relationship and we do not tolerate anyone poisoning the peaceful atmosphere of the town of Debrecen with the symbols of fascism." The Office of the Prime Minister condemned what happened in a statement. "This ignoble and cowardly action is a powerless attempt to create the atmosphere of hatred and fear in a town where traditionally, the different religious congregations live by each other peacefully and run their activities of religious life on the ground of mutual trust and patience for the good and satisfaction of the town and its inhabitants.", they wrote. In the name of zero-tolerance against the incitement of hatred, they think it is important to condemn all actions which can be used to intimidate the members of any religious congregation. At the same time, all initiatives are supported by them which fight against the hatred incited by racism, anti-Semitism and religious intolerance. The Office of the Prime Minister strongly hopes that the police will be soon able to identify the offenders based on the information they already have, according to the statement.

**Young people are caught for painting
swastika on the Great Church of
Debrecen**

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: !!444!!

As we already reported in the chapter of “Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents”, on the 21st of April, a swastika was painted on the Great Church of Debrecen. On the 22nd of April, the police officers in Debrecen identified and caught the offenders, two young men. The investigation against the two men is ongoing for the charge of vandalism.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

American report about the situation of human rights in Hungary

Budapest

Source: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper>

The US State Department has prepared its world report for the past 40 years on human rights. On the 14th of April, last year's report was published which refers to the reports of Action and Protection Foundation (Anti-Semitic Hate incidents chapter) at the part presenting anti-Semitism in Hungary. The link to the report is available at the indication of source of research.

Anti-Semitic Discrimination has grown reveals the joint research of APF and Medián

Budapest

Source: MTI, Action and Protection Foundation

On the 19th of April, the Action and Protection Foundation (APF) introduced the findings of the research on anti-Semitism in Hungary. Last November, by the order of the foundation, research was conducted for the third time by Medián Public Opinion and Market Research Institute. The results were jointly presented by Dániel Bodnár, chairman of the Board of APF and member of Executive Board of The Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH), Endre Hann social psychologist, CEO of Medián and Dániel Róna political scientist in the frame of an international press conference. Dániel Róna is the co-author of the study, with Endre Hann. One of the findings of the survey, which was conducted by personal interviews on a 1200 participants sample representing the population over 18 years of age, is that the Hungarian population shows very modest interest to questions concerning Jews. Based on the results presented by Endre Hann, 23% of the Hungarian population was found to be

strongly anti-Semitic, with a further 12% listed as mildly anti-Semitic. Both findings show a 2% increase compared to the previous year. The ratio of these two groups is 59% supporters of Jobbik and 18-18 % at Demokratikus Koalíció – these two extremes were spoken of at the press conference.

In relation to the alteration of data regarding anti-Semitism, Endre Hann noted that the articulation of dislike against Jews in public speech became more legitimate, more common and more acceptable after Jobbik gained ground in public life. The discrimination shown by the middle-aged population is a little more than above average, but there are no further extremes in other respects. Data shows that the proportion of rejecting Jews on emotional basis has increased from 23% to 26% in one year. The proportion of those who are anti-Semites on cognitive ground also increased from 41% to 42% and the ratio of those who represent their anti-semitic views and opinions has also increased from 13% to 14% since the study of last year.

The dislike against Jews is proportional to the rejection of all otherness, noted Endre Hann, adding that, in this comparison, the opinion on the group is “not dramatically bad”. Two different dimensions of attitudes towards Jews were examined during the research. They differentiated cognitive, general emotional rejection based on ideas, misconceptions and conspiracy theories in relation to Jews and secondly affective anti-Semitism based on the level of social distance the kept. Researchers found that cognitive anti-Semitism has mildly but demonstrably increased during the past three years in Hungary. In 2013, 11% of the population fell into the category of “strongly anti-Semitic”, in 2014 13%, and last year 14%. In a similar tendency, the proportion of moderate anti-Semitism has dropped from 42% of 2013 to 41% the next year but last year it increased again to 42% measured in 2013.

Unfortunately in addition to that, the ratio of the non-anti-Semitic population has decreased: in 2013 it was 47%, in 2014 it was 46% and after another year it dropped to 44%. When it comes to affective anti-Semitism, it is worth examining the attitude towards Jews in a broader historical context. During the past 12 years the ratio of those who agreed with the statement “Jews are unpleasant” was 9% to start with, but today it has risen to 26%. It is equally important to note that the increase was not steady but suddenly changed in 2010: at that time, the emotional rejection of Jews suddenly hit 28% compared to the 10% of the previous year. According to the report, this is a change which can be linked to the results of Jobbik achieved at the Parliamentary Elections in 2010, in relation to the increasing legitimacy to express dislike against Jews. One must add that the negative perception of Jews in Hungary is not outstanding compared to rejection of several other ethnic groups.

As a result of last year’s determining events of world politics, which had strong effects on Hungarian public life, the mass of migrant people reached the top of the dislike index according to this recent research.

The report shows, based on the study of correlations of political preferences and anti-Semitism that those who share bigoted views against Jews approach the right side of the political spectrum, and within the right wing towards that radical extreme, but are only slightly related to conservatives.



(From left) Endre Hann, Dániel Róna and Dániel Bodnár at the press conference, source: Action and Protection Foundation

Dániel Bodnár spoke about the two-fold objective of the research, conducted for the third time: to establish a joint framework, so when it comes to social dialogue, all parties would mean the same by anti-Semitism and to create

an action plan based on the results.

He mentioned among the “the saddest and most shocking” results the data concerning the denying and relativising of the Holocaust as the proportion of those who share this view is constantly increasing since 2003 despite the fact that during the past 18 months the number of Holocaust denying openly has decreased significantly.

“We don’t talk about the holocaust in the right way”, he stated. This topic is discussed publicly in a very distant way, creating a sense of saturation due to the role of political opinion leaders and the Jewish community as well, he added. All of the larger media was present at the press conference and the next day, the findings of the research appeared in the highlights of the news.

OTHER NEWS

The head of the Conservative Student Association spoke at an arrow cross event last year

Budapest

Source: atlatszo.hu

The news publicized, on the 4th of April that the Conservative Student association was formed which aims to prevent the spread of “liberal opinion dictatorship” in Hungary. Balázs László, the head of the academic organization, based on conservative and Christian values participated at the event of Pax Hungarica Arrow Cross movement as a moderator in 2015. The Pax Hungarica Movement defines itself as a Hungarian nationalist organization (successor of VÉR ÉS BECSÜLET) which excludes gay, Roma, Jewish and non-European looking people, they use symbols like the symbols of the Arrow Cross movement of Ferenc Szálasi. Their uniform is the well-known green shirt. The movement openly incites against certain social groups, and would deport Jewish and Roma people. It was Balázs László who introduced the speakers at an event in 2015 and also shared the thoughts of an Italian speaker in Hungarian which call for the resistance against the pressure of the international financial power destroying our national identity based on mass immigration and public debt.



Balázs László at the event of Pax Hungarica, source: atlatszo.hu

Gábor Vona, the president of Jobbik wrote a foreword for the Italian anti-Semitic book of Julius Evola

Budapest

Source: MTI

On the 11th of April, MTI published an interview made with Gábor Vona, the President of Jobbik in the radio program called “180 minutes” on Kossuth Radio. During the report, it revealed that Gábor Vona, head of the Party, wrote a foreword for the Hungarian translation of the book of Julius Evola who is an Italian anti-Semitic thinker and theorist? In regards to this, Gábor Vona said that he doesn’t understand those who criticize the foreword which he wrote, for the book of “one of the most influential Italian philosophers of the 20th century. I think that as a qualified historian, I can easily write a foreword.”, he stated. He added that the perception of Julius Evola is “another question”, as the judgment of Albert Wass and Dezső Szabó is very controversial as well. He was asked the question whether he agrees with Evola, Gábor Vona answered that if he agreed with him, then it would have appeared in the foreword. “If someone reads the foreword, it will be clear what I agree with. His work is very interesting, he has thoughts I can agree with and thoughts that I can’t.”, he noted. He said that he learned with great pleasure that the company publishing the book in English chose his foreword for the English translation. The texts of Evola selected for the Hungarian translation of the publication detail the “work” of Hitler among others. The book evaluates “Mein Kampf” as the “seed of the driver of the most renewing power”. The book, which contains a selection of writings, also elaborates on the definition of a real right wing member as being at the right of, even the far right. Violence and the “outbreak of a revolution ordered from above” is more than acceptable.

Holocaust monument in Kárpátalja

Bilke, Ukrajna

Source: MTI

On the 19th of April, Szabolcs Takács, the State Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office installed a monument in memory of the victims of the Holocaust in Bilke, in Kárpátalja. Szabolcs Takács, a member of the Hungarian delegation of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) said in his speech: "There are two young boys on the picture wearing Bocskai coat and braided hat: the siblings of Lenke Jakab. They are Hungarians from Bilke, Kárpátalja. Lenke or as she later became known as Lilly Jakov survives the death camp, and on the day of deliberation in an abandoned SS barrack, she finds those pictures which will be later known to the world as the Auschwitz Album".

The State Secretary highlighted: "Today, we remember those fellow Hungarians who were the Jewish members of one of the most disadvantaged parts of the Hungarian nation and whose elimination is one the biggest tragedies of our country for which Hungary from the period is responsible". He added that remembrance is primarily facing not only the responsibility of the past but that of the present and future as well. It was on the 16th of April in 1944 that the first ghettos were established in the territory of Kárpátalja, Hungary. "The only way of worthy remembrance for the victims is if we are against all manifestations of anti-Semitism whenever and wherever is needed.", declared the politician. Menahem Mendel Wilhelm chief rabbi recited a prayer at the monument, which was made of iron and sized proportionally illustrating a railway wagon with people getting out of it.



Menahem Mendel Wilhelm chief rabbi of Ungvár and Kárpátalja recites a prayer in front of the monument. Source: Consulate General of Hungary; Ukraine



Menahem Mendel Wilhelm chief rabbi of Ungvár and Kárpátalja recites a prayer in front of the monument. Source: Consulate General of Hungary; Ukraine

The capital city, Budapest does not exclude Goy Motorcyclists from being members of the committee dealing with the future of cyclists

Budapest

Source: Index

On the 26th of April, Imre Mészáros, the head of Goy Motorcyclists Association had a meeting with Balázs Szeneczey, deputy mayor of Budapest. During the meeting, the head of the Association handed over his suggestions to the deputy mayor in relation to cycling in Budapest who said that in theory he is not excluding the possibility of the organization to be part of the planned cyclists working group.



Menahem Mendel Wilhelm chief rabbi of Ungvár and Kárpátalja recites a prayer in front of the monument. Source: Consulate General of Hungary; Ukraine

New debate of historians on the judgment of Bálint Hóman

Budapest

Source: Magyar Narancs

On the 28th of April, historians had a debate on the judgment of Bálint Hóman's activity at Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church. The participants of the debate were Krisztián Ungváry (1956 Institute), Gábor Ujváry (Veritas History Research Institute) and Beatrix F. Romhányi, historian of the Middle Ages. We have already reported in February that they also held a debate on the judgment of Bálint Hóman at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The participants of the debate in February were Krisztián Ungváry and Gábor Ujváry. The participants had different opinions on the work of the historian. Ungváry thinks that the primary responsibility of Hóman is in relation to the *numerus clausus*. Although the law would not enable this, he constantly strained the measures so the proportion of admitted Jews to universities constantly dropped while he was the minister of Culture. Hóman ensured that the personal performance would hardly count in entrance exams at universities the only thing that would count, would be not to be a Jew. Ungváry argued that it is thanks to the activity of Hóman that in 1944 when other measures were taken by force against Jews, somehow, everyone accepted them. Ujváry stressed that Hóman, as a minister and a member of the government had no other choice than voting for the legislation against Jews. He emphasized that *numerus clausus* was not only against Jews because the ratio of women has also dropped in between the two world wars. F. Romhányi said that after 1925, the works of the historian have changed, he created ideas instead of being an accurate researcher. Ungváry emphasized that the people of that period did not encounter the studies of Hóman on the measurement system of the Middle Age but the fact that the Ministry led by him caused existential crises for 800,000 people by its measures taken against Jews.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Investigation suspended in relation to the open denial of crimes of the national socialist regime

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 7th of April, the Foundation received a letter from Budapest District 5 Police Department concerning the file against CS. T. saying that since the offender was not identified, the investigation was suspended by the authority. The Foundation filed the charge against unknown individual for publicly denying the crimes of the national socialist regime. The Foundation published an article on its webpage on the 4th of January 2016 entitled “Severe verdict for denying holocaust” where we reported a verdict of the District Court of Esztergom on public denial of crimes committed by the national socialist regime. The readers had the opportunity to comment on the Facebook post directed to the article. A Facebook user named CS. T. commented on the article on the 4th of January which is identical with the comment for which the man from Dömös was convicted by the District Court of Esztergom: “Go back to hell from where you came from! The people are bored to hear your sighing and parasitism together with your “Holokamu”. You are writing about this fucking moral nonsense and you have lived on indemnities and restitution for the past 50 years!”

According to the explanation of the complaint of the Foundation, the Holocaust is a planned and directed genocide by the national socialist German government during World War 2 on territories controlled by Nazi Germany, of which the aim was to eliminate the Jewish nation. The reality of the existence of this genocide is under the protection of the Criminal Law, the fact of the Holocaust is unquestionable by law. Related to the expression of “holokamu”, there are court judgments available, according to which the expression of “holokamu” has a meaning which questions the existence of holocaust, consequently,

when used publicly, it falls into the category of committing a crime. The Police Department wrote in its letter that they carried out an investigation in order to identify the offender of the crime on Facebook but they notice that the site is no longer available. The search based on the profile picture of CS. T. Facebook user did not bring results either. None of the Facebook users commenting under the article published by the Foundation entitled “Severe verdict for denying holocaust” is identical with the person who commented the article with the user name CS. T. Further explanation details that the time of the committed crime cannot be set either. Consequently, the search for the Facebook profile did not bring results because in the absence of exact timing, the identification of the IP address is not possible either. Due to these circumstances, they decided to suspend the investigation.

Decision on the street name “József Nyírő” in Szigetszentmiklós

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 25th of January 2016, the Foundation handed in a petition to the Government Office of Pest County asking for the intervention of the Mayor’s Office of Szigetszentmiklós to change the name of the street “József Nyírő” immediately by its legal supervising power. The Foundation received the letter from the Government Office of Pest County on the 8th of April containing the positive decision on its request to change the street name because the initiative on the use of legal supervision power is justified. In their response, it was justified that a public area cannot be named after a person who has contributed to the foundation, implementation or sustainability of autocratic regimes of the 20th century. It can neither be named after an organization which refers directly to the autocratic regime of the 20th century. Their argumentation

shows that the legal term “cannot be named after” makes it clear that this ban is valid for all public areas and public institutions since this decision came into effect.

The local authorities have a two-fold obligation: on one hand they have to revise the old names and modify them if necessary according to the above, on the other hand it has to be taken into consideration when new public areas or institutions are named. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences shared a summarized collection of its standpoint. This contains the standpoint of the Academy in relation to “József Nyírő”: “József Nyírő did participate actively in the sustainability of the autocratic regime of the 20th century without any doubts, consequently the use of his name for a public area despite of his qualities as a writer is denied according to law.”

The Foundation filed a complaint for denying holocaust

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 25th of April, 2016, the foundation filed a complaint at the Police Department of Budapest District 5 against unknown individual for the open denial of crimes of the national socialist regimes. The complaint was preceded by a video which was shared on the 7th of April, 2016 on the Facebook profile of zsidó.com internet portal. The video was made on the request of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation and Chábád Lubavics Educational Foundation and was asking for the 1% of the personal income tax. People with a Facebook profile had the opportunity to comment this electronic content. This is what A. D. user did who wrote a comment publicly: “maybe...beg from your own wealthy fellows. Holokamu heroes who have been parasites on Hungarians for the past 75 years”. In the April report, we have argued several times what makes it a crime to deny the Holocaust and we also reported how our Foundation won cases several times in similar situations.

Zsolt Dobi, head of press relations at Jobbik, Csongrád County was sentenced for denying holocaust

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 25th of April, 2016, Zsolt Dobi, the President of Jobbik in Üllés was sentenced for denying the Holocaust of the national socialist regime. The politician was sentenced to 100 hours of community service, he is also obliged to visit the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Páva street and write a report about it. The article for what he was condemned was published in the newspaper of Jobbik in Üllés called “Árpád Népe” in 2011.

The article, which was previously available on the webpage of Jobbik, but later disappeared since the investigation started contains statements as follows: “No evidence was found whatsoever which backs up the mass murder of the Jews. No pictures, no plans, no documents. Nothing. In the other buildings, later called as gas chambers where supposedly millions of Jews were murdered, no trace of cyan was found, nor evidence which could have backed up the blurred reports of witnesses.” Dániel Bodnár, the head of the board of Action and Protection Foundation drew the attention of authorities to the article in 2013. Zsolt Dobi is the president of Jobbik in Üllés and identifies himself as the head of press relations of Jobbik of Csongrád County and the editor of the newspaper of the organization. He ran as an individual list representative of Jobbik at the local government election in 2014. When the judgment was announced, the judge explained that it was certain that the newspaper was edited by the president of the organization and it was distributed by the organization Jobbik (the newspaper was sent to 1200 addresses) but certainly other members of the organization took part in its preparation as well. The judgment did not define the place of the rectification work but the judge suggested to get it done at a Jewish ecclesiastic organization. The judgment is not legally binding, both the Prosecutor and the defendant appeal.



*The newspaper of Jobbik in Üllés
Source: Action and Protection Foundation*

The investigation was suspended against V.L.K. for openly denying the cries of the national socialist regime

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 27th of April, the Foundation received a letter from the Police Department of Budapest District 5 in relation to the file against V. L. K. The investigation was suspended by the authority as the identification of the offender was not possible. The foundation filed the charge against unknown individual for the open denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime at the Police Department Budapest District 5 on the 1st of March 2016. On the 27th of January 2016, a Facebook user called V. L. K. published a picture with a note on it: "Fucking Jews, go home!", then he commented the picture: "This is our country. We decide what we want to celebrate and when we want to celebrate. And if we don't want the Holocaust, because we have nothing to do with it (and it is bullshit anyway), then we won't. It could finally reach the corner of their mind. (-: So, as for me, I will continue to remember the heroes died in the curve of the Don river, the victims of the mass murder of the South and all Hungarians who passed

away, whether you like it or not. (-:"

The Police department explains its decision: they did a research in the database of KEKKH in order to specify the personal data on Facebook user V. L. K. which led to no result. The central office of Facebook is based in the United States, so with regard to this, the request can only be fulfilled in the framework of international judicial assistance, although it would not bring any results due to the anomalies of the legal harmonization between the data proving country and the Hungarian legislation. As a result of the above, the identification of the IP address from which the comment was uploaded is not possible. Consequently, the actual Facebook user's identification, named V. L. K. is not possible either. It was not possible to find any other personal and material evidence which could lead to the identification of the offender according to the police.

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	2 nd of April	Commemoration of Eszter Solymosi	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
2.	4 th of April	Swastika painted on a house at 31 Dob utca	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
3.	4 th of April	Ilan Mor Ambassador of Israel to Budapest wrote a letter of protest concerning the series of articles of Zsolt Bayer	Official and civil responses
4.	4 th of April	The head of the Conservative Student Association spoke at an arrow cross event last year	Other news
5.	5 th of April	March of Life Movement: The descendants distance themselves from the crimes of Nazi ancestors	Community news and responses
6.	7 th of April	Investigation suspended in relation to the open denial of crimes of the national socialist regime	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
7.	8 th of April	Decision on the street name “József Nyíró” In Szigetszentmiklós	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
8.	10 th of April	Unknown individuals vandalized a monument at March 15 Square	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
9.	11 th of April	Gábor Vona, the president of Jobbik wrote a foreword for the Italian anti-Semitic book of Julius Evola	Other news
10.	12 th of April	Swastika was painted at a popular hiking spot in Bükk Mountains	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
11.	12 th of April	Lawsuit launched dealing with the renewal of Bálint Hóman's membership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences	Community news and responses
12.	14 th of April	Unknown individuals wrote an offensive graffiti against Jews at a commonly used spot in Népliget	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
13.	14 th of April	The Court ordered the inaccessibility of an article denying the Holocaust	Official and civil responses
14.	14 th of April	American report about the situation of human rights in Hungary	News and Opinions about anti-semitism in Hungary
15.	17 th of April	March of the Living for the 14th time	Community news and responses
16.	19 th of April	Anti-Semitic Discrimination has grown – reveals the joint research of APF and Medián	News and Opinions about anti-semitism in Hungary
17.	19 th of April	Holocaust monument in Kárpátalja	Other news

No.	Date	Incident	Category
18.	20 th of April	Lóránd Schuster jew-baiting at a Jobbik event	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
19.	21 st of April	Unknown Individuals painted swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
20.	21 st and 22 nd of April	The Mayor of Debrecen and the Office of the Prime Minister condemns the abuse of the Great Church of Debrecen	Official and civil responses
21.	22 nd of April	The Nazi friends of Gábor Vona	Community news and responses
22.	22 nd of April	Young people are caught for painting swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen	Official and civil responses
23.	25 th of April	The Foundation filed a complaint for denying holocaust	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
24.	25 th of April	Zsolt Dobi, head of press relations at Jobbik, Csongrád County was sentenced for denying holocaust	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
25.	26 th of April	The capital city, Budapest does not exclude Goy Motorcyclists from being members of the committee dealing with the future of cyclists	Other news
26.	27 th of April	The investigation was suspended against V.L.K. for openly denying the cries of the national socials regime	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
27.	28 th of April	New debate of historians on the judgment of Bálint Hóman	Other news
28.	April	Responses to March of the Living in April	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) 5 1 00 000

The website of Action and Protection Foundation: www.tev.hu/forrodrot
The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

Action and Protection Foundation's undertaking can only be successful if great numbers share in our commitment to prepare the grounds for the right to fair process for all those who have suffered offenses. In aid of this cause please support the work of the Foundation with your contribution!

Donations can be made to the Foundation on the following bank account:

13597539-12302010-00057157

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