

ANTI-SEMITIC  
HATE CRIMES AND  
INCIDENTS REPORT

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SEPTEMBER 2016



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Action and Protection Foundation</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Brussels Institute</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>About the Report</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents - May 2016</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Community News and Responses</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Official and Civil Responses</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>News and Opinions About Anti-semitism in Hungary</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Other News</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>The Month's Chronicle</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Contact and Support</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Contributors and Publisher Information</b>	<b>24</b>



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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 six incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during September monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech. Unknown individuals painted anti-Semitic graffiti on part of a wall in KÖKI Terminál shopping center. The graffiti was later removed. The Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) launched a series of videos called “Jewish tales” on YouTube. Anonymous individuals left anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denying comments under one of the videos. A taxi driver attacked two activists and made several Jew-baiting comments after finding out they had been placing posters concerning an issue he or she disliked. On 10 and 16 September, objects of the so-called “Live Memorial” on Szabadság tér were damaged. During our media monitoring, APF encountered a website which regularly publishes articles and opinion pieces about Holocaust-denying conspiracy theories and a blog that posted a defamatory montage about Slomó Köves.

We did not identify any other incidents in September, therefore our section titled Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents includes no news items this month.

In September 2016, APF dealt with two legal actions we had previously filed. The competent investigating bodies suspended one of the investigations, while terminated the other.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

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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.

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## BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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.

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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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 incidents<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup>See 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.<sup>2</sup> 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).

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



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## METHODOLOGY

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The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows<sup>3</sup> (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 people<sup>4</sup>
- 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 sentence<sup>5</sup> (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,

<sup>3</sup>The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakraborti and Garland 2009, 4–7). These definitions can serve as important addenda to an understanding of these crimes, however they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

<sup>4</sup>For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behavior would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24).

For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

<sup>5</sup>The Criminal Code does not include racist motives verbatim, but for example the case of "contemptible motive" is fulfilled, if someone commits a crime out of such a motivation.

various indicators recorded during the monitoring period<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup>These are described in the Methods section.

<sup>7</sup>The 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.<sup>7</sup>

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.<sup>8</sup> In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

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

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## ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS SEPTEMBER 2016

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

### VANDALISM

#### Anti-Semitic writings at Köki Terminál

Source: *tev.hu*  
7 September 2016

APF was informed through its Facebook page that unknown individuals painted openly anti-Jewish and anti-Semitic graffiti, which incites hatred, on part of a wall in Köki Terminál shopping center (Budapest District 10). On 14 September, we were notified that unknown individuals removed the graffiti.

#### So-called “Live Memorial” damaged twice in a row

Source: *444.hu*  
10 and 16 September 2016

Unknown individuals damaged some of the exhibits of the “Eleven Emlékmű” (“Live Memorial”) on Szabadság tér. The pictures, for example, were torn down. The extent of the damage was published on the memorial’s Facebook page and the organizers of the memorial released a statement to *444.hu* which stated: “Just as forecast on *kuruc.info*, vandals desecrated it (...) we pressed criminal charges immediately”. The organizers also arranged a flash mob through Facebook to restore the memorial. A few days later, however, unknown individuals tore down numerous laminated photos commemorating the Holocaust and scribbled over the agenda board of the community initiative. The organizers pressed charges again. The flash mob took place without any major incident, but many expressed their disapproval of both the flash mob and the memorial by leaving anti-Semitic comments on the Facebook event page.

### HATE SPEECH

#### Holocaust denial and anti-Semitic comments on YouTube

Source: *Action and Protection Foundation*  
12 September 2016

The Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) launched a series of videos titled “Jewish tales” on YouTube. The second video and the individual appearing in it received multiple anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denying comments. Based on their profiles, the commenters were fake YouTube users, but APF decided to take legal action anyway. The “Jewish tales” are short videos shot in starred houses and present what Judaism means to young people. The majority of people appearing in the videos are not Jewish, like the 15-year-old girl who speaks in the second one. Commenting has been turned off for the videos since the incident.

#### New Holocaust-denying website

Source: *tev.hu/amagyaroldal.hu*  
15 September 2016

During our monitoring activity, APF encountered a video interview on *magyaroldal.hu* taken with György Budaházy about the delivery of judgment in his case. Another video was linked to the interview, in which an individual – defined as an “English MP” – said he or she believed anti-immigration policies and the rejection of liberalism would be the solutions to today’s crises. A companion article to the video described the “Arrows of Hungarians” and the whole Budaházy case as a Jewish conspiracy theory.

During reviewing the website, APF noticed a number of Holocaust-denying and anti-Semitic posts and therefore decided to take appropriate legal actions. We pressed charges and requested the content of the website be inaccessible.

### **Defamatory montage of Slomó Köves on a blog**

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation  
17 September 2016*

On 17 September 2016, the owner of puccsista.blog.hu published a montage of Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves. The montage included a photo of the Rabbi with defamatory text likely to incite to violence and implying the Rabbi threatens the life of Hungarians. APF contacted the competent host service provider immediately and requested the content be deleted as soon as possible since the blogger breached the conditions of use. APF also took legal action against the blogger.

### **Jew-baiting and tearing down posters**

*Source: 444.hu  
22 September 2016*

In Szentendre, a taxi driver attacked two young activists of the Hungarian Two-tailed Dog party. Both activists are minors. The activists recorded the attack. The video shows the driver tearing down the party's posters and punching the minors as they approach him. 444.hu managed to reach the activist who had taken the video. The activist told the news portal that the incident took place on the afternoon of 22 September at the final stop of suburban railway line H5 in Szentendre. According to the activist, they had been placing posters on rubbish bins and lamp posts in the area when the taxi driver asked them what they were doing. After telling him they were placing posters of the Two-tailed Dog Party, the taxi driver shouted "You Jewish motherfuckers!". Later on, the activists were on their way back to the station when they noticed the taxi driver was tearing the posters down. When they approached him, the driver started punching them, causing one activist fall to the ground. The activist was unsure whether he or she wanted to file a complaint, but Gergely Kovács said his party will definitely press charges.

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## FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

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During September monitoring, APF did not identify any incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime that we would not include in our most recent statistics. Therefore, this section includes no incidents this month.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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### **Jewish tales about anti-Semitism**

*Source: MTI*  
*7 September 2016*

The second episode of the short film series called “Jewish tales” was completed. Film director Péter Gárdos, commissioned by the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH), directed the series, which includes 22 young people – the majority of them not Jewish – talking about what Judaism means to them. At the press conference for the DVD launch, Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves said that, on YouTube, over a hundred thousand people watched the episodes of the first part of the series released in 2014. This success encouraged them and they decided to shoot the series again, this time with secondary school students. “If we cannot talk about ourselves well, let’s ask what others think about us.”

With regards to the selection process, Slomó Köves told MTI they contacted secondary school students and asked them to write an essay about their experiences and thoughts about Judaism. Based on the papers submitted, director Péter Gárdos chose the 22 students.

### **APF attended an international conference**

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation*  
*20–23 September 2016*

APF’s Research Manager Krisztián Nádasí participated in NICEM’s (Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities) hate crime and hate speech project called Good Practice Plus. In the framework of the project, a two-day closing conference was held in Belfast in September. The final conference saw the attendance of delegates representing 20 EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. Attendees came from national police offices, prosecutor’s offices, and national and international NGOs.

The international event was the closing conference of a nearly one and a half year-long

international project that aimed at tackling and preventing hate crime and hate speech by exchanging information and experience. Besides assessing recent times, the conference discussed some general principles through plenary sessions and workshops. The project also launched a Toolkit including basic information, information on hate crime, information on future goals, and the plans of the participants.

Our research manager had previously joined this project, therefore he was able to observe the changes that took place in the project over the course of time. He could compare international views, good practices, and legal regulations of other countries with those of Hungary, examine their applicability, and he had the chance to establish connections with similar organizations.

### **Slomó Köves about immigration**

*Source: 168 óra*  
*30 September 2016*

168 óra interviewed Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves about the Jewish New Year. During the interview, the Rabbi also talked about the Hungarian migrant quota referendum. He said that “This is not only a humanitarian issue of conscience, a matter of labor market and integration, it is also a question of security policy. The simplistic billboard campaign makes me feel sad because it stirs up anger, it is plea for a dangerous human characteristic, like a plea for letting the genie out of the bottle, and it could have catastrophic results. (...) considering only part of the issue as a moral question – the part that calms our conscience – is damaging and misleading.” The Rabbi also stated that European, and especially Hungarian politics, have not focused on halting humanitarian disasters right away. “Talking of historical experiences, rejecting the European Jews fleeing from death camps was not the primary crime the U.S. and England committed, not bombing the railway to Auschwitz was.”

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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### **Court decision on Jobbik's far-right extremism**

*Source: index.hu*  
8 September 2016

The Hungarian Democratic Coalition Party (Demokratikus Koalíció, DK) released a statement noting that Jobbik sued one of their politicians, Gergely Arató, because he had once said in an interview that the far-right party “wanted to send their political opponents to gas chambers and the Danube”. According to index.hu, the court rejected Jobbik’s suit. The court justification referred to a decision of the Curia, according to which Jobbik may be called a far-right party, therefore a politician cannot be held responsible for using his right to freedom of speech, and thereby calling Jobbik a far-right party and listing the characteristics of such parties.

It is fact that in February, the National Media and Infocommunications Authority reached the final and binding decision that it was not illegal for ATV to call Jobbik a far-right party, even though Jobbik objected to it. The court said that calling a party far-right in news reports, a party whose founding documents also declare they are far-right radicalists, is not considered opinion-forming.

### **Legal proceedings against the “Highwayman Army”**

*Source: nepszava.hu*  
16 September 2016

Székesfehérvár District Investigating Prosecutor’s Office ordered that the investigation into the commemoration tour for Hitler, organized by the Hungarian Highwayman Army, continue. Mór Police Department terminated the investigations into open denial of the crimes committed by the National Socialist and Communist regimes and into use of totalitarian symbols in June. It was Fidesz politician István Tényi who had filed

the complaint. The Prosecutor’s Office now believes that there was a swastika-like totalitarian symbol on the invitation published by the website of the Highwayman Army and that the invitation itself “reflected the ideology represented by the swastika”.



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## NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

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### **Samantha Power on anti-Semitism**

*Source: hvg.hu*  
8 September 2016

At the UN High-Level Forum on Anti-Semitism, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power gave a lengthy list of anti-Semitic incidents which occurred across the world in the past year. She said that “anti-Semitism poses a threat not only to Jews, but to the principles of pluralism, diversity, and the fundamental freedoms that we hold most dear.” Ambassador Power severely criticized the Hungarian government, she mentioned the plan of erecting a statue in honor of Bálint Hóman, a person who encouraged the development of anti-Jewish laws and the deportation of the Jews, and she referred to the fact that the “virulently anti-Semitic columnist” Zsolt Bayer was awarded a state honor. According to Power, besides being anti-Semites, both Hóman and Bayer expressed their hatred against other minorities, too.

Power believes there is “growing anti-Semitism in the country, reflected in part by the rise of the extreme ethnic nationalist Jobbik party, which refers to the Holocaust as the ‘Holoscam’.” “(...) this growing anti-Semitism has gone hand in hand with rising xenophobia and other forms of bigotry.” Ambassador Power also mentioned that Orbán Viktor “has openly declared his desire ‘to keep Europe Christian’ by barring Muslim refugees (...) and he’s fanned popular fears by claiming that all terrorists in Europe are migrants”. “Yet from Hungary we can also draw important lessons” said Power. “The planned statue was never erected” and “more than 100 individuals (...) including some of the country’s most renowned economists, historians, politicians, poets, filmmakers, and scientist” returned their awards in protests against Zsolt Bayer’s state award.

### **World Zionist Organization conference in Budapest**

*Source: hvg.hu; mno.hu*  
16 September 2016

The World Zionist Organization (WZO) held its Conference on Countering Anti-Semitism in Budapest. President of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (MAZSI-HISZ) András Heisler, Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves, State Secretary for Security Policy and International Cooperation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Hungary Dr István Mikola and Vice Chairman of WZO Yaakov Hagoel were invited to the conference.

In his opening speech, Jakov Hagoel stated that in the past decade “Every year sees more anti-Semitic attacks than previous ones”. Then, István Mikola spoke about the fact that the Hungarian government called for a zero tolerance policy for anti-Semitism. The politician noted that education is a key area for countering anti-Semitism: we shall show the rising generation the darkest moments of history, but we shall also teach them how to stay human in inhumane circumstances. He said that communities living in Europe, including the Jewish communities, are now threatened by new challenges like the migration crisis and terrorism. Heisler was next to speak. After stating he was not involved in organizing the conference, which surprised his audience, he stated that “We do not think it is fine that a few weeks before the referendum, a leading government politician speaks about refugees and the migration to Europe, all in relation to anti-Semitism at a Zionist conference”. Heisler added they have nothing to do with politics, they are not the opposition of government, but they do not wish to be their propagandists either. He highlighted that “Jews have to take action against all hate speech”. On behalf of EMIH, Slomó Köves talked about Islamist terrorism but he did not

link it to migration. He said that Jewish communities in Europe are threatened by three challenges, traditional anti-Semitism, new anti-Semitism, which aims at delegitimizing Israel and we have to call it by its name radical Islam. The Rabbi believes that the majority of the billion Muslims in the world want peace, but they and their leaders shall avoid mixing with extremists.

APF also participated in the conference, Chairman of the Foundation Dániel Bodnár and secretary Kálmán Szalai both gave speeches.

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## OTHER NEWS

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### **Organization of university students using an Arrow Cross-like symbol**

*Source: 444.hu; hetivalasz.hu  
1.September 2016*

The so-called “Identitárius Egyetemisták Szövetsége” (“Association of Identitarian University Students”), or “Identitesz”, introduced themselves in a YouTube video as a conservative organization of university students, using a flag with a symbol resembling the Arrow Cross. In the video, the head of the organization, Balázs László – a student who studies political science at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, said the following in a rather dramatic voice: “We – together, courageously and in unity – say no to the liberal world that has turned inside-out and wishes to violate the notions of community, tradition and patriotism in order to destroy our common identity.” Then, he was seen standing on top of a hill and waving the flag of the movement.

In April, Balázs László gave an interview to Magyar Hírlap as then Chairman of the “Konzervatív Hallgatók Szövetsége” (“Federation of Conservative University Students”). He also attracted attention by his homophobic actions a number of times this year. However, the “Konzervatív Hallgatók Szövetsége” has disappeared from Facebook and Identitesz replaced it. Similarly to its predecessor, Identitesz also has subunits in Szeged and Debrecen.

The identitarian movement is not a Hungarian movement, it started as a far-right movement in 2002 deriving from the French far right. Initially, it was the youth wing of the anti-immigrant “Bloc Identitaire”. Today, there are identitarian associations in Scandinavia and Germany, too.

After Heti Válasz and 444.hu published

articles about Identitesz, they set their Instagram account to private, and their introductory video is no longer available on YouTube.

### **Mobile dam compared to the Holocaust**

*Source: 444.hu  
15.September 2016*

The “Római partért Egyesület” (“Society for Római part”), which brings together local property owners, released a statement against MEP for “Dialogue for Hungary” Benedek Jávor who has been lobbying against the mobile dam. The organization drew a parallel between the victims of the Holocaust and the owners of properties in the floodplain of the Danube: “During World War II, who discriminated people based on race, religion, national origin, location of residence, etc.?! Because Benedek Jávor is doing it now, this is what he writes!!! (...) We are not shot but pushed into the Danube”. They also wrote that “unfortunately, some people have died” due to the lack of flood protection. 444.hu managed to reach the organization on the phone, but they were unable to provide examples of deaths caused by the lack of flood control. In connection with the parallel drawn with the Holocaust, their explanation was that without the mobile dam, locals live and work in evil circumstances, and that is what they want to change.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

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### **Investigation suspended**

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation*

*5 September 2016*

The Criminal Investigation Department of Budapest District 5 Police Department suspended the investigation into open denial of the crimes committed by the National Socialist or Communist regimes because they were unable to identify the offender's location. The procedure was initiated by APF because on 10 April 2016, an unknown individual wrote "This, in this form, is a Lie" on the plate of the March of the Living memorial. The police were unable to identify the individuals seen in the footage of the CCTV camera installed in the area, and they were unable to find witnesses of the incidents.

20

### **Investigation terminated**

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation*

*5 September 2016*

The Investigation Unit of Pest County Police Department's Criminal Directorate terminated the investigation into suspicion of incitement against a community and of other criminal offenses because no such crime was committed. The procedure was initiated by APF because between 23 November 2015 and 14 January 2016, Facebook user Zoltán P. published numerous inflammatory, anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denying posts. The police decision reasoned that "the user published his posts on his Facebook timeline, i. e. before the public at large, yet the nature of the post was not capable of inciting hatred that would violate public order or disturb public peace. In addition, (...) his act did not pose an imminent threat and was not an act of violence (...) since he did not have to face any particular dangers resulting from the anger he provoked." The decision also provided that the investigation into open denial of the crimes committed by the National Socialist or Communist regimes continue.

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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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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.	1 <sup>st</sup> of September	Organization of university students using an Arrow Cross-like symbol	Other news
2.	5 <sup>th</sup> of September	Investigation suspended	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
3.	5 <sup>th</sup> of September	Investigation terminated	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
4.	7 <sup>th</sup> of September	Jewish tales about anti-Semitism	Community news and responses
5.	7 <sup>th</sup> of September	Anti-Semitic writings at Köki Terminál	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
6.	8 <sup>th</sup> of September September	Court decision on Jobbik's far-right extremism	Community news and responses
7.	8 <sup>th</sup> of September September	Samantha Power on anti-Semitism	News and Opinions on Hungarian Anti-Semitism
8.	10 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> of September	So-called "Live Memorial" damaged twice in a row	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
9.	12 <sup>th</sup> of September	Holocaust denial and anti-Semitic comments on YouTube	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
10.	15 <sup>th</sup> of September	New Holocaust-denying website	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
11.	15 <sup>th</sup> of September	Mobile dam compared to the Holocaust	Other news
12.	16 <sup>th</sup> of September	Legal proceedings against the "Highwayman Army"	Community news and responses
13.	16 <sup>th</sup> of September	World Zionist Organization conference in Budapest	News and Opinions on Hungarian Anti-Semitism
14.	17 <sup>th</sup> of September	Defamatory montage of Slomó Köves on a blog	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
15.	20-23 <sup>rd</sup> of September	APF attended an international conference	Community news and responses
16.	22 <sup>nd</sup> of September	Jew-baiting and tearing down posters	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
17.	30 <sup>th</sup> of September	Slomó Köves about immigration	Community news and responses

## CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

**HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000**

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