

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT

MAY 2016

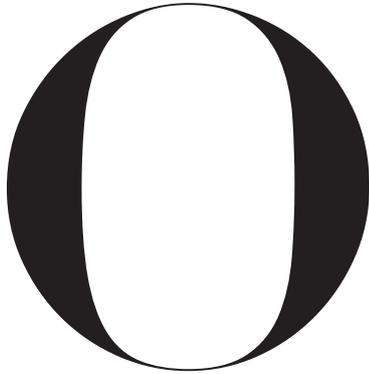


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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

The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified one anti-Semitic hate crime in May, which falls in the category of hate speech. Supporters at the Tatabánya-MTK football game on 8 May displayed anti-Semitic behaviour, for which reason the Discipline Committee of MLSZ fined the Tatabánya NB III team for 300 000 HUF.

TEV Foundation filed two complaints in May 2016 for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against J. K. and U. J. The court of appeals rendered a sentence in the slander case of Rabbi Slomó Köves, which affirmed the original sentence.

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 CRIMES MAY 2016

The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified one anti-Semitic hate crime in May, which falls in the category of hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Anti-Semitic shouting at the Tatabánya-MTK football game

Tatabánya, Komárom-Esztergom County
Source: Magyar Nemzet website

An anonymous eyewitness reported to TEV Foundation on 11 May that during the Tatabánya NB III – MTK II football game some of the guest supporters shouted “filthy Jews”. When one of the MTK supporters shouted back, two of the Tatabánya supporters started a fight, but two employees of MTK intervened and the fight was stopped. The report was confirmed by the fact that the Discipline Committee of MLSZ fined the MTK 50,000 HUF and the Tatabánya team 300,000 HUF, because the committee determined “they displayed depreciatory and discriminative behavior”. Approximate-

ly 50 people were watching the football game.

The reason for this penalty, which is unusual in the third league, in addition to the shouting, was probably because Tatabánya is a recidivist. It was already fined 100,000 HUF because of the verbal abuse of MLSZ President Sándor Csányi. “We are waiting for the written decision of the committee, then we decide about the appeal” reported Zoltán Veér, secretary of the Tatabánya team, to Magyar Nemzet. He also said that he did not pay attention to the events outside the field during the game, but presumably the supporters who follow the team everywhere made anti-Semitic remarks about the MTK team.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation has not identified any case of hate crime in May that is not part of the statistics.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Chief Rabbi Slomó Köves and Cardinal Péter Erdő met in the House of Dialogue

Budapest

Source: Nol

On a joint event organized by the Ifjúsági Kereszténydemokrata Szövetség (Alliance of Young Christian Democrats), the youth organization of EMIH Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (ÁTID), and the House of Dialogue, Cardinal Péter Erdő and Slomó Köves (Chief Rabbi of EMIH), talked about the relations of Jews and Christians, Jewish-Christian roots and the future of Europe. Most of the Hungarian press reported on this full-house event.



Slomó Köves and Péter Erdő in the House of Dialogue, Source: zsidó.com

The discussion can be watched at the link: <http://zsido.com/koves-slomo-es-erdo-peter-beszeltetese-video/>

Monument inaugurated at Zalabér

Zalabér, Zala County

Source: zaol.hu

The renovated Jewish cemetery and the Holocaust memorial erected in the Catholic Church yard were inaugurated in Zalabér on 5 May. Speeches were addressed by Vilmos Siklósi (President of the Jewish Congregation of Zalaegerszeg), István Goldschmied (President of the Jewish Congregation of Keszthely of the EMIH Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation), Dr. Péter Kunos (Executive Manager of the Federa-

tion of Hungarian Jewish Communities Mazsihisz), and József Zsuppán (mayor of the settlement).



Memorial at Zalabér, Source: zaol.hu

Joint research of TEV Foundation and Political Capital ended

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

The research project “Renewing ways of human rights argumentation (tolerant, democratic) and making it more attractive to young people with the help of humor, irony and facts” was released in a conference on 30 May. The project is financially supported by the Hungarian NGO Fund of the EEA/Norway Grants – a joint effort by the TEV Foundation, Gábor Bernáth media researcher, and the Political Capital Institute.

The project analyzed how to strengthen and enhance nondiscriminatory public discourse. It also identified strategies of argumentation against hate speech and tested these online. Members of the project do not

assume that communication and argumentation alone can solve all social problems, but they are convinced that public communication may assist or hinder solutions.

Tibor Pásztor of TEV Foundation opened the round table discussion. Péter Krekó, Manager of Political Capital moderated. The participants of the discussion were: Ákos Gergely Balogh (Chief Editor of news portal Mandiner.hu), Gabriella Cseh (Head of Public Policy for Central and Eastern Europe for Facebook), and Gergely Dudás (Chief Editor of news portal Index.hu).

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Csaba Latorcai's commemoration in Auschwitz as member of the March of Life delegation

Auschwitz, Poland

Source: MTI

Csaba Latorcai, deputy state secretary for key social issues of the Prime Minister's Office, stressed, at the commemoration held at Auschwitz on 5 May 2016 during the March of Life, that the Holocaust was the greatest tragedy not only of the Hungarian Jewry but also for the history of the entire Hungarian society. Latorcai headed the Hungarian delegation of 150 people at the 25th March of Life, organized on the Holocaust Memorial Day on the territory of the former concentration camp of Auschwitz operated by Nazi Germany. The memory of the Holocaust, "one of the greatest tragedies not only of the Hungarian Jewry but of the history of the entire Hungarian society", must be kept alive, in order for "future generations, aware of their past, not to commit the same atrocities which had happened before. Cherishing its memory, presenting the Holocaust in an authentic and balanced way may take us closer to the target: to atone for what happened", said the deputy state secretary. The ongoing renovation of synagogues and deserted Jewish cemeteries in Hungary and the Carpathian basin is also part of the commemoration. The Hungarian delegation, along with more than 50 delegations from other countries, took part in the central commemoration of the March of Life. Approximately 8,000 participants walked 3 km along a death march route, which connects camp Auschwitz I with Auschwitz-Birkenau. The March of Life, which is part of an international education program started in 1988, is always organized on the international Holocaust Remembrance Day proclaimed in 1951. Initially it was held once in two years; it has been held every year since 1996.

Youngsters drawing Swastika on the Debrecen Reformed Church condemned

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: Index

Index.hu reported on 19 May that the Debrecen District Court sentenced two 15-year-old boys to two years of probation each for drawing a Swastika and inverted cross on the base of the Reformed Church in Debrecen on 16 April 2016 – as included in our April report. Since the Reformed Church of Debrecen is a monument, drawing on it does not only count as infraction, and they could have even been sentenced to three years in prison. Their act in the police jargon is "crime of damage to a building that serves as an object of religious veneration". The Debrecen Court reported that on the evening of 16 April 2016, the prime suspect urged his friends to draw graffiti on the base of the Church with the black paint he had. Although the girlfriend of one of them tried to talk them out of doing so, the boys left the group behind, went up to the building and drew a Swastika and an inverted cross on the marble base.

The two boys caused damaged estimated at 80,000 HUF. One of the priests reported the incident, and the Debrecen police identified and captured the two boys in one day. The police raided the homes of the boys on 20 April, who admitted everything. László Papp, Mayor of Debrecen of Fidesz-KDNP and the Prime Minister's office denounced the graffiti. The Debrecen District Court expedited the case, the judge ordered a closed hearing to protect the privacy of the two underage perpetrators. The boys stated that they regretted their actions. The main suspect paid the damage, and both apologized to the offended party. The court noted aggravating circumstances in the case, namely that that the boys damaged a monument which is "not only the most important symbol of Debrecen,

but it can be regarded as a national symbol, therefore their action seriously offended public interest.” The court determined that a prison sentence would be excessive and that a sentence of probation was proper, as proposed by the prosecution. However, the court set the maximum period of probation. The judge said that restitution work would have been an appropriate measure, but it could not be applied under the age of 16. The sentence is subject to appeal. The prosecution announced the appeal, the prime and secondary suspect, their legal representatives and defendants asked for three days to consider their options.

The law tricked: Nyirő köz changed into Nyírő köz in Kecskemét

*Kecskemét, Bács-Kiskun County
Source: Index, TEV Foundation*

The news appeared on Index on 27 May that the name of Nyirő köz (with a short i) was changed in Nyírő köz (with a long i) in Kecskemét. TEV Foundation contacted the Government Offices of Bács-Kiskun and Pest Counties at the end of January 2016 because a street and a square was named after József Nyírő in Szigetszentmiklós and in Kecskemét.

According to the law, no public space in Hungary can be named after persons who participated in the foundation, construction or support of 20th century autocratic regimes. József Nyírő, as exposed by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, “shifted to the far right, became a supporter of Szálasi, took part in the Nyilas national assembly at Sopron, then left the country with the Nyilas leaders. He edited several extremist periodicals, he remained active after his emigration, and his attitude didn’t change. [...] József Nyírő indisputably took an active part in sustaining one of the autocratic regimes of the 20th century, therefore the use of his name as a name of a public space despite his incontestable merits as a writer is forbidden by the law.”

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences released its position in March 2016, precisely in connection to the Nyirő köz-case in Kecskemét. Two names were proposed there:

one was Antal Jakab (1909–1993), Catholic Bishop of Transylvania, associate of Bishop Áron Márton, the other was the writer Albert Wass.

The final decision in Kecskemét was to keep the name of Nyirő köz, but the name would not refer any more to József Nyírő, but to the famous doctor Gyula Nyírő. In March the deputies “renamed” György Lukács Street as well into György Lukács Street, although not after the Marxist philosopher, but his namesake, a Hungarian jurist, főispán (count) of Gyula, then Minister of Religion and Public Education.

The Foundation salutes the decision to honor the name of Gyula Nyírő, a famous neurologist, candidate of medical sciences by naming besides a hospital in Budapest also a public space after him in Bács-Kiskun County. However, the Foundation also hopes that there will not be a fashion in the future to “inventively” name public spaces only by family names, and no public space will thus be called Horthy after István Horthy, an outstanding engineer and flight lieutenant, or Rákosi after Béla Rákosi, a well-known police doctor.

This subject will also be treated in the section “Official Cases of TEV Foundation” of this report.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Szabolcs Takács in Bucharest on the IHRA general meeting

Bucharest, Romania

Source: Magyar Hírlap

“Hungary continues to fight against anti-Semitism and tries to fight off the spread of hatred against Jewish communities still visible in Europe today”, said Szabolcs Takács, State Secretary responsible for European Union cases of the Prime Minister’s Office, in Bucharest on 26 May at a meeting organized by the Romanian presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Romania took over the leadership of IHRA from Hungary in March. “The Hungarian government still thinks the purposes of this organization, such as fighting off anti-Semitism through education, are important, and continues to adhere to this commitment”, said Szabolcs Takács. As Ministerial Commissioner, Takács was the leader of the IHRA Hungarian presidency. “The Holocaust was one of the great tragedies of Hungarian history, besides many other 20th-century tragedies. It must not be relativized which was more or less important: all were extremely serious. We lost 600 thousand of our Hungarian compatriots during the Holocaust, who had done very much in the period preceding it for the social and economic development of Hungary.” he said. On handing over the presidency of IHRA to Romania, Hungary proposed that they partner with Romania to renovate the synagogue of Cluj.

OTHER NEWS

The largest social media prohibit hate speech

Source: Index

Twitter, Facebook, and some other giant companies of Silicon Valley accepted, on May 31, the new EU regulations on hate speech. Therefore any content and comment that can be defined as hate speech must be removed in 24 hours. One can still use hateful speech if it is not directed against a social group and does not endanger the members of a group.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Complaint against J. U. for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime

Pásztó, Nógrád County

Source: TEV Foundation

On 17 May 2016, Dániel Bodnár, President of the Board of Trustees, filed a complaint in the name of the Foundation at the Pásztó Police Headquarters against Facebook user J. U. for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. A person who registered to the Facebook with username J. U. shared a picture on 19 June 2015 which can be defined as public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. The picture contains the following text: “This person does not recognize the state of Israel and does not believe in the legend of the Holocaust” (literal translation). The screenshot of the shared picture is seen below. The content of the picture, the first person singular formulation, the arrow above the text pointing to the user make it clear that the user identifies with the shared text, and wants to share it publicly. The justification of the Foundation’s complaint is that the Holocaust was a genocide planned and controlled by the German Nazi government on the territories occupied by Germany during WWII, with the purpose of eliminating the Jews. The reality of this genocide is protected by criminal law, it is forbidden by law to doubt the fact of the Holocaust.



*The reason of the complaint,
Source: Facebook*

The word legend appears here not in a literary, but a common sense, conveying the meaning that the Holocaust as a genocide committed by a totalitarian regime of the 20th century is not a historical event which actually happened in the past, but something which can be doubted or refuted. Claiming that the Holocaust is a legend, the accused distances the concept from its objective reality, doubts that it actually took place.

Complaint against K. J. for the denial of the Holocaust

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 17 May 2016, Dániel Bodnár, President of the Board of Trustees, filed a complaint in the name of the Foundation at the Gödöllő Police Headquarters against Facebook user K. J. for sharing, on 9 April 2015, a video entitled “The message of Palestinian children to the world”, and commenting: “If you look at this film, you may ask the question: what holohoax are the Jews complaining about? These Zionists are worse than the Nazis”. This is an act that constitutes public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime.

The justification of the Foundation’s complaint is that the Holocaust was a genocide planned and controlled by the German Nazi government on the territories occupied by Germany during WWII, with the purpose of eliminating the Jews. The reality of this genocide is protected by criminal law, it is forbidden by law to doubt the fact of the Holocaust. Regarding the word “holohoax”, there are court sentences which establish that the expression “holohoax” clearly denotes the doubting of the Holocaust, and its public use constitutes a crime. The Pest Central District Court, the Esztergom District Court and Debrecen District Court established the committing of this crime based on the same attitude.

Complaint rejected in case of K. J.

Gödöllő, Pest County

Source: TEV Foundation

The Gödöllő Police Headquarters rejected on 23 May 2016 the complaint filed on 17 May against Facebook user K. J. for sharing, on 9 April 2015, a video entitled “The message of Palestinian children to the world”, and commenting: “If you look at this film, you may ask the question: what holohoax are the Jews complaining about? These Zionists are worse than the Nazis”. This is an act that constitutes public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime, there are court sentences which establish that the public use of the word “holohoax” constitutes a crime.

The rejection is justified as follows: who publicly denies, doubts, fails to acknowledge the significance of, or tries to justify a genocide or other acts against humanity committed by national socialist or communist regimes, commits a crime. The primary position of the prosecution on this: “the attitude ‘tries to justify’ usually presupposes that the perpetrator tries to ground their value judgment with arguments. However, the analysis of the context may yield a state of facts, if someone states without any argumentation, reasoning or correspondence that the ‘crimes’ committed by the national socialist or communist regimes were desirable, correct, necessary or justified actions, presenting these in a positive light.” The justification continues that the analysis of the video attached to the complaint, the screenshot of the comment, and the linguistic analysis of the comment may show that the person does make a statement, but it is not a statement of facts, but an open question subject to interpretation. It does not use arguments, reasoning or correspondence to state that the crimes committed by the national socialist regime were desirable, correct, necessary or justified actions, that is, it does not present these in a positive light. With regard to those said above, the complaint was rejected.

Final and binding judgment in Slomó Köves’s slander case

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

The seven persons who had been sharing a picture which accuses Rabbi Slomó Köves of terrorism were sentenced by a final and binding judgment of the second instance on 26 May. The change compared to the first instance was that it no longer referred in the sentence to accomplices. In other respects it upheld the sentence of the first instance. The first instance judgment sentenced the perpetrators to one year probation and paying the legal expenses.

The accused: Cz. Terézia, A. Dezső, M. Imre, Sz-R. István, O. János Ferenc, Sz. Zoltán Ákos, R. Dezső és B. Szilvia.

The preliminaries of the case are that Slomó Köves filed a lawsuit on 30 September 2013 against some people who shared a picture of him on Facebook. This picture contains the photo of the Chief Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation and a caption: “Jewish terrorist and lives in Hungary and represents a danger for the entire nation!” The Rabbi turned to the Court with help of the legal aid service of TEV Foundation.

Eight persons of those who shared the picture could be identified and were investigated. They were defended by Tamás Gaudi-Nagy and the National Legal Aid Bureau, because, as their lawyer said, he did not agree to “the oppression of radical ideas”. The original picture, as said in Court, appeared in 2013, and is still accessible on kuruc.info, a far-right portal.

At the announcement of the decision the sharing of the picture also constitutes slander, and, since it cannot be connected to Slomó Köves’s public activity, in this case the increased tolerance constraint referring to public figures does not apply.

At previous hearings, the perpetrators denied to have shared the picture, they made references to computer viruses or unknown perpetrators. There was one single person who could be presumed not to have shared the photo, and she was the only one who apologized both in the name of herself and the unknown sharer. The accusation was dropped in case of Cz. Terézia, as we reported in June 2015.

TEV Foundation addressed in official report on the name change of József Nyírő Street in Kecskemét

Kecskemét, Bács-Kiskun County

Source: TEV Foundation

The Government Office of Bács-Kiskun County reported to the Foundation in a letter dated 27 May that the general assembly of the County Rank Town of Kecskemét held on 28 April 2016 changed the name of the public space block of building with parcel no. 10576/69. from József Nyírő köz to Gyula Nyírő köz in honor of the physician and university professor. The preliminaries of this change are that on 25 January 2016 the Foundation filed a petition to the Bács-Kiskun County Government Office, requesting that, acting on its authority in review of legality, to have the general assembly of the Local Government of County Rank Town of Kecskemét change the name of József Nyírő köz. The justification of the request was that no public space can be named after persons who participated in the foundation, construction or support of 20th-century autocratic regimes. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences published on its website the summary of its position about the persons whose name cannot be given to public spaces. This summary contains, among others, the Academy's position regarding "József Nyírő", namely that "József Nyírő indisputably took an active part in sustaining one of the autocratic regimes of the 20th century, therefore the use of his name as a name of a public space – despite his incontestable merits as a writer – is forbidden by the law". The Foundation was informed in the letter that, since the name has changed, a review of legality in this case is unnecessary.

Our April report informed that the Pest County Government Office finds it justified to change the name of József Nyírő Street in Szigetszentmiklós, also requested by TEV Foundation.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

All the incidents to be found in the report are presented chronologically in the table below. The Category column shows which part of the report deals with the given case in greater detail.

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	5 th of May	Monument inaugurated at Zalabér	Community news and responses
2.	5 th of May	Csaba Latorcai's commemoration in Auschwitz as member of the March of Life delegation	Official and Civil Responses
3.	8 th of May	Anti-Semitic shouting at the Tatabánya-MTK football game	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
4.	17 th of May	Complaint against J. U. for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
5.	17 th of May	Complaint against K. J. for the denial of the Holocaust	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
6.	18 th of May	Chief Rabbi Slomó Köves and Cardinal Péter Erdő met in the House of Dialogue	Community news and responses
7.	19 th of May	Youngsters drawing Swastika on the Debrecen Reformed Church condemned	Official and Civil Responses
8.	23 rd of May	Complaint rejected in case of K. J.	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
9.	26 th of May	Szabolcs Takács in Bucharest on the IHRA general meeting	News and Opinions on Hungarian Anti-Semitism
10.	26 th of May	Final and binding judgment in Slomó Köves's slander case	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
11.	27 th of May	The law tricked: Nyirő köz changed into Nyirő köz in Kecskemét	Official and Civil Responses
12.	27 th of May	TEV Foundation addressed in official report on the name change of József Nyirő Street in Kecskemét	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
13.	30 th of May	Joint research of TEV Foundation and Political Capital ended	Community news and responses
14.	31 st of May	The largest social media prohibit hate speech	Other news

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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