

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT

AUGUST 2016

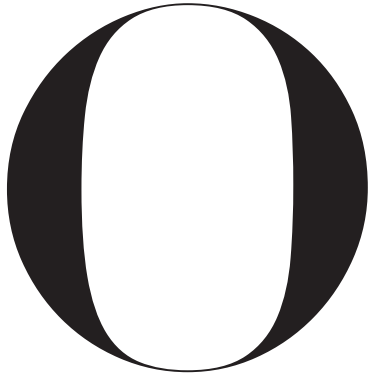


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 two incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during August monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech. After his trial, György Budaházy refused to give an interview to a reporter of 24.hu due to the journalist’s Jewish heritage. The other incident took place in Balatonlelle in June when a man was photographed wearing tattoos of banned totalitarian symbols. The tattooed man is now subject to criminal proceedings. The investigation was launched in August.

The section titled Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents include three other incidents. Unknown individuals drew anti-Semitic content and totalitarian symbols on benches and walls of doorways in Budapest Districts 3 and 9. Also, in Budapest, a young man wearing an Arrow Cross uniform traveled by tram.

Action and Protection Foundation filed one lawsuit in August 2016. We filed charges against Facebook user Zoltán P. who shared an openly Holocaust denying video on his Facebook timeline. We also filed charges against the individual who originally posted the video in question.

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

AUGUST 2016

APF identified two incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during August monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Police investigation into Nazi tattoo

Source: *hvg.hu*
16 August 2016

A man was photographed on a Balatonlelle beach last year having Nazi tattoos covering his entire back – an imperial eagle, a swastika, and the face of a soldier with a bloodstain-like red stain behind it. The man was at the counter of a bar and he did not seem to mind that he was wearing banned totalitarian symbols. The photo was published by Index last year.⁹

According to the Hungarian Criminal Code, “any person who distributes, uses before the public at large, or publicly exhibits the swastika, the insignia of the SS, the arrow cross, the sickle and hammer, the five-pointed red star or any symbol depicting the above (...) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by custodial arrest, insofar as the did not result in a more serious criminal offense”.

According to the person who took the photograph, the tattooed man is Hungarian and he was seen topless on the beach of Bavaria Yacht Club, which is rather popular with families. The manager of the yacht club stated that “the gentleman may have been a lodger or visitor of the apartment building located within the territory of the club, and this is why he was seen on the territory used by yacht owners.”

On 25 July, István Tényi filed a complaint at the Prosecutor’s Office of Budapest District 5, and he also sent his complaint to RomNet. According to RomNet, the complaint was transferred to Fonyód, and, on 10 August 2016, the Prosecutor’s Office of Fonyód District ordered an investigation against an unknown individual for use of totalitarian symbols. The investigation shall be conducted by Fonyód Police Department by 10 October 2016.

Budaházy would have been interviewed by 24.hu

Source: *24.hu*
Budapest, 30 August 2016

A reporter from 24.hu also attended György Budaházy’s trial, where Budaházy was convicted, but the decision is not final. Following the trial, the 24.hu reporter wanted to ask a question from Budaházy, who asked back: “what is this, are you Jewish?”. After the reporter answered yes, Budaházy refused to answer his question and stated even later, outside the court building – that he did not want the reporter to be around any more.

⁹Source: http://index.hu/mindekozben/poszt/2015/07/21/elve_fogjak_megnyuzni_a_magyar_nacit/

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

APF identified three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crimes during August 2016 monitoring which we did not include in our most recent statistics. The various types of messages in the first case make us believe that the offenders were motivated by general hatred and discrimination, rather than anti-Semitism. The messages of the other two incidents were only shared with a limited number of people, and although the uniform in the third incident implies an Arrow Cross Party ideology, it is not clear what the intent of its wearer was.

Discriminative writings on a bench in Budapest

*Source: Facebook / nol.hu / propeller.hu
Budapest, 14 August 2016*

The Facebook community called ‘Forum against anti-Semitism’ shared a photo of a bench on Bakáts tér (Budapest District 9) which had been vandalized by unknown individuals. A writing on the back of the bench read: “George Soros and the migrant Mohammed should be in gas chambers where they belong”. Nol.hu and Propeller both wrote about the bench, but they also mentioned another one on the same square that had “Pope Francis is sh.t” written on it. Authors of the articles seemed to have thought there was correlation between the writings and the government’s campaign on the October quota referendum.

Swastika and SS-insignia on block of flats in Budapest

*Source: TEV
Budapest, 18 August 2016*

APF was informed that unknown individuals painted a swastika and the insignia of the SS on the wall of a block of flats at 125 Lajos utca (Budapest District 3). The Youth organization of the Unified Hungarian Jew-

ish Congregation (EMIH) and ATID removed the anti-Semitic symbols.

Man wears Arrow Cross uniform on tram

*Source: 24.hu
24 August 2016*

24.hu online news portal published a photo they had received from one of their readers depicting a young man traveling on Tram 1 and wearing an Arrow Cross uniform. The young man’s face is obscured by a yellow Hitler-like smiley, thus making him unrecognizable. The author of the article wrote ironically that “the gentleman may not be a young neo-Nazi, it is possible he only left for the city in period clothing (trainers, short cut gestapo coat, arrow cross) because of the 1956 memorial year.”

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Slomó Köves' opinion piece about Jobbik published in 168 óra

*Source: 168 óra
Budapest, 11 August 2016*

168 óra published an opinion piece titled 'The rules of kosher, or is Jobbik treyf?'. The Executive Rabbi of EMIH recalled that in 2009, then Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai said it had been a mistake to let extremist views gain strength and reach public discourse. With regards to Jobbik, Slomó Köves wrote that since Bajnai's speech, Jobbik had made it to the Parliament twice and as a result, hate speech and anti-Semitic rhetoric became more prevalent. The Rabbi mentioned some of Márton Gyöngyösi's, Zsolt Baráth's, Előd Novák's speeches, and statements made by Jobbik leader Gábor Vona – for example, when he claimed he would resign if it turned out he was Jewish. Slomó Köves also expressed his concern about opinions that believe Jobbik could be a future "technical ally" in changing the government. According to the Rabbi, Jobbik is trying to become a people's party and claims they have changed, but at the same time they are unable to, or unwilling to hold responsibility for their past deeds. They lack self-analysis, without which they are still the same party they have always been.

Human remains found at Margit híd would be examined with help from ZAKA

*Source: atv.hu
11 August 2016*

Israeli politician Jair Lapid asked Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó Péter's intervention to be able to examine the remains of Jewish victims of World War II found at Margit híd (Margaret Bridge) with the assistance of experts. Jair Lapid would wish to see ZAKA, the organization that provides aid in the identification of

Jewish victims, collecting the remains that have not been excavated, and transporting them to Israel where the bones would be laid to rest according to Jewish customs. (In Israel, members of the ZAKA emergency response teams collect and identify the remains of the victims of terrorism, too.)

On 26 June 2011, during the reconstruction works at the foot of Margit híd, divers found human remains, bones, shoes and scraps of clothing under remains of the exploded bridge. The human remains are said to belong to "men, women and children, and are older than 35 years". It is fact that from fall 1944, Jews were regularly taken to the bank of the Danube where they were shot into the river.

'Jews and the Olympics' exhibition at Madách tér

*Source: MTI/TEV
Budapest, 11 August 2016*

At the opening of the exhibition, organized by EMIH, APF Secretary and member of EMIH Kálmán Szalai said in his speech that besides Hungarian sporting successes at the Olympic Games, the exhibition presented the history of Jews and sport, as well as a number of sensational results of Jewish Hungarians which have been undeservedly unknown. Szalai's speech stressed that Ferenc Kemény, who was one of the initiators of the modern Olympic Games and was among the founding members of the International Olympic Committee, was also born a Jew, named Ferenc Kohn.

Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves also spoke at the opening. He reminded that by World War II, over 40 Jewish Hungarian athletes had become Olympic champions. Alfréd Hajós (born Arnold Guttmann), who, at the 1896 Athens Olympics, was the first Hungarian to win the gold medal in swimming, was also among them. The Rabbi added that unfortunately a great number

of these people died tragically during the persecution of Jews in the middle of the last century. The exhibition revealed that some of the most successful Hungarian Olympians, including fencers Endre Kabos, Ilona Elek and Attila Petschauer, and the oldest living Hungarian Olympic champion Ágnes Keleti (Klein), are of Jewish origin. Ágnes Keleti could escape persecution only because she had false documents.

The exhibition also displayed numerous pictures of less well-known themes like the 1936 Berlin Olympics that showcased the superiority of Hitler's Third Reich, the terror attack against Israeli Olympic team members during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, and the history of the Maccabiah Games, aka the Jewish Olympics. The open air exhibition was available for viewing for a month.

Stolpersteine laid throughout the country

Source: MTI/vagy.hu

Budapest/Debrecen, 12 August 2016

Organized by the Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association (Mazsike), the Prime Minister's Office and the Zachor Foundation under the series called 'Social Memory', a program titled 'One stone, one name, one memory – Stolpersteine 2016' was launched on 9 August by laying 25 stolpersteine in Miskolc. A German artist, who was the initiator of the stolperstein art project, laid down a further 24 stolpersteine in Nyíregyháza, 28 in Debrecen, and 2 in Abony. On Friday and Saturday the same week, 11 stolpersteine were laid down in Budapest, and 5 in Győr – noted executive director of Mazsike Annamária Takáts. President of Mazsike Péter Kirschner added that with their help, two hundred stolpersteine were placed in Hungary in the last two years.

At the opening of the sequence of events called 'Stolpersteine in Debrecen' held in the Pásti Synagogue in Debrecen, political commissioner of the German Embassy in Budapest Rolf Martin Noormann said that Stolpersteine give Holocaust victims back their names. Noormann also reminded his audience that the Holocaust was committed by his ancestors, but it was committed in the

name of Germany, "so we cannot ignore the issue and say we have nothing to do with it".

In his speech, honorary consul to Israel László Hunyadi called stolpersteine "the results of exemplary politics of memory" and expressed his hopes that "time will come when one's origin and religion will no longer matter, only what they do to make a country prosper".

Stolpersteine are cobblestone-size brass plates that commemorate victims of the Holocaust. They are laid in the pavement outside the victims' last place of freely chosen residency. As of 2016, over 56,000 stolpersteine have been laid in over 1,600 towns and cities in 22 European countries, commemorating the victims of National Socialism. There are about 4,000 stolpersteine in Hungary, the first one was laid at 5 Ráday utca where Béla Rónai used to live. He died on 19 January 1945 in a labor camp in Sopronbánfalva.

President of the Jewish Community of Debrecen (DZSH) Tamás Horovitz recalled that about 12,000 Jews lived in Debrecen before World War II, and approximately 6,000 of them fell victims of the Holocaust. The Holocaust Memorial Wall in the courtyard of Pásti Synagogue already commemorates the victims, and from Thursday, stolpersteine laid throughout the city will do the same – Horovitz added. On the other hand, vagy.hu wrote that the municipality of Debrecen was not represented when the stolpersteine were laid, and according to pastor Gábor Iványi, "they were held back by their shame or their indifference".

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

APF did not identify any events during August monitoring that would be included in this section.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Commemorating Raoul Wallenberg on his birthday

Source: *MTI*

Budapest, 4 August 2016

The United States Ambassador to Hungary, Colleen Bell, gave a speech about Raoul Wallenberg's life. The Ambassador said that everyone could take inspiration from his self-sacrificing heroism and find this heroism in themselves and their own decisions. The commemoration was organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Association, where Colleen Bell also highlighted that when one becomes a victim, whether "migrants, Roma, Jews or anyone else", it is everyone's duty to stand up for them. Bell talked about what the heritage of the Swedish life-saver teach us about facing Hungary's and the world's challenges, of which there are plenty.

According to the Ambassador, part of the world is still struggling to get over the history of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Bell said that some others still "try to rewrite the history of the Holocaust" to transfer the responsibility for killing over 500,000 Hungarian Jews. The Ambassador added, however, that she also sees improvement in the issue. Examples included her trips to Kisvárda, or Mád where Jewish culture revived, or when she talked to leaders of Jewish organizations about how successful the cooperation with the Hungarian government is concerning the reconstruction of old Jewish cemeteries, and the review of textbooks to teach a more accurate history of Hungarian Jews.

At the end of the commemoration, many placed flowers and candles at the statue of Raoul Wallenberg.

US Department of State report on religious freedom¹⁰

Source: *MTI/index.hu*

Budapest/Washington, 11 August 2016

"The Fundamental Law (constitution) provides for freedom of religion" states the US Department of State in its annual report on international religious freedom.

The report for 2015 claims that "Parliament must approve by a two-thirds majority the application of a religious organization to function as an incorporated church, a status which provides for tax benefits and government support." "The government provided 52 billion forints (\$179 million) to incorporated churches" and it "also provided a total of 109 million forints (\$376,000) to religious organizations for operational costs of religious activities". "The government continued to provide approximately 90 percent of its total financial support to the Roman Catholic Church, the Hungarian Reformed Church, the Lutheran Church, and the Jewish community (...)."

"During the year, courts convicted one individual of incitement of religious hatred and a total of 59 individuals for violence against members of religious, ethnic, racial, or other societal groups." "Manifestation of anti-Semitism included assaults and verbal attacks, Holocaust denial and revisionism, and cemetery desecration and other vandalism." Jobbik representative Tibor Agoston, for example, received a fine of 750,000 forints (\$2,500) for Holocaust denial. "The TEV registered 49 acts of anti-Semitism for the first 10 months of the year, including two cases of assault, compared to 37 anti-Semitic incidents in all of 2014, including one case of physical abuse."

¹⁰ Full text of the International Religious Freedom Report for 2015 we quote is available at <https://www.state.gov/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm?year=2015&did=256197#wrapper>

The report also included that the government reiterated “zero tolerance for anti-Semitism” in February and assumed the chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

“(…) U.S. embassy and visiting U.S. officials emphasized the government’s responsibility to address the Holocaust accurately, avoid paying tribute to wartime figures who played a role in the Holocaust.” With regards to this, the report gives a detailed account of how, on 18 December 2015, the Székesfehérvár city council withdrew its decree, which had approved the plan to erect a statue of Bálint Hóman in Székesfehérvár and allocated 1.9 million forints (€6,500) for related costs.

In addition to the foregoing, the report cites a Fidesz statement about the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and one of Orbán Viktor’s speeches whose central element was George Soros. With regards to the two examples, domestic experts on anti-Semitism stated that, while not overtly anti-Semitic, the terms used can have anti-Semitic connotations in national discourse.

Holocaust denying websites made inaccessible

Source: MTI

Budapest, 29 August 2016

The Central District Court of Buda ordered to make 20 websites that were selling a Holocaust denying book temporarily inaccessible. Chief Prosecutor Ibolya Tibor said in a statement that the prosecutor’s office initiated the websites to be inaccessible because the Hungarian translation of a Swedish book was available to buy through them.

The book in question openly denies the Holocaust and crimes against humanity committed by the National Socialist regime. The authority suspended the investigation into open denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime because the offender, the head of the company marketing the book, is abroad. The Central District Court of Buda ordered to make the websites temporarily inaccessible to prevent further criminal offenses.

OTHER NEWS

Zsolt Bayer awarded on 20 August

Source: MTI/444.hu

Budapest, 18 August 2016

Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Lázár János handed over state awards on the occasion of 20 August.¹¹ Publicist Zsolt Bayer was also among the honored, he received Order of Merit of the Knight's Cross of the Republic of Hungary. After the ceremony, many – including numerous previous recipients of the decoration – protested against Zsolt Bayer's award because he had published discriminatory views against Jews and the Roma on a number of occasions. Protesters requested the honor be withdrawn and over a hundred previous recipients returned their own awards in protest. A number of organizations also expressed their disagreement and asked the Prime Minister to withdraw the honor because they believed it had been discredited by Bayer. Online news portal 444.hu operates a so-called "Returned Knight's Crosses Counter" that is now at m.444.hu enlisting the names of the individuals concerned, along with their titles and well-merited work.

In February and March 2016, APF reviewed Zsolt Bayer's series of articles titled "Intolerable". The articles were published in Magyar Hírlap and contained numerous anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish comments that, without doubt, fall into the category of hate crime.

Reactions of Hungarian and international press

Source: nol.hu/zsido.com

19 August 2016

Slomó Köves and Dániel Bodnár severely criticized that Zsolt Bayer had been given the state honor. According to the two men, the government awarded an individual whose

work incites hatred against certain groups of the national community. "I find it difficult to understand how and why someone who is attracting attention week after week for his hatred could deserve a state honor," said Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves. APF Chairman Dániel Bodnár stated that "Zsolt Bayer's work of the last 15 years is (...) a set of scatological texts fed by the hatred of neglected men, which humane parents would never ever show to their children, not even as deterrence".

Source: TEV.hu

Budapest, 23 August 2016

On behalf of APF, Kálmán Szalai told on Zsolt Bayer's work that "We cannot be proud of such a primitive conception of nation which believes some Hungarians have the right to decide whether others are real Hungarians or traitors, then calling themselves 'real Hungarians' they are able to threaten 'traitors' even with physical atrocities".

Source: MTI

Washington, 23 August 2016

The Washington Holocaust Memorial Museum released a statement that condemned conferring a decoration on Zsolt Bayer and urged Hungary to rescind the award. The statement included that "Bayer has a long record of racist speech and has written highly provocative antisemitic and anti-Roma articles in the Hungarian media". The statement also noted that "If Hungary's Order of Merit truly recognizes 'the promotion of universal human values,' then Hungarian Prime Minister and Fidesz party leader Viktor Orbán and President János Ader have no choice but to rescind Zsolt Bayer's award immediately".

¹¹Hungary's national day, aka St Stephen's day, celebrating the foundation of the State

Source: 168ora.hu/peticiok.com
Budapest, 24 August 2016

On peticiok.com, a call under the slogan “Hatred does not deserve recognition” was published to rescind Zsolt Bayer’s award. The petition was initiated by member of Együtt Party’s Presidency Board Balázs Berkecz and it has been signed by nearly 5,000 people.

Source: MTI
Paris, 25 August 2016

Le Monde published an article about the debate over publicist Zsolt Bayer’s state award. The French center-left newspaper wondered whether “a government of an EU member state should be able to honor a racist”. The article noted that Zsolt Bayer is a publicist of Magyar Hírlap, the newspaper that has been fined twice recently for inciting hatred, and that numerous previous recipients have returned their awards.

Source: 24.hu
Budapest, 26 August 2016

Online news portal 24.hu published an article titled “Even the BBC is reporting on Zsolt Bayer and his Knight’s Cross”. The article quotes that “Prize-winning Hungarian mathematicians, artists, philosophers and religious leaders have been handing back their state honors as a protest against a government decision to give a controversial journalist a medal.” 24.hu also noted that with regards to Bayer, BBC wrote he is “a long-term ally of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and a founding member of the governing Fidesz party”, and writes a regular column for Magyar Hírlap in which he frequently makes anti-Roma, anti-Semitic comments.

Government reactions

Source: 444.hu
Budapest, 19 August 2016

According to the Prime Minister’s Office, Bayer’s “decoration was proposed by the community commemorating the victims of the Gulag (...) and he received the honor as recognition for presenting the life of Transylvanian Hungarians by producing authentic and respective journalistic work”.

Source: MTI
Budapest, 22 August 2016

Spokesman for the parliamentary group of Hungary’s ruling party János Halász said in an answer to a question that “Zsolt Bayer received an honor that he deserves, his work has produced countless values similar to what others had been acknowledged for”. In answer to another question, however, he noted that they obviously do not agree with all of Bayer’s thoughts and the comments he made. “Returning an award is also a form of expression” he added.

Source: MTI
Budapest, 25 August 2016

At his weekly press conference, Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office János Lázár said in an answer to questions that he respects the decisions but regrets that many returned their awards because of all this. “It is not the government that gives the decoration (...), but the Hungarian state”, and those who have returned their awards should think about this said the minister. Lázár also noted that some accomplishments are unquestionable, such as Bayer’s series titled ‘1100 years in the middle of Europe’. “I, of course, disagree with his outspoken journalism in many ways, but it does not render the accomplishments any less valuable that he achieved by his series of films, his books or by standing up for Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin”.

Reactions from parties

Source: Jobbik.hu; mszp.hu; dkp.hu
20-24 August 2016

Reactions from parties

Source: *Jobbik.hu; mszp.hu; dkp.hu*
20-24 August 2016

Jobbik published a short article which did not refer to Zsolt Bayer's work but condemned "the liberal wing" ("they splutter with hatred").¹² DK condemned conferring the decoration on Bayer and requested its withdrawal, MSZP expressed their opinion with only one word – "Shame". PM expressed their regrets over the issue in an article published about the commemoration of the foundation of Hungary. We have not seen statements issued by LMP or Liberálisok. However, LMP has confronted Bayer on a number of occasions, while the latter party shared *24.hu* and *magyararancs.hu* articles concerning the case on their Facebook page.

Zsolt Bayer's statement on protests over his award

Source: *24.hu*
Budapest, 22 August 2016

In an interview given to *24.hu*, Bayer said he was not thinking about returning the Knight's Cross. He said he felt sorry for those who had returned their awards and could not understand why people were locked in their own narrow-minded and sad world. "I do not understand it, but I do not need to either" Bayer said, adding that he was not concerned by the reactions and the criticism he received. He believed critics have misinterpreted his words and taken them out of context.

Source: *444.hu/magyaridok.hu*
24 August 2016

In an interview given to *Magyar Idők*, Zsolt Bayer stated the following: "So a person who swears a lot is disgraceful? Then about seventy percent of both Hungarian and world literature could go down the toilet. (...) If I were not so passionate and impulsive, (...) I could then write some glossy pieces".

Bayer noted that according to his knowledge, approximately 1,500 people received a similar state award, so he will think about returning his after 1,499 people have returned theirs. He added that it did cross his mind that accepting the award was a bad idea, but only after seeing certain names on the list of people returning their awards. He mentioned Péter Németh, Tamás Krausz and András Heisler as examples. According to Bayer, he was honored because of his two film series about the Gulag.

The publicist also mentioned he wanted to withdraw one of his earlier statements. When he wrote that "Unfortunately, they did not manage to bury everything up to its neck in the Orgovány Forest", he did not refer to Jews but Communists, and he accepts it could be a misunderstanding.

Jobbik celebration of 20 August in Városliget

Source: *444.hu*
Budapest, 21 August 2016

444.hu published a lengthy article about Jobbik's "family celebration of 20 August" held in Városliget (City Park). The article stated that at the beginning the event was only a shadow of former Jobbik events, as it seemed much more moderate, but then the party "showed its other face. The first smoke bombs exploded after Sándor Rózsa's welcome speech, and the first hands were raised in the billowing red and green fog. Young people started to relax when some lively national rock music started to play, and the front rows were suddenly filled people having tattoos of swastikas, arrow crosses and the number 88. Then, in the middle of a moshing bold crowd, the aim of transforming into a people's party shattered in an instant. People started to sing an old classic song titled "Yes, there is Roma crime" to the rhythm of "Transylvania will belong to Hungary", and people in civil clothing joined them just as enthusiastically as others having white laces in their black steel boots."

¹²<https://jobbik.hu/hireink/el-kell-menni-szavazni-de> (Pörzse, Sándor: Bayergate)

Zsolt Bayer shared an old Nazi hoax

Source: magyarnarancs.hu

31 August 2016

Magyarnarancs.hu published that Zsolt Bayer shared an old anti-Semitic meme on his blog, calling it “Versike” meaning “a short little poem”. The text has circulated on various Nazi, UFO-believing and some similar sites for about ten years. There is always the same introduction added to it: “Poem by Dr Péter Regős, spokesman of the Global Alliance of Hungarian Jews”. The poem is rather anti-Hungarian, including lines such as “I hate Hungarian peeps, their filthy murderous heaps”, and it is attributed to a man who probably never existed.

“During the years, many tried to find out who Péter Regős was, but no credible information was developed suggesting that he existed. Everyone understands that some are only trying to irritate one another by proving how terrible Jews are.”

The only question is, according to magyarnarancs.hu, why Zsolt Bayer shared this. The article stated it was obvious Bayer did not think this piece of information, provided in this form, was true, credible, important or newsworthy. Then the author moved on to mentioning it matched some Russian disinformation techniques perfectly, i. e., sharing unverifiable, shocking and even contradictory pieces of information without wanting to prove or deny them.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Charges against repeat Holocaust denier

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Budapest, 21 August 2016

After noticing the incident, APF filed charges against Facebook user Zoltán P. for sharing a YouTube video on his Facebook timeline on 28 May 2016. The video shows a street performer presenting a marionette program with a toy skeleton to Little Richard's song titled Good Golly, Miss Molly. The original video titled "Sok a kamu, hol a hamu" ("Enough of hoax, we can't see smokes") with Hungarian subtitles was uploaded by YouTube user H. D. The Hungarian title and the subtitles have no relation to the song or the performance. However, based on Section 333 of the Hungarian Criminal Code, the video is open denial of the crimes committed by the National Socialist or Communist regimes.

The video subtitling includes lines like "There's a continuous flow of holohoax, but the crematorium emits no smokes! Enough of hoax, we can't see smokes!", "We have been paying for the Holocaust for 70 years but have seen nothing of it!" and "The maradona [sic] of Felesút licks Jewish asses, but it's not good enough for holohoaxers".

The video with the Hungarian title and subtitles was posted on YouTube by user H. D., then it was shared by Zoltán P. on his Facebook timeline. The shared content is criminal. In our complaint, we noted that we already filed charges against Facebook user Zoltán P. on 25 January 2016.

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.	4 th of August	Commemorating Raoul Wallenberg on his birthday	News and Opinions on Hungarian Anti-Semitism
2.	11 th of August	US Department of State report on religious freedom	News and Opinions on Hungarian Anti-Semitism
3.	11 th of August	Slomó Köves' opinion piece about Jobbik published in 168 óra	Community news and responses
4.	11 th of August	Human remains found at Margit híd would be examined with help from ZAKA	Community news and responses
5.	11 th of August	'Jews and the Olympics' exhibition at Madách tér	Community news and responses
6.	12 th of August	Stolpersteine laid throughout the country	Community news and responses
7.	14 th of August	Discriminative writings on a bench in Budapest	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
8.	16 th of August	Police investigation into Nazi tattoo	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
9.	18 th of August	Swastika and SS-insignia on block of flats in Budapest	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
10.	20 th of August	Zsolt Bayer awarded on 20 August	Other news
11.	20 st of August	Jobbik celebration of 20 August in Városliget	Other news
12.	21 st of August	Charges against repeat Holocaust denier	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
13.	24 th of August	Man wears Arrow Cross uniform on tram	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
14.	29 th of August	Holocaust denying websites made inaccessible	News and Opinions on Hungarian Anti-Semitism
15.	30 th of August	Budaházy would have been interviewed by 24.hu	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
16.	31 th of August	Zsolt Bayer shared an old Nazi hoax	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:

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