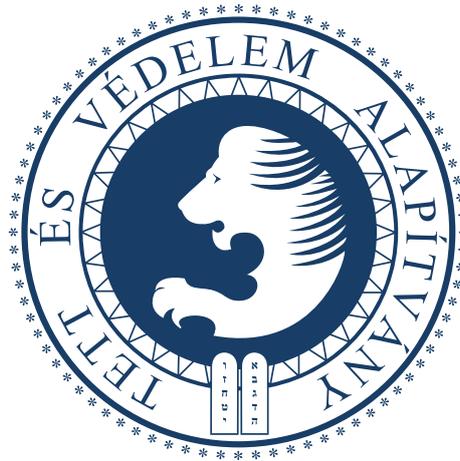


ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

JUNE 2017

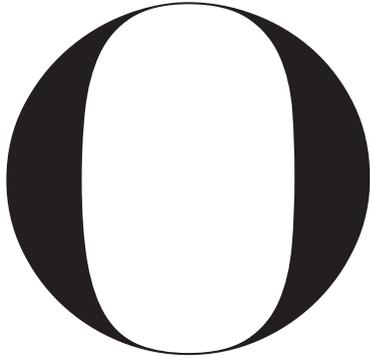


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 June monitoring. APF classified the incident as hate speech. Among other public figures, former Jobbik MP György Gyula Zagyva was featured in Márton Gulyás’ video entitled *Közös Ország* (“Common Country”). The video seeks to promote the reform of the Hungarian electoral system. Musician Tamás Varga-Bíró, who had made a number of harsh anti-Semitic statements before, criticized that Zagyva appeared in the video with so-called “liberals”. As a response to this, Zagyva called him a “stinky Jew” said that “you’ll be screwed”. Proceedings were initiated against Zagyva. The case is rather controversial and received great public attention. Even the Hungarian government condemned Zagyva’s comments and filed a complaint against him.

The section titled Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents include three other incidents. APF was notified that unknown individuals painted swastikas again on the stone fence of the Gothic Protestant Church of Ayas in Miskolc. A similar case was reported in Szombathely – unknown individuals painted swastikas and symbols of the SS at various locations of the *Perint-parti sétány*². The third case involved former KDNP politician Katalin Lukácsi, who said in an interview that she had been called a “Jewish hireling” in the party.

Action and Protection Foundation did not initiate any legal cases and was not notified of significant developments of pending cases in June 2017.

In the section titled Official and Civil Responses, we present that the two minors who painted a swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen last April were both

¹ <https://444.hu/2015/08/20/a-nap-legbenabb-trigykedese>
² Promenade on the bank of the stream called Perint

put on a two-year probation — the decision is final. Well-known far-right figures James Dowson and Nick Griffin were barred from Hungary upon the suggestion of TEK, Hungary’s Counter-Terrorism Center. According to information received from TEK, the Hungarian authorities wanted to prevent the influx of extremists from the West to the East and their growth in Hungary. Also, the court sentenced five individuals to suspended imprisonment and community service, because, in May 2015, the five men were wandering drunk around the city of Székesfehérvár, bullied a number of people, and threatened others by shouting “Heil Hitler! Sieg heil!”. At the inauguration ceremony of the Klebelsberg Castle, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán called Miklós Horthy an “exceptional statesman”. Our report will detail the various public reactions to this statement.

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,

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

UNITY

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

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BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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 operational **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 offenses 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 incidents³ 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 offenses 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 offenses 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 of the crimes are also fre-

³ See detailed definitions in the Methodology section.

quent, 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.⁴ 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).

⁴ A great example of the above can be found in the Community Security Trust (CST) and cooperation between the London and the Manchester police forces. (CST 2013)

METHODOLOGY⁵

The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows⁶(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 people⁷
- 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 sentence⁸ (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 preju-

⁵ Our methodology remains the same since we started our monitoring in May 2013. The methodology was elaborated by Ildikó Barna, her text was integrated in this chapter. Small modifications are marked separately.

⁶ The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakraborti and Garland 2009, 4–7). These definitions can serve as important addenda to an understanding of these crimes, however they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

⁷ For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behavior would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

⁸ The Criminal Code does not include racist motives verbatim, but for example the case of "contemptible motive" is fulfilled, if someone commits a crime out of such a motivation.

dice can be proven as a motivating factor. When identifying hate incidents, various indicators recorded during the monitoring period⁹ 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.

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.¹⁰

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 statistics¹¹:

- Anti-Semitic hate incidents that are related to Hungary and Hungarian

⁹ These are described in the *Methodology* section.

¹⁰ The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

¹¹ The criteria for hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics were modified, therefore the present description is different from the one we used in 2013.

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.¹² In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹² These 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

JUNE 2017

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

HATE SPEECH

Proceedings for harassment brought against György Zagyva for Jew-baiting
Source: MTI; feol.hu; nepszava.hu; dehir.hu; mno.hu

10 and 13 June 2017 The Police Headquarters of Balassagyarmat launched an investigation against former Jobbik MP György Gyula Zagyva for reasonable suspicion of harassment.

The history of the case includes that musician Tamás Varga-Bíró sharply criticized Zagyva on Facebook for having appeared in Márton Gulyás's video that demands a new electoral system in Hungary. Zagyva is featured in the video with people such as Jobbik ideologist Sándor Pörzse and left-wing opinion leaders such as András Stohl, János Gálvölgyi and András Hajós. Following Tamás Varga-Bíró's objection to the video, Zagyva told the musician that "Stinky Jew, you'll be screwed, we will kill you, your wife and your daughter, too!". According to Varga, a police officer also heard the threat over the loudspeaker of his phone.

KDNP MP István Hollik was outraged by the case and said that such a sharp anti-Semitic expression was unprecedented in Hungarian politics and therefore called upon the Hungarian government to take a stand in the matter. In response to an interview question, Hollik said he believed an offense was committed and the government must condemn what happened. After a press conference, the Prime Minister's press chief Bertalan Havasi told MTI that Viktor Orbán ordered the Minister of Interior to "take action with the full rigor of the law" against the "disgraceful anti-Semitic offense" committed by Zagyva.

After all this, Zagyva announced he would file a complaint against Prime Minister Viktor Orbán for abuse of office. With regards to the case in question, Zagyva said he had only briefly mentioned "Jewish manners" and had not threatened anyone.

In 2015, when Judit Polgár received the Order of Saint Stephen of Hungary, Varga-Bíró called the female chess player a "Zionist Jew". Also, at one of his concerts in 2011, Varga-Bíró had problems with the sound system. He thought people intentionally wanted to sabotage his concert and accused the local Jewish community of Dunaszerdahely.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

APF identified three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during June 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 anti-Semitic motive cannot be proved or the perpetrators are unknown.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Another swastika on the Gothic Protestant Church of Avas
Source: Action and Protection Foundation

2 June 2017 One of our supporters notified us that unknown individuals painted swastikas on the stone fence of the Gothic Protestant Church of Avas in Miskolc. The case is disappointing because we presented in our December 2016 report that unknown individuals had painted swastikas on the fence of the same church. Those swastikas were removed but now new ones were painted. We contacted the owner of the property and other supporting organizations and initiated the removal of the symbols.



Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Unknown individuals painted totalitarian symbols on various surfaces in Szombathely
Source: nyugat.hu

27 June 2017 Unknown individuals painted swastikas, symbols of the SS and other symbols on various surfaces at the Perint-parti sétány in Szombathely. Nyugat.hu received pictures depicting banned totalitarian symbols from one of their readers. “The pipe system of the heat networks, the Vashíd (Iron bridge), the pavement, and manhole covers all have swastikas and symbols of the SS painted on them” nyugat.hu quoted their reader. Furthermore, the abbreviation of the National Socialist German Workers’ Party, NSDAP, was also painted on a concrete pipe next to a swastika.



Source: nyugat.hu

HATE SPEECH

Katalin Lukácsi was called a "Jewish hireling"
Source: hvg.hu

8 June 2017 HVG interviewed Katalin Lukácsi about her years in KDNP, following the representative's recent resignation from the party. Lukácsi started the interview by mentioning that not only had she completed the Theological College of Eger but also the Budapest University of Jewish Studies. Before joining the party, she told the county's local KDNP leader that she found Jewish-Christian dialogue important and

the leader agreed with her. When Lukácsi was studying in Budapest, she joined the youth organization of KDNP. "Sometimes I was called a Jewish hireling, but I was also thought of as a useful idiot since my activities could prove that KDNP was not anti-Semitic.", she said. With regards to the reasons why she quit the party, Lukácsi said that the situation of culture and education in Hungary is now worse than it was eight years ago. She mentioned the refugee crisis, the referendum, the closure of Népszabadság, the case of CEU and the campaign against civil society. She said, "it's wrong if ordinary men are incited against non-existent enemies."

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

*Commemorating the victims
of the Holocaust throughout the country*
Source: nepszava.hu; feol.hu; heol.hu;
kisalfold.hu; veol.hu

12 and 25 June 2017 On the 73rd anniversary of the deportation of Hungarian Jews, numerous commemorations were held around the country to pay respect to the victims of the Holocaust. Fidesz MP László B. Nagy and Holocaust survivor and vice president of the local religious community István Salamon spoke at the commemoration held at the memorial column by the entrance of the former brickyard ghetto in Szeged. Chief Rabbi and rector of the Budapest University of Jewish Studies Alfréd Schőner, MSZP MP Sándor Szabó and rector of the Gál Ferenc College Gábor Kozma gave speeches at the mourning church service held in the Szeged Synagogue.



Source: veol.hu

In Veszprém, the local government and the local Jewish Community organized a commemoration to pay tribute to the victims who were killed after having been deported from the city and its neighborhood. Israeli Ambassador to Hungary Yossi Amrani and Fidesz-KDNP mayor Gyula Porga spoke at the event. A church service was held in the Jewish cemetery.

The Status Quo Ante Jewish Community of Gyöngyös commemorated victims on the anniversary of the 1944 evacuation of the Gyöngyös ghetto. Chief Rabbi Zoltán Radnóti and chanter Dániel Rudas led the ceremony. Fidesz MP László Horváth and MSZP-DK-Együtt mayor György Hiesz also spoke at the commemoration.

On the anniversary of the deportation of victims from Békés County, Fidesz MP for Békéscsaba Gyula Vantara gave a speech at the ceremony held to commemorate the victims.

President of the Székesfehérvár Jewish Community István Neubart and Protestant pastor Jonathan Sándor Szénási spoke at the event held at Mártírok Emléksarnoka (Memorial Hall of Martyrs) in Székesfehérvár.

The 2,000 Jewish victims deported from Eger were commemorated at a ceremony held by the memorial in the Jewish cemetery of the city. Relatives lit candles, mayor László Habis expressed his condolences, then, following the chanter István Gara's song, rabbi Tamás Verő recalled events of the time.

The Jewish Community of Győr held a ceremony in the city's Jewish cemetery and commemorated the over 5,000 Jews who were deported from Győr and its neighborhood and victims who lost their lives in work camps or death camps. Chief Rabbi Péter Joel Totha, Holocaust survivors, relatives and Christians also attended the event.

Mass deportations from Hungary began on 15 May 1944. With the assistance of Hungarian public administration and gendarmerie, the German unit led by Adolf Eichmann deported 437,000 Jews from the countryside to death camps in just a few months. Four trains a day, altogether 147 trains left for Auschwitz.

Népszava wrote about APF's annual report
Source: nepszava.hu

20 June 2017 Népszava published an article titled “Van még mit nyesegetni a Jobbikon” (“Jobbik could still be trimmed”), which is primarily based on APF’s recently published annual report. The author of the

article wrote about the hate incidents identified during our anti-Semitic monitoring activity and our yearly statistics. He or she also highlighted the part of our report on Jobbik’s aim to change and become a people’s party, as well as the controversial Hanukkah greeting of December 2016 and its different perceptions within the party.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

*Final judgment reached
in the case of the Reformed Great
Church of Debrecen*

Source: nepzava.hu; dehir.hu

14 June 2017 The two minors who painted a swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen last April were both sentenced to two-year probation. The decision is final. During the term of probation, the two young men must be under the supervision of a guardian.

In the evening of 16 April 2016, the two offenders painted a swastika and an inverted cross on the marble tiles of the base of the church. The damage cost HUF 80,000 to the reform church community. The two 15-year-old boys admitted committing the offense and said they regretted it. The prime suspect paid for the damage caused and apologized.

The first instance trial was held in May 2016, but the prosecution appealed for heavier sanctions and probation measures, while the offenders, their legal representatives and defense attorneys appealed for lighter penalties. As a result, a second trial was also held.

The prosecution demanded that the second defendant apologize from the presbytery of the Debrecen Reformed Church Community at a meeting assigned by the presbytery. The Debrecen Tribunal's final decision did not include such an order. The justification was that the defendant could not be forced to perform such an act. Probation measures may set obligations and restrictions, but the law cannot force someone to apologize. Furthermore, if an apology does not come from within and is not sincere, it is not going to have preventive effects.

*It was revealed why British far-right
figures were barred from Hungary*

Source: magyarnarancs.hu

15 June 2017 APF's May 2017 report presented that Jim Dowson and Nick Griffin

were barred from Hungary. At the meeting of the Committee on National Security, Hungary's Counter Terrorism Center (TEK) provided detailed information on the reasons why the two men were barred from the country.

Magyar Narancs asked Bernadett Szél about the case, but the co-president of LMP said she was not authorized to share details about the information provided during the meeting. She could only tell that the authorities wanted to prevent the influx of extremists from the West to the East and their growth in Hungary. With regards to Dowson, TEK wrote to magyarnarancs.hu that "the Counter Terrorism Center constantly monitors people and institutions that could be associated with terrorist acts or if there is suspicion of criminal behavior."

*A statue of Horthy erected
in Budapest despite the
objection of DK*

Source: nepzava.hu; mno.hu

17 June 2017 Another statue of former regent Miklós Horthy was inaugurated in the garden of Attila Hotel in District 3, Budapest. President of the Magyarok Világszövetsége (MVSZ, International Union for Hungarians) Miklós Patrubby, president of the Miklós Horthy Society Ferenc Zetényi Csukás, Captain General of the Historic Order of Vitéz László Hunyadi and historian Ernő Raffay (who was Secretary of Defense when József Antall was Prime Minister of Hungary) spoke at the event. Activists from DK protested the erection of the statue. According to member of DK's board Judit Földi, it is unacceptable that there are numerous Horthy statues around the country. "Even if it is not proved, Horthy is a war criminal, he participated in the deportation of a huge number of Hungarian Jews. It is depressing that the Hungarian government lets such things happen in the 21st century. No matter what the location is, whether it is

private property or not, people like Miklós Horthy should never have statues erected for them”, said Földi.

In a statement sent to Magyar Nemzet, MVSZ claimed they did not decide to erect another Horthy statue. A number of press organs referred to MVSZ as the organizer of the statue’s erection, but they denied being the organizers of the inauguration. They said they had nothing to do with the statue and that the first time they saw it was at its inauguration.

APF have previously reported that the municipality of Perkáta, Fejér County, allowed the erection of a statue of former regent Miklós Horthy. Following the scandal caused by their decision, the municipality withdrew their permission. However, the statue of Horthy was still erected on 20 August according to original plans but on a private property in the park of the Zichy-Széchenyi Castle in Káloz, 30 km from Perkáta.

*Neo-Nazis convicted
in Székesfehérvár*
Source: 168ora.hu

20 June 2017 Five men were sentenced to a suspended prison sentence and community service because in May 2015 they were wandering drunk around the city of Székesfehérvár, bullied a number of people, and threatened others by shouting “Heil Hitler! Sieg heil!”

On the evening of 30 May 2015, the five drunk men surrounded two minors and one of the underage suspects punched one of them. After this, the offenders stopped three young people and bullied two of them. Then they noticed a group of thirteen people and first they started to loudly criticize the members of the group who they had not known before, then they put on their hoods and some masks and one of the offenders even opened their expandable baton. They were singing German marching songs, then approached the group by shouting “Heil Hitler! Sieg heil!” and threatening them. At first, they only jostled them, but later they beat a few members of the group.

The court established that one of the suspects had a tattoo of a swastika which constitutes a totalitarian symbol on the back of his neck easily visible to anyone.

The court ruled the suspects were guilty of the offense of armed vandalism committed in a group, the misdemeanor of breach of peace, the offense of grievous bodily harm and the attempt to cause grievous bodily harm. The court also ruled that the first defendant was guilty of having used a totalitarian symbol. The first defendant was sentenced to eighteen months’ imprisonment suspended to two years’ probation; the third defendant, also an adult, was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment suspended to two years’ probation; while the third adult defendant was sentenced to 204 hours of community work. The second defendant, a minor who played a major role in the offense, was sentenced to 212 hours of community work, while the fourth defendant, another minor, was sentenced to two years’ probation, during which he must be under the supervision of a guardian.

The decision is not final.

*Bence Rétvári gave a speech
on the 73rd anniversary
of the Holocaust*
Source: MTI; magyaridok.hu

27 June 2017 Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Human Capacities Rétvári Bence spoke at a commemoration held to pay tribute to Jews deported from Vác and the Duna-Ipoly-Galga region 73 years ago. In his speech given at the Vác Synagogue, the State Secretary stressed that “every decent person is ashamed by what happened in Hungary during the Holocaust. The ideologies of the time should be condemned, and it would be important to provide for opposing those ideologies, and our fundamental law does this.” Mayor of Vác Attila Fördős, president of the Vác religious community János Turai, current president of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz), András Heisler, and Mazsihisz’ former president, Péter Feldmájer, also spoke at the event.

Events following Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's speech praising Miklós Horthy chronological order
Basic news

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán called Miklós Horthy an exceptional statesman
 Source: index.hu; hirtv.hu

21 June 2017 Prime Minister Viktor Orbán spoke at the inauguration of the renovated Klebelsberg Castle. In his speech, the Prime Minister talked about the 1920s and said that “The second and third decades of the 20th century posed severe tests to Hungary’s history. Thank goes to a few **exceptional statesmen**, to regent Miklós Horthy¹³, Prime Minister István Bethlen, Minister Kuno Klebelsberg for the fact that we did not crash as a nation under the weight of losing the world war, the 133 days of the Red Terror and the Treaty of Trianon. There is no prime minister without a regent, there is no minister without a prime minister. And this could not be overturned by Hungary’s unfortunate participation in the Second World War”, said the Prime Minister.

A number of individuals and organizations reacted to the Prime Minister’s statement, these are detailed below.

Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office
János Lázár
 Source: 24.hu

22 June 2017 János Lázár talked about the Prime Minister’s speech in his regular communication to the public entitled Kormány-infó (Government Info). The Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office was candid, and said he believed “Miklós Horthy was a great Hungarian patriot.” Lázár said he would set apart Horthy’s acts and that Horthy did much to revitalize the country after the Treaty of Trianon, but he did “not necessarily” do the right thing in 1944. According to the Minister, this is a long and difficult historical issue, but luckily the Hungarian government does not have to deal with such matters. Lázár recalled that before Horthy’s

reburial, József Antall said the regent was a Hungarian patriot. According to Lázár, the former prime minister must have also distinguished the 1940s from the 1920s and 30s. He agreed that it is a serious historical question whether Horthy made the right decision when he stayed in office at the start of the German occupation of Hungary in 1944. Had he not done so, he would not have been able to stop the deportation of Jews from Budapest. It is fact, however, that he did not put an end to the deportation of rural Jews.

President of Mazsahisz András Heisler
 Source: nepszava.hu

22 June 2017 “Based on the historical experiences of our community (...), the qualities of Horthy as a statesman between the two world wars are strongly debatable. The person who signed the principle of numerus clausus and thereby degraded Hungarian Jews to secondary citizens (1920), then signed the first and the second anti-Jewish laws (1938 and 1939), shall not be called an exceptional statesman. Our community thinks it is no doubt Horthy is liable for the deaths of 600,000 Hungarian Jews and thousands of soldiers of the Hungarian Second Army.”, said Heisler.

Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves
 Source: nepszava.hu

23 June 2017 “It is hard to agree that Miklós Horthy satisfied the ‘requirements of an excellent statesman’”, said Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation Slomó Köves to Népszava. “By definition, a real statesman acts according to solid principles, is uncompromising and able to take great responsibility”, said the Rabbi. “From a historical point of view, it is difficult to match Horthy’s work with these requirements. He was guided by his own and his social class’ interests, was proud regent of a ‘country of three million beggars’, he executed the absolutely irrational pro-German policies, he supported entering the war, was liable for the disaster

¹³ Highlights were made by APF.



Source: nepszava.hu

that took place at the Don River, and he was also a passive observer when my great and my great-great grandparents were deprived of their rights and their families were exterminated.”

Government spokesperson Zoltán Kovács

Source: atv.hu

23 June 2017 Government spokesperson Zoltán Kovács was invited to ATV’s program entitled “Egyenes Beszéd” (“Straight Talk”). Among other things, the interview talked about the Prime Minister calling Miklós Horthy an exceptional statesman. The spokesperson said that “The government does not have to deal with historical issues”. Kovács also said it would be important to eradicate the distorted and Marxist sentiments of the issue that were forced upon people during the 50 years of communism. According to him, there are certain people and achievements in history that speak for themselves and four years cannot change the work of a lifetime. Negating all the merits of Miklós Horthy is the real relativization of history added Kovács.

President of Hungary’s board of rabbis Zoltán Radnóti

Source: 24.hu;

23 June 2017 President of Hungary’s board of rabbis, Zoltán Radnóti, published his opinion on the news site 24.hu. His opinion piece said there must have been a mistake made in writing Orbán’s speech. Radnóti said his piece would rather not focus on Jews, “who were exiled from the na-

tion and the community of equal citizens by laws, were later deported and the majority of them killed. (...) we should not pretend that life was a gift to everyone except for the Jews in Horthy’s Hungary.” Radnóti talked about the events of the White Terror, and that “poor farmers, workmen, social democratic leaders and journalists of Népszava” were also among its victims. The President wrote about the victims of the disaster that took place at the Don River during Horthy’s regency, some sociographic works and their authors that “all talked about the hardships of the Hungarian nation”, the system in general, where “the right to vote was limited, which was rather unusual in Europe at the time” and where people „were not really asked about what they wanted.”

At the end of the piece, Radnóti quoted one of Viktor Orbán’s former statements which said that, according to the Hungarian constitution, Miklós Horthy “was political leader at a time when Hungary lost its national sovereignty. (...) I am only laying down the fact that the government shall not support the erection of a statue to a politician who cooperated with oppressors, and collaborated with the oppressors of Hungary, regardless of what other merits they have.”

President of the World Jewish Congress

Source: hirtv.hu;

24 June 2017 President of the World Jewish Congress Ronald S. Lauder criticized Viktor Orbán for his statement about Miklós Horthy. According to Lauder, by signing them, the regent passed anti-Jewish laws that deprived Jews of their rights and human dignity. “The role Horthy played in the deportation and extermination of hundreds of thousands of Jews shall never be forgiven”, he added.

German newspaper Spiegel

Source: spiegel.de; 24.hu; nepszava.hu

27 June 2017 24.hu quoted from the German newspaper Spiegel which published

an article entitled “Orbán seeks to break taboos”. The article presumed that praising Miklós Horthy was the start of next year’s campaign and gaining votes. The article claimed that the Prime Minister „called Miklós Horthy an exceptional statesman when in fact the regent was a faithful ally of Adolf Hitler for a long time, was openly anti-Semitic and liable for serious crimes.” The article also stated they did not think the statement was a slip of the tongue and they believed this was justified by the fact that despite fierce international and national criticism, the prime minister confirmed his position. „To date, it was members of Jobbik who openly praised Horthy, only a few ‘secondary’ Fidesz politicians talked about the regent, and they only did it locally. Instead of the so-called Horthy cult, Fidesz honored the memory of the era between the two world wars and presented it as glorious times.”, stated the article.

Author of the article, Keno Verseck wrote about the national criticism Orbán received for serving voters and winning votes from the far-right, as well as the fact that the European People’s Party (EPP) did not want to publicly respond to the case, but certain politicians of the party anonymously claimed they were shocked to see that Viktor Orbán’s worldview was becoming more and more far-right.

Israeli Ambassador to Hungary

Source: hirtv.hu;444.hu;

28 June 2017 In the evening of 28 June, Israeli Ambassador to Hungary was invited to Hír TV’s program entitled “Newsroom”. The Israeli Ambassador said that Prime Minister Viktor Orbán’s statement about Horthy – that the regent was an exceptional statesman – was worrying. Yossi Amrani reasoned that even though he understood the context, the statement given by the Prime Minister was rather worrying. He added that Viktor Orbán is obviously a good friend of Israel and Jewish people and calling Horthy an exceptional leader in his given historical context could be interpreted in different ways, but we were definitely surprised by the PM’s words and request-



Source: hirtv.hu

ed the clarification of the matter through channels of diplomacy.

Yossi Amrani confirmed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to Budapest in July to meet the prime ministers of the Visegrad Group (V4).

As a response to a question about „Soros baiting” – which came up in relation to Timmermans’ criticism we detailed in our may report – Ambassador Amrani said that anti-Semitism shall not be used as a political tool and criticizing someone who is Jewish does not necessarily mean the critic is anti-Semitic.

United Orthodox Congregations of New York

Source: [consulate.newyork.gov.hu;](http://consulate.newyork.gov.hu;hir24.hu)

hir24.hu

27 and 29 June 2017 The United Orthodox Congregations of New York, an organization of Hasidic Jewish communities, released a statement and sent it to the Consulate General of Hungary in New York. The statement reacted to the public criticism that accused Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orbán of anti-Semitism.

The statement claimed that Viktor Orbán and his government helped to restore and maintain cemeteries that were desecrated by the Nazis during the Second World War. According to the organization, the Prime Minister and his government was deeply committed, provided a lot of help, and acted similarly in other cases that were important to the orthodox Jewish community. They appreciated the help and would like to continue to cooperate.

The statement ended by saying that along with other orthodox Jewish communities, they distance themselves from the accusation the Hungarian Prime Minister re-

ceived. The letter was signed by 11 chief rabbis of communities in New York, who are originally from Hungary or the territory of historic Hungary.

Viktor Orbán – annual progress meeting of Fidesz in Bálna
Source: 444.hu

27 June 2017 The PM Viktor Orbán and chief Fidesz politicians held an early annual progress meeting in the Bálna center to close the series of national consultations. The Prime Minister talked about the country's economy, our relation to the European Union and Germany, about illegal immigration, George Soros and civil organizations. With regards to civil organizations, the Prime Minister said that "our opponents are playing the anti-Semitic card, but we reject that. Everyone knows the government's standpoint, our zero tolerance against anti-Semitism." Orbán said that the Jewish community of Hungary could count on the government's protection, and added that "with migrants, anti-Semitism is brought to Europe in crowds of tens of thousands of people. Our migration policies therefore serve the interests of European Jewish communities, too and that is the case even if those communities do not openly stand by their essential interests and just silently watch as Hungarians have to deal with unfair attacks while protecting them."

In this respect, 444.hu wrote that this thought has an interpretation that the Hungarian government serves the interests of Jewish people, but they do not do the same in return. It is easy to interpret the statement in a way that we protect Jewish people, who do not even deserve it.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó and Israeli Ambassador Yossi Amrani
Source: MTI; 444.hu; origo.hu

1 July 2017 On 1 July, Péter Szijjártó reassured Israeli Ambassador to Budapest over a phone conversation that the Hungarian government has zero-tolerance for anti-Semitism. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade told MTI that he told Yossi Amrani that there were positive and exceptionally negative periods in former regent Miklós Horthy's work. He called it "undoubtedly positive" that Miklós Horthy managed to revitalize the country after the First World War. On the other hand, it was exceptionally negative and is classified as a historical crime that in spite of his oath, he did not protect Hungarian Jews who also belonged to the nation. "It is classified as a historical crime that during his term in office, anti-Jewish laws were passed and hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews fell victims of the Holocaust." These are historical crimes that shall not be relativized said the Minister.

The Embassy of Israel in Budapest told MTI that Péter Szijjártó's communication of Horthy's role was an important clarification of the matter. According to their statement released, Israel believed that acknowledging Miklós Horthy's crimes committed against Hungarian Jews, which the Minister of Foreign Affairs and trade did to Israeli Ambassador to Budapest, was a crucially important clarification. "We will never forget our 564,500 Hungarian Jewish brothers who were killed during the Hungarian Holocaust" said the statement.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

International press about events in Hungary
Source: MTI; nepszava.hu

Israel, 14 June 2017 Nepszava.hu reported that a number of German newspapers reported that the Hungarian Parliament adopted a new law targeting the operation of civil society organizations. They also wrote about the infringement procedures against Hungary in relation to the quota system to distribute asylum seekers among members of the European Union. Népszava's article mentioned Cathrin Kahlweit's commentary in the liberal "Süddeutsche Zeitung" and Keno Verseck's article in "Spiegel Online" news portal. According to Reinhard Vesper's commentary in "FAZ", the biggest problem with the civil society law lies in the background where serious conspiracy theories and strong anti-Semitic voices are heard. Vesper also wrote that the far-right has for a long time used the name of George Soros as a code indicating "Jewish world conspiracy".

OTHER NEWS

*European Parliament calls
for more effective cooperation*

Source: MTI

1 June 2017 The European Union shall take more definite actions against the growth of anti-Semitism, there is a need for more effective prosecution and international cooperation said the resolution¹⁴ adopted by MEPs in the plenary session in Brussels on Thursday, June 1.

MEPs stated that hate speech and violence against the European Jewish community are incompatible with EU values, and therefore Member States shall ensure the security of their Jewish citizens. MEPs called on “political leaders to systematically and publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements” and “appoint national coordinators on combating anti-Semitism”. They also encouraged Member States to “promote the teaching about the Holocaust (the Shoah) in schools”. It was stressed that racist motives shall count as aggravating factors when prosecuting offenses, and anti-Semitic comments in the online environment shall be combatted by means of criminal law read the text.

The resolution said that law enforcement needs better international cooperation, specific police units set up to tackle hate speech and that Member States shall “apply the working definition of anti-Semitism employed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)”.

Socialist MEP Tibor Szanyi said in a statement to MTI that the situation is indeed real and dramatic in Europe as Europe well knows that mass violence and murder starts with words and promoting hatred and discrimination which poison social consciousness may lead to great tragedies.

*Horst Mahler extradited,
but there are other well-known
Holocaust-deniers in Hungary*

Source: hvg.hu; index.hu; 444.hu

5 June 2017 German Holocaust-denier Horst Mahler was detained in Sopron in May 2017. APF presented the case in our previous report. HVG published an article entitled “Horst Mahler extradited, but there are other well-known Holocaust-deniers living in Hungary”. The article stated there is a European far-right extremist who bought a house in Lehár utca. This individual is called Gerd Honsik, he was among the top 10 European Holocaust-deniers in 2016, and he was also in contact with Mahler due to their similar fields of interests.

Honsik was born in Vienna in 1941. He once said in an interview that his Nazi views come from his family as his uncle was Amon Göth, commandant of a concentration camp. (He was portrayed as one of the negative protagonists in Steven Spielberg’s film *Schindler’s List*.) Honsik was imprisoned after having committed terrorist acts fighting in favor of South Tyrol’s reunification with Austria. Criminal proceedings were initiated against him in 1992 for Holocaust denial. He evaded his sentence by fleeing to Spain where he was left undisturbed for a long period of time and could publish his writings. In 2007, he was arrested in Malaga and extradited to Austria after the common European Arrest Warrant was established by the EU. The Austrian court found him guilty on several counts and he was given a final sentence of six years’ imprisonment. In 2011, Honsik was released on parole. He first returned to Spain then moved to Hungary last year.

Honsik currently publishes his extremist views in a newspaper entitled “Halt!” and a website called “radio-honsik.info” that runs on Russian servers, and he also launched

¹⁴ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/summary.do?id=1492264&t=e&l=en>

a page on the so-called Russian Facebook, vk.com. He is, however, not the only person supported by Russia. One of Honsik's friends, another well-known Holocaust-denier named Jürgen Graf, is currently living in Russia, thereby escaping from European law enforcement. HVG stated it is unknown when Honsik's activities will reach the point that Hungarian authorities will decide to take action.

It seems Sopron has recently become suitable for the Austrian far-right for various reasons. In October 2015, the Austrian Nazi party called "Arbeitsgemeinschaft für demokratische Politik (AFP)" held a political event in Sopron to celebrate their 50th jubilee. This was their first event organized abroad. A member of the German Neo-Nazi party NPD and MP representing a Budapest constituency János Bencsik were among the speakers of the event. Jobbik has found its place in the community, Jobbik MP Márton Gyöngyösi participated in AFP's previous event held in Austria.

If the Ministry of Interior stays consistent and continues to ban extremists from Hungary, then far-right Swedish politicians Erik Almqvist, Daniel Friberg and Patrik Brinkmann may also need to leave.

On 13 June, Horst Mahler was handed over to German authorities at the Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport.

Identitesz received a message on the pavement outside their seat
Source: index.hu

12 June 2017 A yellow pavement message saying "Nazis fuck off" was painted outside

Source: index.hu
twitter.com



24 Teréz körút. As is known – APF has reported on it, too – British Neo-Nazi politician Jim Dowson's office was in this building, as well as the identitarian, far-right Hungarian youth organization called Identitesz' seat. The Hungarian extremist group will form a political party and unite with Betyársereg (Army of Outlaws) and founder of the so-called Érpataki Modell Mihály Zoltán Orosz in July.

The picture of the pavement message was taken and uploaded on Twitter by American journalist Lili Bayer.

Video promoting the far-right political movement of Vecsés

Source: youtube.com; 444.hu

19 June 2017 The Érpataki Modell Országos Hálózata (National Network of Érpatak Modell) uploaded a video on YouTube. The video is about their plans for 8 July when Érpataki Modell, Identitesz and Betyársereg (Army of Outlaws) aim to start a joint movement "against the destruction of nation in the name of order and justice".

The uploaded video is entitled "Revolt against liberalism". It features private individuals who reason why they think time has come for extremist views and why they are going to Vecsés on 8 July. There are reasons like "I don't want Hungary to be represented by a Gypsy at the Eurovision song contest" and in defense of Hungarian culture and national identity "what is due to Jewish people in Israel is the least we deserve in our own country." Another individual shouts that we have had enough of "aggressive gay propaganda".

President of Identitesz Balázs László gave an interview to Magyar Idők about the event planned for 8 July. Our present report details the interview later below.

An article published by 444.hu wrote about another video uploaded on YouTube. A local man got fed-up that Vecsés will be associated with neo-fascists because of the event and therefore he took the promotion video of the extremist event and twisted its message by

delivering a humorous voice-over for the recording. The only comment he left to the video was “In case you are interested in the opinions of people from Vecsés.”

Jewish Community Roundtable convened, Viktor Orbán talked with Ronald S. Lauder

Source: MTI; atv.hu; magyarhirlap.hu

21 June 2017 Prime Minister Viktor Orbán held talks with President of the Jewish World Congress Ronald S. Lauder in the Parliament. Meanwhile, János Lázár chaired the meeting of the Jewish Community Roundtable.

The Prime Minister’s press chief Bertalan Havasi spoke to MTI about the meetings. According to Havasi, the Prime Minister and Mr. Lauder discussed issues linked to US-European relations, and they both looked forward to the Israeli Prime Minister’s official visit to Budapest in July.



Source: MTI

The meeting of the Jewish Community Roundtable, held on the same day, was chaired by Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office János Lázár. Israeli Ambassador to Budapest Yossi Amrani, who attended the roundtable for the first time, spoke at the event. An important part of the agenda was the plan to restore Jewish cemeteries. The tendering system for the program is already developed in which members of the Jewish community were involved. The roundtable held its 11th meeting since its founding in 2012.

Articles of 168 óra about Jobbik becoming a people’s party

Source: 168 óra

22 June 2017 A comprehensive article was published by 168 óra which analyses how Jobbik is trying to become a people’s party. It was written with the cooperation of APF Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Dániel Bodnár, political scientist and director of research Dániel Róna. Dániel Bodnár highlighted the work of APF and the fact it revealed that the party’s present

“cuteness” is merely a “pragmatic and beneficial political change” and Jobbik only refrains from extremist expressions on platforms visible and available to the public. This, however, causes internal tensions in the party – as it seemed clearly in the case of the Hanukkah greeting or when over 50 committees signed the petition criticizing the moderation of the party.



Dániel Róna said that the “gap between [Jobbik’s] moderate and radical sides does not risk a split”. Róna added that as a result of their moderation, Jobbik has become more accepted,

they have various types of supporters now, but they have not managed to gain more support than the left-wing has.



The article presents Jobbik spokesperson **Ádám Mirkóczi**’s thoughts, too. Mirkóczi said that although the number of Jobbik voters has not increased, their level of rejection has never

been so low and the election year is still relatively far away. When he was asked what he thought of APF’s findings that “Jobbik’s original and radical phrasings are still dominant in smaller towns”, the spokesman said our activities were politically biased.

*Csanád Szegedi believes
in Vona's conversion*
Source: 168 óra; atv.hu

23 June 2017 Former vice-president of Jobbik Csanád Szegedi gave an interview to 168 óra. Szegedi said he did not think Jobbik's move to the center was genuine, but in the case of Vona the notion of conversion is problematic since Szegedi believed Vona had never been a classic anti-Semite. According to him, it was not for ideological but tactical reasons that Vona took advantage of the growth of the far-right after 2006. Jobbik does not express their wish to apologize, let alone to make amends, the majority of the members probably do not even understand what is happening over their heads, said Szegedi. He stated that his former fellow-fighter wanted to legitimize his move to the center by first getting rid of the Guard, and then a few radical members. "This, however, is not enough for credibility. Real democratic change cannot start without an honest apology and explanation." Finally, the former politician said that he thought "Vona was able to convert, but to do so, he shall stand before the public and confess that everything Jobbik has done before was a huge mistake and utter rudeness. And then he must step back (...)"

Csanád Szegedi learned of his Jewish heritage in 2012, which ruined his career. He quit Jobbik, where he had been member since 2003. He was the party's vice-president between 2006 and 2012 and MEP between 2009 and 2014. Since then, Szegedi has acknowledged his Jewish identity. He works as a businessman and has also participated in APF's education program by giving lectures on the far-right's power to influence.

*President of Identitesz
Balázs László's interview to Magyar Idők*
Source: magyaridok.hu; index.hu;
magyarnarancs.hu

26 June 2017 A long interview with the President of Identitesz Balázs László was published in Magyar Idők. The reason why László Balázs was interviewed was that Identitesz, the openly neo-Nazi Betyársereg (Army of Outlaws) and Érpataki Hálózat (Érpatak network) will unite and launch a new far-right movement in Vecsés on 8 July. The organizations also made a video which we have presented above. László said in the interview that both Identitesz and the new movement were openly far-right but he also thought they represented a new form of right-wing. He stated his primary goal was ethnic self-defense and he could be called a racist "if it meant that we acknowledge the differences and protect the features of our own race." He wanted to distance himself and his future movement from Jobbik, but said the movement counted on previous, disillusioned, supporters of the party. With regards to actualities, the CEU, the civil society law and George Soros were discussed. László said that the government's current policies are right because these issues "actually destroy social norms."

Magyarnarancs.hu reported that the page of Identitesz was blocked on Facebook, probably due to its contents inciting hatred. On 7 June, Balázs László reacted to this on his own timeline by writing that "They may delete our pages, but by doing so they only strengthen our awakening. July 8 will be the beginning of a new era!"

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Action and Protection Foundation did not initiate any legal actions in June 2017. There was no progress reached in previous cases either.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

All the incidents to be found in the report are presented chronologically 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 June	European Parliament calls for more effective cooperation	Other News
2.	2 nd of June	Another swastika on the Gothic Protestant Church of Avas	Further anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Damage to property
3.	5 th of June	Horst Mahler extradited, but there are other well-known Holocaust-deniers in Hungary	Other News
4.	8 th of June	Katalin Lukácsi was called a “Jewish hireling”	Further anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
5.	10 th and 13 th of June	Proceedings for harassment brought against György Zagyva for Jew-baiting	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
6.	12 th and 25 th of June	Commemorating the victims of the Holocaust throughout the country	Community News and Responses
7.	12 th of June	Identitesz received a message on the pavement outside their seat	Other News
8.	14 th of June	Final judgment reached in the case of the Reformed Great Church of Debrecen	Official and Civil Responses
9.	14 th of June	International press about events in Hungary	News and Opinions About Anti-Semitism
10.	15 th of June	It was revealed why British far-right figures were barred from Hungary	Official and Civil Responses
11.	17 th of June	A statue of Horthy erected in Budapest despite the objection of DK	Official and Civil Responses
12.	19 th of June	Video promoting the far-right political movement of Vecsés	Other News
13.	20 th of June	Népszava wrote about APF’s annual report	Community News and Responses
14.	20 th of June	Neo-Nazis convicted in Székesfehérvár	Official and Civil Responses
15.	21 st of June	Prime Minister Viktor Orbán called Miklós Horthy an exceptional statesman	Official and Civil Responses

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	21 st of June	Jewish Community Roundtable convened, Viktor Orbán talked with Ronald S. Lauder	Other News
17.	22 nd of June	Articles of 168 óra about Jobbik becoming a people's party	Other News
18.	22 nd of June	About Horthy – Minister of the Prime Minister's Office János Lázár	Official and Civil Responses
19.	22 nd of June	About Horthy – President of Mazsihisz András Heisler	Official and Civil Responses
20.	23 rd of June	About Horthy – Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves	Official and Civil Responses
21.	23 rd of June	About Horthy – Government spokesperson Zoltán Kovács	Official and Civil Responses
22.	23 rd of June	About Horthy – President of Hungary's board of rabbis Zoltán Radnóti	Official and Civil Responses
23.	23 th of June	Csanád Szegedi believes in Vona's conversion	Other News
24.	24 th of June	About Horthy – President of the World Jewish Congress	Official and Civil Responses
25.	26 th of June	President of Identitesz Balázs László's interview to Magyar Idők	Other News
26.	27 th of June	About Horthy – German newspaper Spiegel	Official and Civil Responses
27.	27 th of June	About Horthy – Viktor Orbán – annual progress meeting of Fidesz in Bálna	Official and Civil Responses
28.	28 th of June	About Horthy – Israeli Ambassador to Hungary	Official and Civil Responses
29.	27 th and 29 th of June	About Horthy – United Orthodox Congregations of New York	Official and Civil Responses
30.	1 st of July	About Horthy – Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Sziijártó and Israeli Ambassador Yossi Amrani	Official and Civil Responses
31.	27 th of June	Unknown individuals painted totalitarian symbols on various surfaces in Szombathely	Further anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Damage to property
32.	27 th of June	Bence Rétvári gave a speech on the 73 rd anniversary of the Holocaust	Official and Civil Responses

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 10 00 00

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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