

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT

APRIL 2017

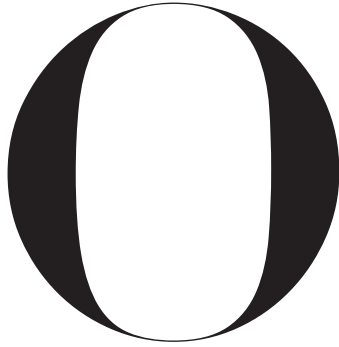


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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, yet not all hate-motivated acts are regarded as criminal. Nevertheless, a record of both types of hate incidents is necessary in order to gain a general overview.

For the monitoring to have the widest possible scope, it is required that a variety of sources are used simultaneously. Apart from registering the incidents, it is important to record their particular characteristics. Data recorded includes the incident’s location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified one incident of an anti-Semitic hate crime during April monitoring. APF classified the incident as hate speech. Internet portal 888.hu published an article about Jobbik president Gábor Vona and the so-called “Lex CEU” law, i.e., amendments to Hungary’s act on national higher education. A photoshopped picture of Vona wearing a kippah was attached to the article because he did not support the anti-CEU legislation.

The section titled Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents include two other incidents. Magyararancs.hu published an article about the demonstration on Szabadság tér on 15 April where instances of Jew-baiting occurred and gravestones were vandalized in the Farkasrét Jewish cemetery.

Action and Protection Foundation dealt with one legal action in April 2017. APF pressed charges against suspect Csaba Balázs, but the indictment was postponed for two years with supervision and prescribed rules of conduct in March 2015. The probation measures were effective and the Prosecutor’s Office terminated the criminal proceeding because the period of suspension ended.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

The phenomenon of anti-Semitism is by no means new to Hungary. The hate speech encountered earlier has however become increasingly dominant in public life. The situation is further aggravated by the Jobbik Party, which openly declares anti-Semitic and racist views, having forty-three members of parliament making hate speech far more ever-present in both Parliament and other organized events. These circumstances brought Action and Protection Foundation into being. Among the forms of civil association offered by Hungarian law, Action and Protection Foundation chose the form of foundation; it was registered in November 2012. The Foundation seeks to provide an alternative to the ineffectual legal steps taken against deteriorating standards of public discourse, exclu-

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

UNITY

Action and Protection Foundation is a registered civil organization. Among those actively participating in the work of the Foundation are status-quo/Chabad EMIH, the reform oriented Sim Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation, as well as socially recognized emblematic personalities independent of these movements. Trustees of the Foundation represent the most important Jewish religious and cultural movements in Hungary, a symbolic expression of the fact that action on anti-Semitism is a cause shared by all.

BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

The *Brussels Institute*, founded by **Action and Protection Foundation**, carries out monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crime in accordance with methods worked out and proposed by the *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe* (OSCE). In monitoring anti-Semitic phenomena the Institute records and analyzes them on the basis of information delivered by various standardized sources. The monitoring process, which categorizes incidents into seven different groups, relies on the following sources: the sources of the Institute's own Research and Incident Monitoring Group, information available in the press and public media, and relevant data to be found in judicial, criminal and other state administrative records in the framework of an agreement with these branches of government. The institute has set up a now op-

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

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

ABOUT THE REPORT

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

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

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

It may be stated in general that fewer hate crimes are reported, and in the event documented, than are committed. Victims often do not report them to the police. A number of reasons may cause this implicitly. Firstly, many do not feel assured that the authorities will treat these incidents adequately, either because they are not sufficiently prepared, or due to prejudice. Certainly there are many victims who are not clear about the applicable legal regulations. Victims may feel shame, or fear that one of their concealed traits will be exposed. Lesser categorizations

¹See detailed definitions in the Methodology section.

of the crimes are also frequent, where official authorities do not establish the hate-crime motivation. It is civil organizations that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor's office may be particularly beneficial.² Reports prepared by civil organizations can be expedient in alerting the official authorities to hate motivated crimes in the country. Long-term tendencies can be outlined on the basis of the collected data. Civil organizations can help in setting particular cases on track for legal process, may provide legal defense for the victims, and give various other forms of aid. These organizations may also serve as intermediaries between the victims and the police (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 34-36).

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

METHODOLOGY

The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows³ (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people⁴
- hate-motivated incident: an offence, also based on prejudice against a certain group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The heightened importance of individual hate crimes is indicated by the fact that the criminal code of numerous countries deals with these cases separately. Hungarian criminal legislation identifies two forms of hate crime: violent offences committed against the member of a group, and incitement to hatred of a community. The recently adopted Criminal Code (Act C of 2012) deals with these in Chapter XXI, Paragraph 216, on crimes against human dignity and certain basic rights, as well as Chapter XXXII, Paragraph 332, on crimes against public peace. The crime of violence against a member of a group may be established if the perpetrator assaults or otherwise coerces the victim, because they belong to a protected group. Additionally, this is also the case if the perpetrator demonstrates provocative behavior against a community that is apt to cause alarm. The crime is only affected if there is a concrete victim. Incitement against a community most often means hate speech, and it can only be defined as such on the condition that it is committed in public. Incitement to hate crimes does not target concrete individuals but a group of people. It is important to add

that other crimes may also be categorized as having been committed on racist motives. In such cases the courts must pass a heavier sentence⁵ (TASZ 2012, 3–4). Apart from these, Paragraph 333 of the Criminal Code also describes the crime of denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regime. Furthermore, Paragraph 335 bans the distribution and use in wide public, or public display of the symbols of various autocratic regimes (among them the swastika, the SS insignia, arrow-cross).

Detailed descriptions of approaches to, and recent tendencies in the definition of hate incidents can be found in our May Report. The report also cites the findings of literature in this field internationally. The present report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, wherever perpetrator, target, means or message of a case suggest it. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument or other property. It is important however, that anti-Semitic motivation can only be spoken of if the perpetrator chose the given target expressly because it was assumed to belong to Jewry. In this context it is not finally relevant whether the assumption is correct: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient. In the course of monitoring, on one hand, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code (violent assault of a member of a community, incitement to hatred of a community, denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime, use of symbols of autocratic regimes), but can also include other acts mentioned in the Criminal Code, if prejudice can be proven as a motivating factor. When identifying hate incidents,

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

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

For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

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

various indicators recorded during the monitoring period⁶ are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

For the widest possible scope in monitoring anti-Semitic hate incidents the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. The victims' filed reports are of especially great importance to this study. If the victim cannot, or does not want to file a report with the Brussels Institute, the involvement of an intermediary may be facilitated to gain information. Such an intermediary may be a family member, acquaintance of the victim, a witness of the incident or another civil organization. The earlier mentioned 24-hours-a-day Hotline operated by the Foundation serves to ease the passage of reports. Additionally there are options for online filing of reports, which allow even greater anonymity for the person placing the report.

It is a declared objective of the Foundation to keep in touch with the authorities, since they are the most likely to be first approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent important sources: television, radio, as well as the printed and online versions of the press. An essential segment of the report is composed of monitoring the expressions of, so called, online hatred, which seems currently to have become an ever-increasing threat.

Monitoring of these media channels is covered in part by a paid team of experts within a professional framework, while volunteers are involved additionally in the media watch, sending information gained on to the Brussels Institute for processing. It is an aim to cover an increasingly large segment of the media with continuous monitoring. Monitoring extends to roughly all receivable TV and radio stations, all the printed press with high print-runs, as well as online material not only on news portals, but the social networking pages and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried through systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

⁶These are described in the Methods section.

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

Among the monitored hate incidents there are some that are considered a part of the statistics, but there are also some that are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics.⁷

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

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

APRIL 2017

APF identified one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime during April monitoring. APF classified the incident as hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Implicit Jew-baiting on 888.hu

Source: 888.hu

3 April 2017

888.hu criticized Jobbik for the amendments to Hungary's act on national higher education nicknamed as "Lex CEU" in the press, as it contains provisions that would render the Central European University's (CEU) operations in Hungary impossible.



Source: 888.hu

The online portal compared the statements made by László Toroczkai and Gábor Vona, because the two men disagreed on the issue, suggesting there was prevailing chaos in Jobbik. Toroczkai believed the university should cease to exist, while Vona said, "I do not think highly of George Soros, his set of values and his worldview either, but I do not think destroying CEU should be the solution. As far as the bill is concerned, we are going to vote against it."

888.hu attached a previously taken photo of Gábor Vona to the article. A kippah was photoshopped on Vona's head, which suggests that by voting against the bill, Vona is breaking bread with George Soros as parts of the press branded CEU as Soros's university.

Photoshopping Jewish clothing on Gábor Vona and linking him to George Soros clearly conveys an anti-Semitic message: 888.hu portrayed Vona as a "Jewish hireling" and therefore tried to disparage him.

We further elaborate on the incident in the section titled Other news.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

APF identified two incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during April 2017 monitoring which we did not include in our most recent statistics because — as we detailed in the Methodology section — the circumstances of the incidents are unclear, the incidents have no significant importance or the perpetrators are unknown.

HATE SPEECH

Jew-baiting at a demonstration for CEU

Source: magyarnarancs.hu
18 April 2017

Magyarnarancs.hu published an article and shared a video reporting that, on 15 April, there was a demonstration held against the amendments to the higher education act affecting the operations of the Central European University (CEU). The news portal noted that a few big and bold men appeared at the demonstration on Szabadság tér shortly before 9 p.m. The men clearly belonged to some far-right subculture. They first insulted Márton Gulyás who was giving an interview at the time. Then they started to argue with people who were standing close to the activist. After a bit of Jew baiting and Soros baiting, the men tried to convince a small group of demonstrators that the currently ruling party was the best for Hungary. Police officers ended the quarrel after a few minutes and led the group of approximately 6–8 men away. Later on, the same group of men started arguing with another small group of people at Nyugati tér, but finally they disappeared without causing any serious disturbance.

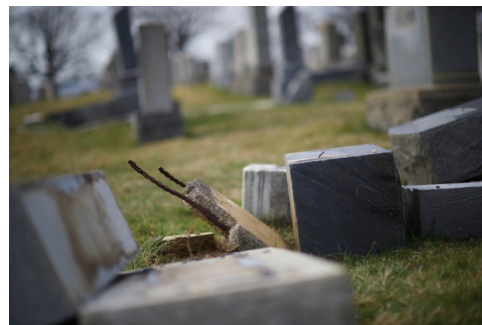
DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Gravestones desecrated in Farkasrét cemetery

Source: nepszava.hu
28 April 2017

Unknown persons desecrated gravestones in the Farkasrét Jewish cemetery. “Statues, vases and amphorae were removed from fifteen or sixteen gravestones”, colleague of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) Péter Tamás told Népszava. He added that, “The perpetrators took with them objects representing religious honor and worship, and smashed into pieces everything they did not steal. An assessment of the damages is underway, but it is sure there was considerable material damage caused. Luckily, damage caused to other tombstones was minimal.”

According to the Hungarian Criminal Code, the penalty for vandalism “shall be imprisonment not exceeding three years if (...) the act of vandalism results in the destruction of (...) graves, burial sites or objects placed in memory of or with, the dead, in cemeteries and other burial sites.”



Source: nepszava.hu

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

March of the Living 2017

Source: Action and Protection Foundation;
168 óra; index.hu; 24.hu
16 April 2017

The March of the Living was held on 16 April 2017 for the fifteenth time in Hungary. The march of thousands of people, commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, started at the "Shoes on the Danube Bank"



Source: 168ora.hu

memorial, where participants left stones, tea lights and flowers. The route of the memorial walk followed down to Idősebb Antall József rakpart (Pest lower embankment) and across the Chain Bridge to Clark Ádám tér.

Speakers at the event talked about discrimination and the dangers of growing anti-Semitism, and they highlighted the importance of remembering and learning from the past. In his welcome speech, chairman of the March of the Living Board of Trustees Gábor Gordon pointed out that Easter Sunday, the sixth day of Passover and Hungary's Holocaust Memorial day all fell on the same day in 2017. Gábor Gordon said this day was both the celebration of resurrection and salvation for the Christians, and the Jewish festival commemorating the liberation from slavery. It also reminded Christians, Jews and atheists how dangerous discrimination could be and that minor acts that are hardly visible could be parts of a process with irretrievable consequences.

Israel's Ambassador to Hungary Yossi Amrani also spoke at the event:

We still have to fight for people who suffer from any kind of discrimination, from discrimination driven by fear or hatred", said the Ambassador. "We need to think about how it was possible that people became targeted because of their religion and origin. We need to remember those who were concerned with their own lives and turned a blind eye to what was happening. The story should be told to every generation, everybody should be reminded of what happened, the message and the torch should be passed.

According to the organizers, over 10,000 people attended the event and 18,000 people followed on Facebook live streaming.

To our knowledge, most of the Hungarian political parties did not release any statements about the event, except for two member organizations of the DK (Democratic Coalition) — one in Újpest and one in the second district of Budapest — and LMP (Politics Can Be Different) MP Bernadett Széll. On the other hand, many parliamentary parties, except Jobbik, represented themselves at previous events of the March of the Living or showed their compassion at least. On behalf of the Jobbik organization in Zugló, local councilor János Czeglédi wrote an article titled "March of Feeding instead of March of the Living!" He said that "the March of the Living in Budapest was an event that directly served current political goals" and he suggested that a March of Feeding should be organized instead.

Growing number of Holocaust deniers Joint research by APF and Medián

Source: Action and Protection Foundation;
168 óra; nepszava.hu
24 April 2017

For the fifth time in 2016, Action and Protection Foundation and Medián Public Opinion and Market Research Institute issued a questionnaire to 1,200 individuals and conducted research about the relation of Hungarian society to Jews.

The results of the research were presented at a press conference held in Centrál Kávéház on 20 April 2017, and they are available online in Hungarian and English.⁹



Source: Action and Protection

“There are worrying levels of susceptibility to Holocaust denial and relativization”, said executive director of Medián Endre Hann with regards to the most recent research results on anti-Semitic prejudice.

Chairman of APF Board of Trustees, Dániel Bodnár, said, “Anti-Semitism in Hungary preserved its traditional and ‘middle-class’ character [emphasis added by APF]. In this

regard Hungary is unique because there are only few places in the world with such type of anti-Semitism”. “Anti-Semitism is not based on religion or origin, but mainly on conspiracy theories”, said senior analyst at Political Capital Bulcsú Hunyadi. Political scientist and co-author of the Medián report Dániel Róna reinforced this by saying that “People who have Jewish acquaintances are significantly less likely to be anti-Semitic.”

The research results showed that anti-Semitism significantly increased in 2010, but, since then, there have only been very modest shifts. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of respondents who agreed with anti-Semitic statements increased, and the emotional rejection of the Jews has fluctuated between 21 and 26 percent. Although the rejection of Jews compared to other ethnicities is not as strong, Hungarians are still less accepting than other European citizens are. International comparison shows that the level of anti-Semitism in Hungary is higher than in some Western European countries. However, the situation of Hungarian Jews is more favorable here than in Western Europe where Jews have to face physical atrocities too. We find migrants on top of Hungary’s rejection list; they are even more disliked than Roma people are.

Using the same questions every year and analyzing the tendencies in terms of time, we can summarize that anti-Semitism slightly but clearly increased in Hungary. The research results showed that the ratio of non anti-Semites has gradually decreased, and the number of strongly anti-Semitic respondents has grown year by year. We can see that about one-third of the society is affected by some level of anti-Semitism and one-fifth is strongly anti-Semitic. Maybe the most frightening data is that 18 percent of the respondents would call for the departure of Jews, and every fourth respondent agreed with the statement representing the spirit of Numerus Clausus.

⁹http://tev.hu/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/TEV_Antisemitism-research_2016.pdf

It is interesting to note that the remembrance of the Shoah deeply divides the Hungarian society. Half of the respondents said that it should be kept on the agenda while the other half said we should move on. The support of statements backing up the open denial of the Holocaust increased. Although the great majority of voters distance themselves from denying or relativizing the Holocaust, a non-significant part of respondents does not. Complete denial is found among 11% of respondents, partial denial and relativizing among 18-24%. Moreover, this ratio has increased over the past years.

Particular attention was given to political preferences in the research. It is concluded that pro-government communities' relationship to the Jews is average, but among the supporters of left-wing parties – especially small parties – there are much fewer anti-Semitic voters. Compared to the overall population, anti-Semites are closer to the right-wing and radical poles. It was no surprise that 46 percent of Jobbik voters fell into the category of strongly anti-Semitic, and a further 11 percent were considered as moderately anti-Semitic. This ratio was the highest among the involved variables of the analysis.

APF Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dániel Bodnár gave an interview about the research results to *i68óra*. First, Bodnár stated that APF was established to lay scientific foundations for critical dialogue and “to put an end to trivializations and even exaggerations that were both very common after the change of regime”.

Bodnár clarified the aim of his research: We do not measure anti-Semitism, (...) we try to reveal anti-Semitic attitudes and are mainly interested in tracing tendencies. The current growth of Holocaust denial is something we need to take into consideration in our daily work. It shows that emphasis should primarily be on quality rather than quantity when discussing the Holocaust.

Bodnár added, “98 percent of the hate incidents in Hungary is verbal aggression” as opposed to Western Europe. In France, for instance, 1,800 anti-Semitic hate incidents were reported in 2016, and over the half of them were physical atrocities.

Bodnár also spoke about the politics of memory:

The Holocaust has a more important role in public speech, in education and culture than ever before. The question of responsibility divides people. The percentage of moderate Holocaust deniers increased from 9 to 19. 11 percent of the respondents claimed gas chambers never existed. The question is not whether we remember the Holocaust or not, because we do. The real question is whether the personal aspects are retained.

Bodnár also commented on Jobbik during the interview:

It was not solely the appearance of Jobbik, but legitimizing their particular use of language that increased tensions. By relieving inhibitions, the moral immune system of society weakens. The improved verbal freedom and erosion are partly attributed to Jobbik's vulgar rhetoric.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Commemorating the victims of the Holocaust

Source: *MTI; 168ora.hu; 444.hu; 24.hu; 888.hu*
9 April 2017

“We Hungarians can never forget what happened because it happened to us, the Holocaust is our national tragedy”, said the Minister of the Prime Minister’s Cabinet, Antal Rogán, at the Memorial Day for the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust held in Budapest on 9 April. The ceremony held in front of the House of Terror commemorated martyr and theology teacher Vilma Bernovits (1901-1944). Antal Rogán highlighted in his speech that, during the Holocaust, there were people who entered foreign service and betrayed the Hungarian nation, who sent their Jewish compatriots to their deaths and by doing so brought shame to the whole country. The Minister stressed that these events must be remembered so that they can never happen again.



Source: MTI

Referring to Jobbik, Rogán added that there are people among Hungarian MPs who “just a few years ago wanted to list Jews and spat in the shoes on the Danube bank: Márton Gyöngyösi and Gergely Kulcsár.” He added, “Gyöngyösi’s idea was a neo-Nazi thought and Gergely Kulcsár’s act was a neo-Nazi move. ... They have to be named because their presence in the National Assembly is

unworthy of the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and is unacceptable.”

The Minister said that no sensible person should tolerate those remaining MPs.

Antal Rogán said that we commemorate those we lost in inhumane conditions



Source: 888.hu

during the Holocaust, which did not spare Hungarians either, and strong communities never forget. The Minister said that what happened must be stated, because what has now become history was once a bloody reality. Every tenth victim of the Holocaust was Hungarian and the people who were dragged off were those who wanted the best for the country; innocent people were made scapegoats and murdered he noted. Rogán also said that we must face the whole truth. No matter how difficult it is, we must declare that the Hungarian state at the time was incapable of protecting its citizens, and the fact that the same thing occurred in other European countries is no excuse.

Rabbi Slomó Köves¹⁰ also spoke at the event. He said that there are more and more Holocaust commemorations these days:

One would think that this should have a positive effect on people’s thinking. But according to Action and Protection Foundation’s opinion polls, the number of people

¹⁰Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH)

with Holocaust denying views increased from 9 percent to 19 percent between 2006 and 2016. In my opinion, public dialogue should not be about measuring whose grief is greater, or who bears the greater guilt.

Slomó Köves also believes we must overcome the fact that commemorative events are often full of hollow and empty phrases and regularly repeated statements that do not compel people to think.

Mária Schmidt¹¹ also offered her comments: It is through commemoration that the important is separated from the unimportant, because we can only commemorate that which truly moves us”. “What never should have been allowed to happen happened, and the communities that retained their sobriety have always known that what happened was the denial of everything on which our homeland and Europe are built, and of everything we can be proud of.

Commemoration at the Holocaust Memorial Center

Source: *MTI: magyarhirlap.hu*
19 April 2017

On 19 April, Minister of Defense István Simicskó spoke at the ceremony held to mark the Memorial Day for the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Páva utca. The Minister stressed that history shows there have been many catastrophes that claimed the lives of millions of people. Nevertheless, during the Holocaust, human cruelty was more destructive and barbaric than any natural disaster or deadly epidemic during the course of history.

For the irreparable tragedy to occur, people of evil intent required power. It also required the indifference of many people and the grave error of Western leaders who closed their eyes and “fell into the trap of self-deception”, he continued.

¹¹ Director-General of the House of Terror Museum

¹² Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Holocaust Documentation Centre and Memorial Collection Public Foundation

¹³ Director of the Holocaust Memorial Center

Rabbi Slomó stated that commemoration of the Holocaust must not only express spiritual pain, but should be a “spiritual task required for our spiritual and mental health”, which we should perform throughout the year. According to the Rabbi Köves, during the past ten fifteen years, Holocaust remembrance services have become part of the “daily routine” of mainstream society since there are more state, local government and school commemorations. Yet, we should also ask ourselves whether commemorations are held in the right form, because despite the increase in commemorations, the number of people calling into question whether the Holocaust actually happened has increased by ten percent.

Andor Grósz¹² and Szabolcs Szita¹³ also spoke at the event. The event was attended by, among others, former Prime Minister Péter Boross and Deputy State Secretary Csaba Latorcai from the Prime Minister’s Office.

At the end of the ceremony, the participants recited a Kaddish and placed candles and stones at the commemorative wall for the victims.

Following a decision by Parliament in 2000, the Memorial Day for the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust has been held on 16 April every year since 2001. It was on 16 April 1944 that Jews in Zakarpattia Oblast, which was part of Hungary at the time, began to be confined to ghettos.

Curia report on hate crime incidents

Source: *MTI: index.hu*
20 April 2017

Hungarian case law rarely addresses hate crime incidents, it is true, however, that they are not fully specified so their administration is problematic – revealed the summary of the Curia’s case law analysis group.

Retired President of Chamber at the Curia and leader of the analysis group József Belegi shared their findings in a background conversation. In 2015, they examined Hungarian judicial practice for the past ten years, and analyzed approximately a hundred cases related primarily to the conflicts of the right of expression and the right to human dignity, which breached public peace.

Belegi highlighted that the term “hate crime” was somewhat misleading, as perpetrators are not motivated by hatred towards one particular person in these cases. Victims usually become the subjects of incidents accidentally, and not only are they insulted but the whole group they belong to since other members of the same group may feel threatened after such an incident.

A number of international laws – including documents of the UN, the Council of Europe and the EU – sanction hate crime incidents, and Hungary also joined these efforts.

An international analysis found it worrying that Hungarian laws do not identify racist motive as one of the various forms of malicious motives behind violent offenses so it is practically impossible to monitor racially motivated offenses in Hungary. “The analysis group believes this is a justifiable remark”, stated the report of the Curia.

Such racially motivated offenses may be hate offenses, which are sanctioned by the provisions for violence against member of a community in the current Criminal Code of Hungary, or they may be hate speech, which corresponds to the offense of incitement against a community.

About the offenses of violence against member of a community and incitement against a community, the list of groups protected under criminal law is not complete. Among the examined cases, judicial practice considered persons of Roma, Hungarian and Romanian origin, Transylvanian

Hungarians, people of Jewish faith, people of Roman Catholic faith, black people, homosexuals and immigrants, among others, as protected groups.

According to József Belegi, one of the objectives of punishing violence against a member of a community is preventing people being harmed because of their ethnic origin. Courts did not consider hate-fueled statements on their own as violent acts against a community and being similar to assaults even if these statements were apparently anti-social and capable of causing panic or frightening others.

The few indictments in cases of incitement against a member of a community are partly explained by the complex assessment of conducts. Only a fraction of criminal proceedings in such cases reaches indictment. The majority of complaints are rejected or the investigations are terminated. Concerning the cases APF initiated or represent, we believe this is an adequate finding.

The examination found that cases of open denial of Nazi crimes and Communist crimes, as specified in the Criminal Code, are rare, these are usually proceedings initiated for implying that the Holocaust is insignificant.

In the approximately 100 analyzed cases, 29 people were convicted to deprivation of liberty – mainly if they committed other offenses in addition to violence against member of a community – 39 people were sentenced to suspended imprisonment, 4 had to carry out community service, and 10 were ordered to pay a fine. Probation decisions were made in nine cases, five of these concerned minors. Another two juvenile offenders received a reprimand, and one was transferred to a detention center.

Gyula Gömbös' honorary citizenship to be withdrawn

Source: *baon.hu*

19 April 2017, Debrecen

Local councilor (MSZP) Károly Tóth is still calling for the withdrawal of Gyula Gömbös' honorary citizenship of Szeged. Tóth said that the general assembly had unanimously decided to withdraw the title from a number of people before, including Mátyás Rákosi and János Kempen. He mentioned he had proposed the withdrawal of Gyula Gömbös' title at the general assembly but his proposal failed to receive a majority support. Tóth stated that Gyula Gömbös, who received his honorary citizenship of Szeged in 1935, was openly anti-Semitic and contributed to the growth of Hungarian anti-Semitism. Gömbös' German and Italian foreign policy had a significant impact on Hungary's participation in World War II, which had catastrophic consequences.

Hungary also attended the International March of the Living

Source: *MTI; magyarhirlap.hu*

24 April 2017

The international March of the Living was held for the 29th time this year with the participation of 56 countries.

"The role of education in preserving the past is becoming increasingly important as the number of Holocaust survivors grows ever fewer", said Minister of State for Education László Palkovics, who represented the Hungarian government at the commemorative International March of the Living held between Auschwitz and Birkenau on 24 April. Mr. Palkovics provided additional remarks:

For us to be able to put our future in suitable order, we must also evaluate our past in a suitable fashion. This is why since 2013 the national curriculum includes more and more elements relating to the Holocaust, Jewish culture and the State of Israel.

The Leading official from the Hungarian March of the Living Foundation, Zsuzsa Kálmán, said "The Foundation has taken 200 secondary school students on a pilgrimage to Poland, and prior to the international commemorative program they will be holding a separate commemoration service at the No. 18 Hungarian barracks." The Hungarian delegation also included Yossi Amrani¹⁴, György Szabó¹⁵, and representatives of the Budapest Jewish Community.

Righteous Among the Nations award ceremony

Source: *magyarhirlap.hu*

27 April 2017

The Righteous Among the Nations awards and Badges of Valor were presented in recognition of the saving of Jews during the Holocaust. Minister of Interior, Sándor Pintér, said "today, we have highly-developed legal institutions at our disposal to meet the challenge posed by those who want to change law and order in Hungary through force."

Hungarians who the Israeli Yad Vashem remembrance authority deem worthy of receiving the Righteous Among the Nations award have for the past 22 years been traditionally presented with a Badge of Honour for Valour, he recalled. Sándor Pintér also said that in his opinion, the Holocaust must be talked about and we must use every possible occasion for remembrance to ensure that our generation and the ones to follow can commemorate the heroes who risked their lives to save others in a worthy manner. The Minister added that presenting the Badges of Valour to the Righteous Among the Nations today represents a message.

At the event, Ambassador Amrani said, "We were created equal and received a name and a path in life through being born, and accordingly there is no leader, nation

¹⁴ Israel's Ambassador to Budapest

¹⁵ President of the Public Foundation for Hungarian Jewish Heritage

or religion that can deprive anyone of their name and character.” According to the diplomat, history teaches us that evil and hatred can gain power and is capable of controlling countries and nations.

At the event, posthumous awards were presented to, among others, Gusztáv Bárczi, József Essósy and Iván Zékány. Some of the awards were accepted by family members, and the awards of those with no living relatives will be preserved by the Yad Vashem Institute.

NEWS AND OPINION ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

International press on George Soros and Hungary

Source: demokrata.hu; frblogs.timesofisrael.com; mno.hu; theguardian.com; magyarhirlap.hu Israel, 1 and 20 April 2017

Austrian journalist Karl Pfeifer's article about George Soros and the situation in Hungary was published on the French edition site of The Times of Israel reviewed the Demokrata.

Pfeifer wrote that as a Jewish child in Hungary, he was the victim of "ultra-nationalism and anti-Semitism" and he could hardly escape being deported to Auschwitz, so he is rather sensitive about what is happening in Hungary today. Pfeifer also wrote about the government's "campaign" against George Soros who fled Hungary after the Nazism.

Pfeifer said that Soros is depicted as an agent of "international finance", which is a well-known code for the Jews. According to Pfeifer, the accusation against Soros concerning the issue of migration are ridiculous, and "the idea behind it is a combination of conspiracy theories and anti-Semitism".

Tibor Fischer, British-born Hungarian writer, approached Soros and the situation in Hungary from a different perspective. Fischer stated, "The western media's portrait of the Hungarian leader as an enemy of democracy and an antisemite isn't just puzzling, it's disgusting." The author also wrote that people west of Vienna simply do not understand the situation in Hungary. "The most disgusting accusation made against Orbán is that of antisemitism", which proceeds on the basis that the government's archenemy George Soros is Jewish, wrote Fischer. He argues against this by stating, "Orbán is the man who introduced Holocaust education into schools, passed a Holocaust denial law and whose government financed *Son of Saul*, a film about Auschwitz that won an Oscar." Fischer's parents were Hungarian refugees of 1956, and he became famous for his novel *Under the Frog* (1992) set in Hungary in the 1950s.

OTHER NEWS

Holocaust commemorations throughout Hungary

Source: baon.hu; teol.hu; delmagyar.hu; feol.hu; dehir.hu
3, 13, 19 and 26 April 2017

On 3 April, a wagon exhibition organized by the March of the Living Foundation opened at the railway station in Kiskunfélegyháza. The exhibition was renewed in 2017 and not only did it present photos of the Hungarian events, but also the history of the Holocaust in Europe up until today's anti-Semitic and racist incidents. Visitors could also meet a witness and learn about local happenings.

On 13 April, victims of the Holocaust were commemorated in Bonyhád, in the building



Source: feol.hu

of the old neolog synagogue where, in the spirit of tolerance, the Mensch International Foundation plans to open a cultural center. A Torah scroll was also presented at the ceremony for the first time in the synagogue after about 50 years. A permanent exhibition about the Jews from Bonyhád who died in death camps opened in the old synagogue building in 2014.

On 13 April, a Small March of the Living was held in Makó. The walk passed memorial sites linked to Jews from Makó and commemorated the 1,200 victims from the town.

On 19 April, two commemorations were held in Székesfehérvár on the Memorial Day

of the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust. First, wreaths were laid at the memorial of the victims of the Holocaust outside the Israelite cemetery, and then a second ceremony was held at the Synagogue-memorial in the afternoon.

On 26 April, a film screening and a walk in Debrecen observed the Memorial Day of the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust. The memorial day of 16 April coincided with the Jewish Passover and therefore the commemorations were held ten days later. Over 400 young people participated in the programs of the traditional Holocaust Memorial Day in Debrecen.

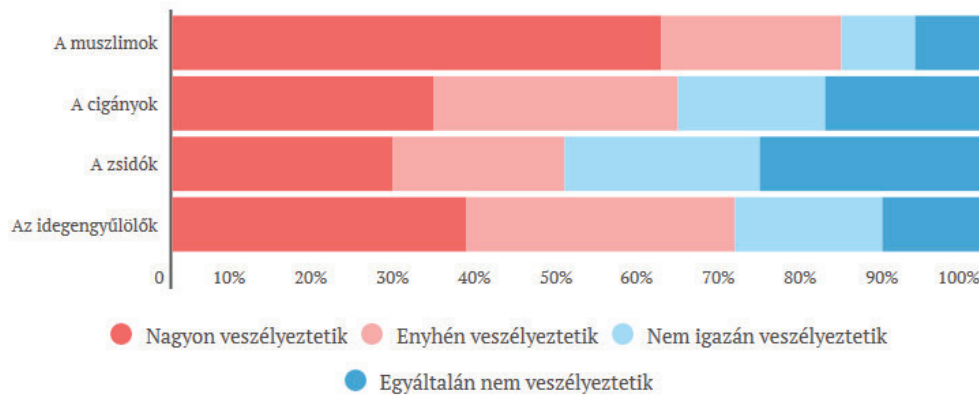
Index's opinion poll on what people worry about in Hungary

Source: index.hu
12 April 2017

Index news portal and Závecz Research conducted an opinion poll together to find out what people worry about in Hungary. In line with the collective anxiety and the rules of the politics of fear, the opinion poll tried to reveal what people fear the most in Hungary today. The representative telephone opinion poll was carried out in March 2017 and asked a sample of 1,000 people.

The top five elements of the fear list were terrorists, corrupt politicians, migrants, Muslims and oligarchs close to the government. It means there are two main things that Hungarians worry about in 2017: groups associated with the migration crisis and the political elite, this is how Index summarized the results of the poll. Thirty-two percent of the respondents believe that the Roma threatens the future of the country, and a quarter of the respondents think the Jews threaten it.

Idegenek és idegengyűlölők



Source: index.hu

Idegenek és idegengyűlölők: Groups that pose threats to the future of Hungary

A muszlimok: Muslims

A cigányok: Roma

A zsidók: Jews

Az idegengyűlölők: Xenophobes

Nagyon veszélyeztetik: pose serious threats

Enyhén veszélyeztetik: pose a little threat

Nem igazán veszélyeztetik: pose no real threat

Egyáltalán nem veszélyeztetik: pose no threat at all

35 37 percent of those who believe the Roma and the Jews pose serious threats to Hungary also think that we are in serious danger because of xenophobes.

Factors threatening the Hungarian nation were the Roma, powers ruling the world from the background, the Jews, and Orbán's government. The ruling government is a great threat to the country according to a quarter of the respondents, while another quarter believes they pose a slight threat. A similar number of people think the same of the left-wing opposition, Jobbik, and the liberals. Following the liberals on the list, Hungarians fear feminists and civil organizations (with restrictions⁹).

¹Holocaust survivor

²Director of the Holocaust Memorial Center

³Chairman of the Budapest Jewish Community

⁴A grandchild of one of Raoul Wallenberg's colleagues

Plaque for helpers of Raoul Wallenberg unveiled in Budapest

Source: magyarhirlap.hu;

16 April 2017

A memorial plaque commemorating helpers of the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who rescued thousands of Hungarian Jews from being deported during the Holocaust, was unveiled on Holocaust Remembrance Day, 16 April. Chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Association, József Sebes, said there were 19 names on the plaque but there were many more involved in saving lives. He noted that about a hundred people were helping the Swedish rescue operation before Wallenberg arrived to Budapest and their number rose to almost 300 later on.

Sebes added that "We owe them that their stories are also told" and mentioned that helpers of the Swedish diplomat helped in a number of different fields, including health care, transportation and food services., Kate Watz¹, Szabolcs Szita², Tamás Ács³ and András Forgács⁴ spoke at the event. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Embassy of the Czech Republic, and some civil organizations also participated in the ceremony.

Following a decision by Parliament in 2000, the Memorial Day for the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust has been held on 16 April every year since 2001. 16 April 1944 marks the day that Hungarian Jews began to be confined to ghettos.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Effectiveness of mandatory learning the case of a Holocaust denier

Source: Action and Protection Foundation
24 April 2017

Action and Protection Foundation pressed charges against suspect Csaba Balázs posted a montage of the entrance of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp with a stylized logo of Disneyland and a caption: “Auschwitzland, the greatest fairy tale camp of the world” on Facebook.”

Gyöngyös District Prosecutor’s Office concluded that the act was public denial of the crimes committed by the National Socialist and Communist regimes but decided to postpone indictment for two years in March 2015.

The Prosecutor’s Office ordered supervision and prescribed rules of conduct for Csaba Balázs. The order also prescribed as an obligation for him to visit the Holocaust Memorial Center in Páva utca on his own expense and report on the exhibition to his supervisor, and read László Karsai’s work Holocaust (Holocaust).

A prosecutor may decide to postpone indictment if by doing so they believe they prevent the accused from committing further offenses or the measures would bring positive changes in the accused future behavior. The suspect had had no criminal record. He admitted committing the offense and stopped the unlawful activity he carried out publicly. The probation measures seemed to be effective, so the Prosecutor’s Office terminated the criminal proceeding because the period of suspension ended.



Source: Action and Protection Foundation

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	1 st of April	International press on George Soros and Hungary	News and Opinions on Hungarian Anti-Semitism
2.	3 rd of April	Holocaust commemorations throughout Hungary	Other News
3.	8th of April	Implicit Jew-baiting on 888.hu	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes - Hate Speech
4.	9th of April	Commemorating the victims of the Holocaust	Official and Civil Responses
5.	12th of April	Index's opinion poll on what people worry about in Hungary	Other News
6.	16th of April	March of the Living 2017	Community News and Responses
7.	16th of April	Plaque for helpers of Raoul Wallenberg unveiled in Budapest	Other News
8.	18th of April	Jew-baiting at a demonstration for CEU	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
9.	19th of April	Commemoration at the Holocaust Memorial Center	Official and Civil Responses
10.	19th of April	Gyula Gömbös' honorary citizenship to be withdrawn	Official and Civil Responses
11.	20th of April	Curia report on hate crime incidents	Official and Civil Responses
12.	24th of April	Growing number of Holocaust deniers - Joint research by APF and Medián	Community News and Responses
13.	24th of April	Hungary also attended the International March of the Living	Official and Civil Responses
14.	24th of April	Effectiveness of mandatory learning - the case of a Holocaust denier	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions
15.	27th of April	Righteous Among the Nations award ceremony	Official and Civil Responses
16.	28th of April	Gravestones desecrated in Farkasrét cemetery	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000

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

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

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

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