

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2016

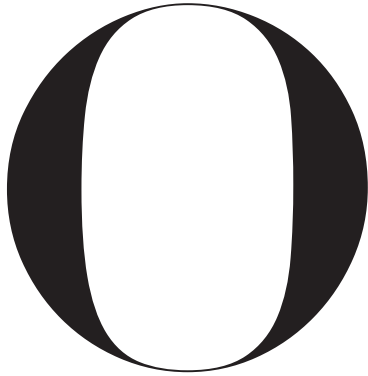


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 six incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during November monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech. On his blog, Zsolt Bayer closed one of his recent posts by relativizing the Holocaust. A blogger with the pen name “Sodródunk” (“Drifling”) has two blogs with the same content, full of anti-Semitic publications and conspiracy theories. An individual left a comment that denied the Holocaust under a post on the Sim Shalom Jewish Congregation’s Facebook page. An unknown individual created a Facebook page called “Magyar Antiszemita Szövetség” (“Hungarian Anti-Semitic Alliance”). APF was informed of another two anti-Semitic Facebook profiles whose walls mostly contains anti-Semitic pictures.

Our section titled Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents includes no news items this month. In November 2016, APF had no legal actions instituted or resolved.

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

NOVEMBER 2016

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

HATE SPEECH

Zsolt Bayer published a hate speech opinion piece

Source: tev.hu; egipatrona.hu
11 November 2016

On his blog, Zsolt Bayer referred to Pál Dániel Rényi's 444.hu article about Rétvári Bence's (KDNP) proposal in regards to the persecution of Christians. Rényi wrote that, by the proposal, the Hungarian government would label the persecution of Christians as genocide. He also presented some steps taken against the persecution of Christians, and implied that these have been somewhat inefficient. Bayer's piece was a reaction to this article, the publicist wrote that Rényi "came from a rather interesting family and he finally found his success in the cesspit of 444.hu." Bayer saw no big difference between recent attacks on Christians in the Middle East and the Jewish Holocaust. He finished off his piece by relativizing the Holocaust: "Or you, Rényi, and all the miserable people with views like yours, do you really think that suffering, genocide, sacrifice and execution for one's religion and heritage will be Jewish privileges for good? In the past, the present and the future? You are wrong, Rényi!"

In APF's opinion, the closing sentence is dangerous because there is an accusation behind the words, an accusation that Jews demand certain privileges because of the Holocaust and they show no respect towards the suffering of other people and other ethnic groups. His words make a clear generalization and a collective judgment.

Anti-Semitic blogger

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; visza-vzsodor.blogspot.hu; fenyesszelek.blogspot.hu
22 November 2016

APF was informed of a blog with anti-Semitic publications. The actual post we were notified of is from 2014 but the blog is still active today. It mostly shares, adapts and refers to articles from kuruc.info and other well-known fake news websites like natu-rahirek.com. The content of the articles is strongly anti-Semitic, and they usually present highly unrealistic themes according to one article, for example, McDonald's uses missing children as ingredients to their hamburger meat...

The blogger does not use his or her real name, but has been writing the articles under the pen name "Sodródunk" ("Drifting") since April 2011. According to his or her profile on Blogger.com, he or she operates two blogs with exactly the same content.

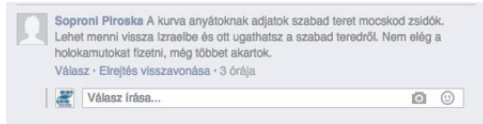
APF is acquiring the necessary data and information, and we will press charges in due course.

Holocaust-denying Facebook comment

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; Sim Salom Jewish Congregation
23 November 2016

APF was informed that Facebook user Piroška Soproni made a comment that denies the Holocaust on a post on Sim Salom Jewish Congregation's Facebook profile. The post was part of a series of article which interview women involved in Jewish community and religious life about whether they think the equality of women is necessary in Hungarian Neolog Judaism. The president of the synagogue at the Budapest University of Jewish Studies, Magda Vadász, was interviewed in the article. Its title was Freedom

should be provided to every trend of Judaism. Piroška Soproni’s reaction to the post was:



“Provide freedom to your motherfuckers filthy Jews. Feel free to go back to Israel and there you may bark about your free space. It’s not enough that we pay your Holofoax, you want more.”

Piroška Soproni’s Facebook wall mainly includes anti-Semitic posts, and reshares of her own posts. APF is now acquiring the necessary data and information, and we will press charges in due course.

Anti-Semitic Facebook users

Source: Action and Protection Foundation;
Facebook
28 November 2016

APF was informed of a profile on Facebook with anti-Semitic posts and an identifying name. The profile was named the Hungarian Anti-Semitic Alliance. Its profile picture was a caption of “Fuck You Israel” and a Star of David crossed out in red. The latest post was about a well-known person of Jewish heritage including the following comment: “the physical appearance of this race is so wizened per se (...) give them prison clothes and there you have a terrible “Holo-caust-photo”.

Comments on the page included some that said the pure existence of the user was “horrendous and shameful”.

APF acquired the necessary data and information about the Facebook profile, but it has been unavailable since 4 p.m. on 28 November 2016.

Anti-Semitic Facebook users

Source: Action and Protection Foundation
29 November 2016

APF encountered numerous anti-Semitic profiles during our monitoring activity in November. Facebook user L. Szabó, for example, shared an altered picture of the well-

known gate from the Jurassic Park movie on 10 June 2016. The picture includes a caption of “Auswitz” (sic) and the following sentence: “Unfortunately, because of the migrants, Jurassic Park had to be emptied and turned into a camp for migrants!”. The picture also depicts an outraged dinosaur swearing. The post and the caption in the picture are not very coherent and contain grammatical errors, yet we still consider them anti-Semitic and inflammatory. The reason is that the user had previously published similar posts. He made fun of Auschwitz, and therefore the Holocaust. Another post of Szabó described Jews as a group of people who threaten the world and cause the “destruction of wealth”. These were shared as views attributed to Ferenc Kölcsey, or at least, they were presented along with a picture of Kölcsey. In addition, there are pictures of banned totalitarian symbols and arrow crosses on Szabó’s profile. APF is now acquiring the necessary data and information and we will press charges in due course.



Anti-Semitic Facebook users

Source: Action and Protection Foundation
29 November 2016

APF was informed of another anti-Semitic profile. Facebook user Imre D. published a picture depicting the entrance of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp with the following caption: “everyone leaves from different platforms, everyone travels on different tracks and everyone has a final destina-

tion.” The post is rather inappropriate, but not necessarily anti-Semitic. However, the user — who describes himself a “Jew hunter” — published numerous aggressive and bigoted posts, one of which resulted in D. being banned from Facebook for a period of time. His profile picture is also informative. It depicts the Hungarian tricolor with the caption of “I am Hungarian, not Roma or Jewish.”



FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

During November 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Stolpersteine laid in Zalaegerszeg

Source: magyarhirlap.hu; zaol.hu
21 November 2016

A stolperstein was laid in front of Zrínyi Miklós Secondary School in Zalaegerszeg commemorating seven students deported in 1944 who later died in a concentration camp. One of the students' former classmates initiated the placement of the stolperstein. In his speech at the laying of the stolperstein, President of the Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association (Mazsike) Péter Kirschner recalled that "all hatred, discrimination, stigmatization" started in the schools those days, and this is why today's students should never be indifferent towards such issues. Deputy mayor of Zalaegerszeg Tibor Vadvári also gave a speech, he said that stolpersteine are generally laid at the last place of residency of the deported. This stolperstein is, however, laid in front of the late students' secondary school, their names and the year of their deportation are marked on the brass plate of the cobblestone-size concrete cube. Vadvári added that these stones serve as continuous warnings and reminders against indifference and forgetting, and they remind us that everyone shall reject violence.

At the commemoration, the former classmate Imre Andor, who initiated the placement of the stones and survived the Holocaust himself, drew attention to the fact that millions of people lost their lives and the Holocaust "nearly eradicated all Jews from the countryside."

APF takes part in the fight against radicalization

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; uni-nke.hu
24-25 November 2016

APF participates in building and operating a Hungarian network of the Radicalization

Awareness Network (RAN) launched by the European Commission. The first local network was established in September 2016 as a result of the initiative taken jointly by the Institute of National Security at the National University of Public Service and the Migration Research Institute.

In recent years, RAN has managed to involve over 800 practitioners in European and international exchange of experience by providing good practice to prevent radicalization that may lead to extreme acts of violence. Practitioners of the network represent all the fields that are essential in prevention, and the diversity of these fields highlight the network's interdisciplinary approach to prevention.

The Hungarian network aims to tackle radicalization on a national stage. It wishes to examine and apply the complex criteria of preventing violent radicalization. Serving as a research group, a platform of new ideas, and a workgroup that meets on a regular basis, the network also wants to provide the professional community with scientific basis and a continuously growing repository, as well as to launch teaching materials applicable in Hungary to strengthen the necessary inter-professional cooperation.

On behalf of APF, our Research Manager Krisztián Nádasi attended the so-called "Train-the-trainer" workshop of RAN held on 24 and 25 November. The program mainly focused on indicators and motivating factors behind radicalization and the various ways to notice these. It discussed strategies to prevent and redress radicalization through inter-professional cooperation.

On the Hungarian RAN's initiative, the National University of Public Service organizes a conference on the prevention of extreme radicalization. The conference will be held on 7-8 December and will be attended by APF.

Dániel Bodnár: cooperation between Jobbik and the opposition is unacceptable

Source: 888.hu

28 November 2016

Chairman of the Board of Trustees (APF) Dániel Bodnár gave an interview about Jobbik, its new political direction and anti-Semitism in general to online news portal 888.hu. Bodnár said that “with regards to the international standing and the general political quality of Hungary, processes emerging in certain circles today are extremely dangerous. Especially the cooperation between Jobbik and parties of the opposition.” In Bodnár’s opinion, Jobbik has not changed at all: “Jobbik pretends as if its previous, anti-Semitic views and comments did not exist. Yet, this is only the surface of the situation, as it only reflects their activities in Budapest and in ‘high politics’ (...). In the countryside, we have different experiences of Jobbik bodies, meetings and events because our colleagues attend these as audience and are therefore able to obtain and

analyze first-hand information. Their local politics and tone are still based on the same radical and anti-Semitic rhetoric and conspiracy theories as they used to be.” Bodnár also talked about the appearance of anti-Semitism, and the research conducted by APF which demonstrates that “among Jobbik voters, the ratio of people with anti-Semitic views and of potential sympathizers is about double that of mainstream parties.” In an answer to a question, Bodnár also noted that “the anti-Semitism that Jobbik generates affects society as a whole. It leads to certain consequences, such as broader acceptance among broader circles of society for some of Jobbik statements. (...) Statements like the Holocaust never happened, or that Hungarian Jews are more loyal to Israel than to Hungary. Ten years ago, these statements would have been unacceptable, yet they enjoy greater acceptance day by day.” On the other hand, Bodnár added that “overall, the degree of anti-Semitism in Hungary did not deteriorate over the past three years. This is especially remarkable when compared to other countries.”

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

APF did not identify any events during November 2016 monitoring that would be included in this section.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Welsh authorities investigate into a neo-Nazi band and their concert in Budapest

*Source: hir24.hu; 444.hu; dailystar.co.uk
6 November 2016*

Hungarian media also reported that a couple from Wales (UK) traveled to Budapest. Their visit – which was not their first trip to Hungary – attracted the attention of authorities because of their openly hate-filled neo-Nazi and pro-Holocaust band called Redneck 28. The husband is the singer of the band, while his wife plays the drums. It was a YouTube video – now unavailable – that caught the police’s attention because it captured the couple playing one of their songs, with the husband singing in a white Ku Klux Klan robe. The video was taken at a concert held in Budapest in July.

According to mirror.co.uk, the couple had already performed in Budapest in the summer of 2015, then they were invited to perform by the so-called Blood and Honour organization.

OTHER NEWS

Articles about the murder in Bőny and the Hungarian extreme right in Spiegel Online

Source: *MTI*

Berlin, 1 November 2016

In his article titled “Neo-Nazis are raging, Orbán is silent”, Keno Verseck highlighted that a “neo-Nazi murder” against a policeman aroused Hungary, and the incident pointed out that “militant right-wing extremists” pose a growing problem. Verseck noted that “an extremely militant, far-right subculture has developed” in Hungary, and the state “does nothing about” the tendencies towards vigilantism. Jobbik belonged to this subculture for a long time, and although they now try to transform into a people’s party, party president Gábor Vona is still in contact with the “militant spectrum”. The article also reported that while Jobbik is becoming more centrist to obtain new voters, Fidesz is shifting towards the far-right for the same reasons.

Jobbik office vandalized by unknown individuals

Source: *vaol.hu; alfabir.hu*

2 November 2016

Unknown individuals painted a swastika and the caption “Don’t be so Hungarian white gypo” on the office of the Jobbik Committee in Vas County. President of the committee pressed charges for vandalism and use of banned totalitarian symbols.

Although we were unable to identify the motivation behind the act, it is classified as hate speech, even if Jobbik is targeted this time – and regardless the fact that they have made multiple statements that fall into the category of hate speech. APF condemns all forms of incitement to hatred.

András Pungor’s opinion piece in 168 óra

Source: *168ora.hu*

11 November 2016

Political journalist András Pungor published an article titled “Barátok közt” (“Among Friends”). The title refers to the extreme relationship between Jobbik and Gábor Vona, on one side, and Zsolt Tyirityán, on the other. Vona once called Tyirityán the person “who considers himself a Nazi”, who is well-known for his famously extreme, xenophobic and anti-Semitic organization called Betyársereg (Highwayman Army) and for formerly being a member of Blood and Honour and the Hungarian National Front – his friend. Pungor wrote that “I do not befriend Nazis. This is a thesis statement of modern democracies. (...) because there is nothing lovable in a person who believes some people are inferior to others and wants to slaughter people if their color, religion or heritage is different from his or hers.” Pungor also wrote about the Highwayman Army’s march in the countryside trying to intimidate the Roma and firing shots, the fact that members of the organization have Nazi tattoos, they publish anti-Semitic posts and posts praising Hitler on social networking sites, and he also mentioned their Russian connections and connections with the Hungarian National Front.

With regards to Jobbik becoming a people’s party, Pungor finished his article by saying that “If you ask them whether they are Nazis, they smile and answer like politicians: is this what a Nazi looks like? Why not? It’s possible. And cyan is also more edible when it is sugar-coated.”

Interview with Zsolt Tyirityán on 24.hu

Source: 24.hu;
22 November 2016

24.hu published a two-part interview with the openly anti-Semitic and xenophobic leader of the Highwayman Army Zsolt Tyirityán. In an answer given to a question at the beginning of the interview, Tyirityán said he was not a Nazi – even though he had described himself as one – previously. Tyirityán noted that “I said I have racial awareness, a national identity, and I am socially sensitive. I added that I reject deviant behavior and that I am not an atheist. Following this introduction, I am usually called a Nazi. (...) I consider myself a patriot with strong racial awareness”. He talked about the Nazi network called Blood and Honour, the commemoration held on the Day of Honor, and about the Hungarian National Front. Tyirityán was a member of the latter for years, and he thinks highly of its previous leader, Györkös. According to Tyirityán, Györkös (who shot a police officer to death in Bóny) is “a deeply religious, family-loving real patriot”. In relation to the homicide, Tyirityán stated that “some people at the National Bureau of Investigation wanted to provoke some self-serving fake outrage, and it resulted in a catastrophe”. In the second part of the interview, Tyirityán talked about the Highwayman Army, that it has approximately four hundred members, but he believes it has “tens of thousands” of supporters on a national level. The interviewer asked him about his relation to Jobbik and Gábor Vona, Tyirityán said they sustained “a friendship based on mutual respect”. His closing thought was that the Highwayman Army and he also are preparing for war: “Everyone is preparing for war. In view of Europe and the global political trends, a war is a realistic possibility today. I have not noticed that world peace was achieved.”

Lead singer of Tankcsapda snapped wearing a jacket with SS insignia

Source: index.hu
22 November 2016

According to an article published by In-

dex, lead singer of Tankcsapda Laci Lukács was snapped wearing a jacket with an SS Totenkopf insignia on it. The well-known insignia, commonly called the “totenkopf” (“death’s head” in German), was the insignia of the SS Panzer Division Totenkopf, which was one of the 38 divisions of the Waffen-SS. With regards to Lukács’ choice of clothing, the author wrote that “For some reason, skulls haven’t yet disappeared from the main, identifying visual elements of metal and rock aesthetics. It was probably this, being a football fan from Debrecen, and the lack of knowledge about certain events of world history that played a role (...)” It is worth mentioning that Tankcsapda gave a concert in Tel Aviv in 2015, after which the band received a number of anti-Semitic comments. Laci Lukács, then, distanced himself from the comments and said “our work has always been free from political and ideological affiliations.”

APF believes that the choice of clothing – and thereby the choice of symbol, too – are unfortunate but there was no anti-Semitic intent behind them.

New Israeli Ambassador arrived in Budapest

Source: MTI; atv.hu
23 November 2016

The new Israeli Ambassador to Hungary Yosef Amrani’s key priority is bringing a message of cooperation to Hungarians and to his elected leadership. He also wants to increase the number of academic and scientific exchange programs, and wishes to strengthen the economic cooperation between Hungary and Israel by acting in the interest of both countries – the delegation told MTI on Wednesday 23 November, after the diplomat delivered his credentials to the President of Hungary János Áder.

Yosef Amrani said it was an honor and responsibility to represent his country as Ambassador and thereby contribute to the development of relations between the two countries. Ambassador Amrani also noted that Hungary and Israel are linked by history, the legacy of Jews in Hungary, and the

tory, the legacy of Jews in Hungary, and the countries’ mutual commitment to sustain peace, safety, stability and welfare in the region and the world.

The new Ambassador highlighted that the 20th-century tragedy of Jewish people in Europe and Hungary shall always be remembered, and that “history should serve us not as a barrier, but a moral and political compass”. Amrani stressed that “exploring the great richness of culture and life that Hungary presents”, as well as the opportunities arising from these are both honorable and challenging for him.

The previous Israeli Ambassador Ilan Mor delivered his credentials five years ago, in fall 2011

“Holokamu” subpage of kuruc.info still accessible

Source: atv.hu

25 November 2016

Partly as a result of APF’s efforts, atv.hu published articles reporting that although the Pest Central District Court ordered the so-called “holokamu” (“holohoax”) subpage of kuruc.info be terminally inaccessible, the page is still active and published another ar-

ticle on 10 November 2016 titled “From Auschwitz to a fashion magazine – Acting as if they were exterminated has been profitable for Sauls for over 70 years.” Atv.hu noted that in 2013, Tamás Deutsch gave the Hungarian prosecutor’s office a 72-hour ultimatum to “finally fulfill its legal obligations” and eliminate Kuruc.info once and for all. However, despite the fact that the Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the U.S. and Hungary is effective and binding, “American prosecution and courts did not cooperate with Hungarian law enforcement agencies”, therefore the openly neo-Nazi website has not been made inaccessible. Atv.hu also mentioned the incident that – thanks to APF’s actions – “while the “holokamu” subpage is still active and continuously questions the Holocaust, the Esztergom District Court fined a man from Dömös HUF 800,000 for Holocaust-denial because he had used the term “holohoax” in a comment he had published on a social networking site. According to the prosecution, the comment is classified as open denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime”. Anti-Semitic posts are still frequently published on kuruc.info, and there is a separate column for “Jewish crimes”, too.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

In November 2016, APF did not take any legal actions and received no official notifications of substantive changes in previously filed issues.

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.	1 st of November	Articles about the murder in Bóny and the Hungarian extreme right in Spiegel Online	Other news
2.	2 nd of November	Jobbik office vandalized by unknown individuals	Other news
3.	6 th of November	Welsh authorities investigate into a neo-Nazi band and their concert in Budapest	News and opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary
4.	11 th of November	Zsolt Bayer published a hate speech opinion piece	Anti-Semitic hate incidents – Hate Speech
5.	11 th of November	András Pungor's opinion piece in 168 óra	Other news
6.	21 st of November	Stolpersteine laid in Zalaegerszeg	Community News and Responses
7.	22 nd of November	Anti- Semitic blogger	Anti-Semitic hate incidents – Hate Speech
8.	22 nd of November	Interview with Zsolt Tyirityán on 24.hu	Other news
9.	22 nd of November	Lead singer of Tankcsapda snapped wearing a jacket with SS insignia	Other news
10.	23 rd of November	Holocaust-denying Facebook comment	Anti-Semitic hate incidents – Hate Speech
11.	23 rd of November	New Israeli Ambassador arrived in Budapest	Other news
12.	24-25 th of November	APF takes part in the fight against radicalization	Community News and Responses
13.	25 th of November	"Holokamu" subpage of kuruc.info still accessible	Other news
14.	28 th of November	Anti-Semitic Facebook users	Anti-Semitic hate incidents – Hate Speech
15.	28 th of November	Dániel Bodnár: cooperation between Jobbik and the opposition is unacceptable	Community News and Responses
16.	29 th of November	Anti-Semitic Facebook users	Anti-Semitic hate incidents – Hate Speech
17.	29 th of November	Anti-Semitic Facebook users	Anti-Semitic hate incidents – Hate Speech

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000

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

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

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

13597539-12302010-00057157

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The publisher wishes to thank Dr. András Kovács, sociologist, Professor at
CEU, for all the encouragement and helpful advice.

The publishers expresses their gratitude for the self-sacrificing work of the
volunteers who, under expert guidance, have put their continuous efforts into
the preparation of this report over the past months.

Use of the Report or any part thereof requires written permission from the
publisher and such use must properly cite this report as a reference.

2016 Budapest

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