

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

AUGUST 2017

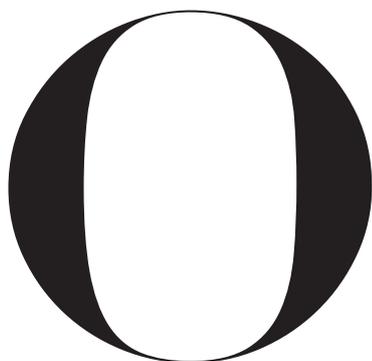


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 impor-

tant to record their particular characteristics. Data recorded includes the incident’s location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

In the course of its monitoring activity in August, Action and Protection Foundation did not record any anti-Semitic hate incident.

In the section on Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents three incidents are presented this month. Swastikas were painted on two sides of the entrance to a restaurant in Ayas. The Local Government of Miskolc filed a complaint in the matter, and the totalitarian symbols were removed. A xenophobic statement was inscribed on the back rest of a bench in Budapest District 9. In the third case, three stone tablets from the sculptural complex of the National Literary and Historic Memorial Site in Balf were found broken into pieces. A complaint was filed and reward was offered for a lead that would help capture of the culprit(s).

In the sections on Official and Civil Responses, and Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions three verdicts in cases of Holocaust denial are discussed. The director of a book publisher based in Budapest was found guilty for publishing and distributing a book by a Swedish Holocaust denier. A man was fined for publicly denying the crimes of the National Socialist regime. The man glorified the Waffen-SS, and positioned it as an example to be followed in a speech he gave to a crowd of people on 6 February 2016, in Székesfehérvár. As a result of our Foundation’s protests and complaint, K. József was sentenced to a fine of 160,000 HUF. He was pronounced guilty for continuous infringement in the public denial of the crimes of the National Socialist or communist regimes. The sentence is final.

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 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 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-

¹ 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.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).

² 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)

METHODOLOGY³

The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows⁴ (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 people⁵
- 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 sentence⁶ (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-

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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 period⁷ 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.⁸

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 statistics⁹:

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

⁷ These are described in the *Methodology* section.

⁸ The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

⁹ 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.¹⁰ In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹⁰ 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 AUGUST 2017

In the course of its monitoring in August, no anti-Semitic hate incidents that meet Action and Protection Foundation found the criteria to be added to the statistics.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of its monitoring activity during August 2017, Action and Protection Foundation identified three incidents that could not be added to the statistics, because – as explained in the methodology – the circumstances of the case are not clear, and the identity of the perpetrator remains unknown. All of the incidents belong to the category of vandalism.

VANDALISM

*Swastikas on the walls of
a restaurant in Avas*

Source: boon.hu

8 August 2017 A complaint was filed by the Local Government of Miskolc against a person, or persons unknown for the use of a totalitarian symbol and vandalism, because swastikas had been painted on two sides of the entrance to the establishment in Avas called Bortanya (Wine palace).

The incident had already come to attention in mid-July, and in response to queries from a journalist of Borsod Online it was made known that the building belonged to the municipality. The swastikas had been



Source: boon.hu

painted over a few days after they were seen, the banned totalitarian symbols were removed from the walls of the establishment by the municipality.

*Incitement to Hate through
an inscription on a bench in Budapest*

Source: Action and Protection
Foundation

23 August 2017 A sympathizer with our Foundation reported that one of the benches in Haller Park in the 9th District of Budapest had been vandalized by unknown persons. A sentence inciting hatred had been written across the whole length of the back rest of the bench: “INTO THE GAS CHAMBERS WITH THE MIGRANT MOHAMED AND GEORGE SOROS”. Action and Protection Foundation has taken care of the removal of the inscription involving the youth organization ATID in cleaning the bench.



Source: Action and Protection Foundation

Memorial to murdered Jewish forced laborers in Sopron vandalized

Source: MTI; kisalfold.hu; akibic.hu;

28 August 2017 An investigation was launched against an unknown person by the Sopron Police Headquarters for vandalizing the sculpture complex of the National Literary and Historic Memorial Site in Balf.



Source: akibic.hu

A citizen report was filed on Friday, 25 August, saying that three stone tablets in the sculpture had been broken, but no further information was provided with the investigation underway.

The Prime Minister's Office gave a statement: the government strongly denounces the vandalism committed on the memorial site, and empathizes with the relatives of

Jewish forced laborers and other captives murdered in the labor camps of the Hungarian border regions, as well as the creators of the memorial site.

The Municipal Government of Sopron City with county rights will participate in repairs to the sculpture on the national historic and literary site. In addition, it has offered a reward of 200 thousand HUF to anyone able to assist the work of the police in the matter with substantive information.

Balf was occupied by German troops in 1944. One of the largest labor camps of Sopron County was established in the village. The literary historian and writer Antal Szerb, the poet György Sárközi and aesthete Gábor Halász are among those murdered here. The memorial site was inaugurated in memory of the murdered Jewish forced laborers in 2008. The marble tablets placed in the shape of a man and sinking into the side of the burial mound symbolize the forced march.



Source: kisalfold.hu

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Slomó Köves: No need to make a Jewish issue out of everything
Source: 24.hu

3 August 2017 The leading rabbi of EMIH spoke to the online news portal 24.hu in an interview. He opines that neither the Hungarian nor the Jewish identity can achieve legitimacy to the detriment of the other and “a community can integrate healthily if it does not sacrifice its own values.” Jews were seen as a political tool in the 19th century, with the Hungarian nationality gaining a majority over the rest with the inclusion of Jews. Then after the First World War, the loss of the extensive historical Hungary, and the gentle forced assimilation was replaced by stark political anti-Semitism.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, said in regard his visit to Hungary

sition where the Soros posters, or Horthy’s praise are concerned. In response Köves said that he can only confirm his earlier position in this regard, and will not agree that “everything that is tied to a Jewish person and is negative must be qualified as anti-Semitism”. He added: “as far as the community is concerned it is most important that we do not take everything as an attack against us, making a Jewish issue of everything.”

The reporter reminded Slomó Köves that András Heisler, President of Mazsihisz, was of a different opinion on this matter, and called Köves a “court Jew”. The rabbi explained that he has known him for fifteen years, they were friends, but since he became the president of Mazsihisz, he has allowed himself to be dragged into conflicts of the sort that are certainly not in the interest of the community. He also said that he has

no quarrel with the President. He believes the root of the problem lies with the organizational level of Mazsihisz, since its legitimacy stems from the one-party state and not earned from the Jewish community. They are constantly in conflict “either with the government, or their inner opposition, or EMIH, and most recently with the Prime Minister of Israel.” Meanwhile EMIH seeks to serve the interests of Hungarian Jewry through its educational institutions, publication of books, and community pro-



Source: 24.hu

grams. that a part of the Jewish community looks upon the Netanyahu visit pragmatically, and from the perspective of the future of the Jewish community, welcomes the fact that the Israeli prime minister came to Hungary. On the other hand, there is another — mostly politically left oriented — older generation, who are more closely connected to the tragedy of the Holocaust. They see Netanyahu’s visit as politically self-serving, which in the present case strengthens the government’s political po-

grams. The interview also touched upon the ostensible turn in Jobbik and how, to this day, they have not distanced themselves from their earlier actions. Csanád Szegedi was also mentioned, since in contrast to Jobbik and Jobbik chairman Gábor Vona, “he had spoken out about how he had been mistaken, described how he had faced up to his earlier self, left the party he had been member of and announced that he wanted to change.”

Slomó Köves: A day-to-day survival strategy is not required in Hungary
Source: figyelo.hu; hvg.hu

10 August 2017 The leading rabbi of EMIH also gave Figyelő an interview, drawing parallels with other countries in terms of how Jews experience their Jewishness. He brings up the news item from August, about a permit for building a Synagogue being denied in Australia, justified by not wishing to bring another target for terrorists into being. To the proposition that it is increasingly the case around Europe that the political right stands up for the interests of the Jewish community replied, “the political left clearly reinforces its shrinking voter-base with the immigrant layers of society, while the other side [...] looks more towards an alliance, a friendship with Israel.” This, in his opinion was also behind the symbolic gesture of the Israeli Prime Minister’s visit Budapest, which he considers a significant step towards combatting anti-Semitism. With regard to the outcry caused by the Soros posters prior to the visit he said, he does not believe that the man on the street considered the posters depicting George Soros a call against Jews, seeing far more the capitalist speculator in him. “If I take the stand that [...] this is expressly anti Jewish, this otherwise not necessarily self-evident interpretation may be taken up on account of my stand. So from the point of view of combatting anti-Semitism I achieve exactly the opposite results.” The leading rabbi also spoke about how the fears of those worried about Hungarian anti-Semitism may be exaggerated, for as he put it: “A day-to-day survival strategy is not required in Hungary”.

The executive rabbi of the congregation also said: one of the primary goals of EMIH is to affirm the Jewish identity, this is why he considers it important that beside the emphasis on the Maimonides High-School opening in September in Óbuda, there is also emphasis on the synagogues: three more synagogues are

planned for Budapest, one center in Miskolc and one in Debrecen.

Remarking on the interview, hvg.hu noted that it considers the argument the rabbi gave with regard to the Soros posters interesting. In their opinion the logic was false, on grounds of which the leading rabbi did not denounce the poster campaign, simply because it was not directed specifically against Jews.

András Heisler considers Jewry also responsible for Hungarians living across the borders from Hungary
Source: magyarhirlap.hu

18 August 2017 “*We are responsible for the Hungarian Jewish communities across the border and we believe in a common future*” – the President of Mazsihisz said at the opening of the 18th International Conference of Brethren Congregations from Across the Border in Debrecen. In his speech he stressed: it is a natural state of being for Jewry to be in minority, and Jewry understands the fate of minority Hungarians. László Papp, Mayor of Debrecen called it a chief objective of the conference that the participants of the conference pass on to each other the heritage they have received from the Jewish religion and traditions, rescuing for the future generations what representatives of the inhuman period seventy years ago wanted to take away. Tamás Horovitz, President of the Debrecen Jewish Congregation spoke about the urgency of a more close-knit, effective cooperation between Jews in Hungary and Jews living in the Carpathian Basin, while saying it was essential that relationships with other churches were also strengthened.

At the conference bearing the title, “Religious and social cohabitation in the Carpathian Basin” themes that were discussed included the question of the survival of Jewry in the diaspora, the Synagogue of Szabadka (Subotica, Serbia) was introduced, while visitors who had lived in Debrecen spoke about their memories of the Jewish quarters there.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

A sentence was passed in the case of a Holocaust denier resident in Budapest
Source: hv.g.hu; ugyeszseg.hu

24 and 30 August 2017 The director of a book publisher based in Budapest was penalized for publishing and selling the Holocaust-denying book of a Swedish author. The Pest Central District Court passed a sentence in the case without a hearing, fining the director of the publishing house a 120 thousand HUF (400 Euros) for the public denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regime. If he does not pay the fine, the sentence is to be converted to a 120 days in prison. According to information earlier made public by the prosecutor's office the director of the publishing house had admitted guilt during the police investigation.

The company published the volume in Hungarian in 2012, its author considers the holocaust a myth, and questions the existence of the gas chambers. The publisher sold the Hungarian book in its shop and its own online store. On the latter website the publisher had also written a publisher's recommendation reflecting the spirit in which the book was written, the Chief Prosecutor of Budapest stated.

In August of 2016 the Buda Central District Court had ordered a temporary ban on the incriminated Holocaust denying online content. In the indictment the prosecutor's office requested that this content be made permanently inaccessible. The court ordered the same. In the statement by the

prosecutor's office it was noted: the decision cannot technically be carried out to full satisfaction, because a part of the servers involved can be found in the United States.

The prosecutor did not name either the author of the incriminated book, or its title, or the Hungarian publisher to date, or in its current press release. The sentence is not yet in effect.

A decision was also reached in the case of a Holocaust denier from the commemoration of the breakout from the Buda Castle
Source: mno.hu

31 August 2017 A five hundred-thousand-forint fine was imposed on a man for the denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regime, in the first instance, by the County Court of Székesfehérvár. According to the justification in the sentence "he glorified the National Socialist regime and the Waffen SS, and presented it as an example to be followed" as he held a speech to a large number of people on 6 February 2016, in Kossuth Street of Székesfehérvár. At the event called "Remember the heroes of the Castle Breakout!" the defendant also glorified Ferenc Szálasi, and took a stance in favor of racial discrimination.

The sentence is not in force, both prosecution and defense have kept a three-day period of reconsideration, before releasing a statement as to whether they will appeal the decision or not.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

A Chinese news agency demonstrates anti-Semitism using the example of the government's Soros posters
Source: hvg.hu; 444.hu

14 August 2017 UN Secretary-General António Guterres in Israel, denounced modern anti-Semitism and the discrimination against Israel. New China, the Chinese state news agency chose a Hungarian poster against George Soros to illustrate this.

The agency New China gave an account of this news. The article summarized in short and general form the program António Guterres' program, did not once mention Hungary, only the illustration concerned Hungary. The photograph belongs to AFP, it is an anti-Soros poster from Székesfehérvár. The caption said that according to the leader of Hungary's largest Jewish organization the government posters incite anti-Semitic feelings, and demanded their removal.



Source: news.xinhuanet.com/444.hu

OTHER NEWS

Zsolt Tyirityán: The white European race shows a demand for radical right-wing politics

Source: magyaridok.hu; nepszava.hu

3 and 7 August 2017 Zsolt Tyirityán, one of the founders of the recently established Erő és Elszántság mozgalom (Force and Determination Movement) and leader of the Outlaw's Army recently gave an interview to Magyar Idők. He was asked questions about the Force and Determination Movement founded in cooperation with Identites and their political career. He said they believed the founding was successful, with a number of base organizations having been formed since. With regard to their goals he said, the right moral and ideological grounds must first be established, so that they will be able to represent the spirit of the new radical right with full legitimacy. He added that they did not represent Neo-Nazism, and he did not consider himself a Nazi either. His earlier thoughts had been wrongly interpreted by the "neoliberal" journalist. All he had said was *"I have a race and nationhood consciousness, I believe in an autocracy built on authoritarianism, I confess to the principle of difference, and I do not consider acceptable the rise of deviance sweeping normality aside."*

If they will be successful they will form a party, however he feels it is first his task to rebuild the myth of radical right-wing politics, which was largely destroyed by the turn Jobbik made to become a people's party. He does not consider cooperation with Jobbik possible. Though they do not consider the party an enemy, *"Gábor Vona broke categorically with that mentality which we want to bring to the world of politics."* He believes there is a need for a far-right political force to appear, and this need will only grow in the future *"on account of the processes running their course with plainly negative impact for the white European race."*

With regard to the above nepszava.hu quoted János Volner, the leader of the Jobbik parliamentary faction, who declined to

comment on the founding of the new movement. He added: he wishes well to all those who seek to help the country. He considers Zsolt Tyirityán a sensible man, who had already proved his leadership qualities at the helm of the Outlaw's Army. Replying to the Népszava question whether he upholds his opinion in spite of Tyirityán confesses to being a National Socialist Nazi and his his movement carrying on a supremacist, racist line of politics, Volner declared: *"I do not deal with this side of the affair. They have their own path, and we have our own."*

Gábor Vona ready to tender an apology to Jewry and the Roma people

Source: atv.hu; hvg.hu

14 August 2017 Gábor Vona, Chairman of Jobbik, gave an interview to atv.hu. In his opinion Jobbik was never an anti-Semitic, anti-Gypsy, or racist party, but he also declared: he is ready to say sorry in the name of Jobbik, to Jewry and Roma people for the "badly put sentences" and "processes gone wrong". He once again said that "we have members, local leaders and national leaders of Roma, of Jewish origins and and belonging to various Hungarian minorities." He added: they have a respected place within the party.

The reporter for atv.hu confronted Vona with the fact that Zoltán Balczó, Jobbik MP to Brussels remained seated when the European Parliament remembered its first President Simone Veil with a standing minute of silence. He added that there is a photograph in evidence of the fact, and that this could only be attributed to Simone Veil's Jewish origins. Vona said this was a lie, and there were two remembrances, his fellow party member will certainly have remained seated in the case where the protocol had probably not been clarified. On the matter he noted: Balczó would never offend anyone's ethnic, religious, or any other background, he considers him one of the purest persons in Hungarians politics.

The conversation also extended to how though his party may have been branded Nazi, anti-Semitic and racist, he was never himself marked as such. In his opinion Jobbik had gone through a process of development, it had become a people's party out of a niche party. He added: "I am able to apologize if it is necessary, if I offended somebody, or I made a mistake. And so far as the Roma and Jewry are concerned, I never considered Jobbik an anti-Gypsy, anti-Semitic, racist party. Not even when many people accused us of this." According to him it is a fact that there were a few badly put sentences, processes that went off track, but they only raised problems in a constructive fashion. When the reporter mentioned a few anti-Semitic moments in the past (use of the term Holocaust, demand for listing of MPs, etc.) the Chairman said he is concentrating on the future and his party is no longer considered anti-Semitic.

A day after the interview hvg.hu collected 20 anti-Jewish and anti-Roma quotes^{II} of Gábor Vona and his party fellows from speeches and statements. The HVG article was posted in a number of further online news portals.

The Vona apology:

Gábor Staudt's evasive responses

Source: hirtv.hu; [MTI](http://mti.hu); demokrata.hu; magyaridok.hu; bama.hu

14 17 August 2017 In the Hír TV program Newsroom, on 14 August, Deputy Faction Leader Gábor Staudt was asked – among others – about the interview Gábor Vona gave ATV, in which he said he was ready to apologize to Jewry and to the Roma people. The deputy faction leader first said he agreed with the Chairman's words, however in the following he remained evasive to the end, saying he is concerned mainly with the policy line. As the dialogue continued Staudt finally called the Hír TV anchor's question "similar to questions raised by the public media" (used pejoratively). He then added that such questions "undermined the quality of the program", as well as say-

ing "this was a rather weak question professionally speaking, I am sorry to say". At this point Staudt also explained what sort of question he really liked to receive. Later, when the anchor once more raised the question, to which a reply was not forthcoming, Staudt responded with a question whether he had been instructed to ask the question once again.

István Hollik, Member of the National Assembly for KDNP held a press conference the following day in Budapest. With regard to the Vona interview he declared it was pure theatre, and declared: "Jobbik is full of anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish, Nazi and racist figures and statements". He also recalled that Gábor Staudt was not willing to apologize either to Hungarian Jewry, or the Hungarian Roma. In his opinion these Members of Parliament had become unworthy of serving in the National Assembly, yet Gábor Vona had been "covering for them".

On 16 August, *Magyar Idők* quoted András Heisler, President of *Mazsikusok*, who considered Gábor Vona's readiness to apologize a part of the campaign. He explained: "the apology would be required and appropriate, but the past of the party once led by Gábor Vona and Csanád Szegedi cannot, and should not be denied by anyone." The newspaper also looked up Gergely Kulcsár, who had defiled the Memorial Shoes on the Danube Bank. The politician said if there is anything requiring an apology, the apology must be tendered. He had himself done so

– he added – but he denied that he had ever defiled the Memorial. In his opinion, if there ever was an exclusionist manifestation within the party, they had already apologized for it, and these days, discrimination could not be further from the Party's intentions.

On 17 August, at the press conference held by Jobbik politician György Szilágyi in Budapest, he commented on Gábor Staudt's performance in Hír TV, saying his fellow party member had indicated in his first sentence that he agreed with Gábor Vona. In his opinion: "If any form of atrocity befalls a person, or someone is killed on account of the color of their skin, their origin, or their

^{II} http://hvg.hu/irthon/20170815_vona_jobbik_antisemita_rasszista_kijelentes

religion, it is a sin”, he added: there are no grounds in his opinion for considering Jobbik a racist or anti-Semitic party.

*Remembrance for the founding
of the Hungarian Guard*
Source: hirado.hu

25 August 2017 A remembrance was held for the founding of the Hungarian Guard in Budapest, without the presence of its funder. The 10-year-anniversary was held in Buda Castle. According to attendees, Gábor Vona had betrayed his one-time comrades, though once he had himself announced the actions of the paramilitary organization, and had even worn the vest of the banned Guard’s uniform in Parliament. Prior to being banned, the Guard had frequently marched in rural areas mostly populated by Roma, to combat “Gypsy crime”, and so threatened the locals. The Hungarian Guard, which openly declared its anti-Semitism, had later even protested in front of the house of the earlier deputy-chairman of Jobbik, after his Jewish background became public knowledge. Csanád Szegedi spoke about this as follows: he was excluded from Jobbik on account of his origins, and in the following the members of the Guard marched on his house and shouted “filthy Jew” at him. In 2010, Gábor Vona had even taken his Parliamentary Oath in his Guard’s vest. This was one of the last occasions. According to members of the Hungarian Guard, the turnabout came after 2010, when Gábor Vona turned his back to them, to make Jobbik presentable. Last year, after the Hanukkah greeting Vona sent, the members of the Hungarian Guard demanded that the Chairman of Jobbik even return his Guard’s vest. The organization was in fact officially disbanded by the Court in 2009.

*Gábor Vona sympathizes
with an extreme-right Croatian figure*
Source: MTI; origo.hu; tenyek.hu

27 and 29 August 2017 The TV₂ news program Tények reported that the president of an extreme right Croatian party that frequently used fascist symbols is close to the

Chairman of Jobbik. Former President of the Croatian Pure Party of Rights, Frano Čirko is now the President of a similarly extremist Generation of Renovation Party. Frano has appeared in photographs together with both Gábor Vona and the Deputy Chairman of Jobbik, László Toroczkai. According to TV₂, the Croatian politician often appears in a t-shirt with the portrait of the Croatian nationalist Ante Gotovina emblazoned on it, and often uses the Hitler salute in public. The far-right Croatian politician also frequently appears in the company of Jobbik MPs. Jobbik has taken a stand by Gotovina a number of times, and Čirko supported Budaházy, who in Hungary had been sentenced on first instance for terrorist acts. The Tények report said Frano Čirko also supports Jobbik’s European proposal regarding wages. The M1 news program Híradó also queried Čirko, who said the salute had been a sort of joke, just one of those things from the time when he was in high school. He also said that he was considering legal steps against those who call him a Nazi. The program was also interested in asking György Szilágyi, of Jobbik, for his opinion on the homophobic statements of their Croatian ally, and whether they are aware of the fact that the man often uses the Hitler salute, and whether they will be breaking off relations with him. György Szilágyi however did not give a straight answer.

Two days later the Hungarian Liberal Party announced that it had requested the National Security Committee of the Hungarian Parliament to map Jobbik’s relationships with radical international organizations. Ádám Sermer, the Deputy President of the Liberals said in justification that it was increasingly clear, extremist international radical organizations and individuals “feel very much at home” in Hungary. He phrased it as follows: though “Jobbik tries to lie to Hungarians about a turn towards becoming a people’s party on a communications level, from time-to-time Jobbik members openly or secretly represent themselves in programs with radical organizations and individuals appearing in Hungary.” Sermer considered it unacceptable that Hungary and Budapest should be the “second home” of extreme right radical organization within the EU.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Sentence in the case of a Holocaust denier
Source: Action and Protection
Foundation

3 and 16 August 2017 On 3 August the Police Station of Tét, within the jurisdiction of Győr Police Headquarters gave notice to the Foundation that records in the case of K. József had been sent to the prosecutor's office with a proposal for trial to proceed. On 16 August, the Győr County Court sentenced the 47-year-old man from Árpás to a fine of 160,000 HUF and in case of the fine not being paid, 80 days in

prison. He was pronounced guilty of successive infringements through public denial of the crimes of the National Socialist or communist regimes. The sentence is in force.

K. József shared his exclusionary and Holocaust-denying views on the social website Facebook multiple times from February to March 2017 either as his own post, or by sharing the articles of other news portals. He most frequently used the term "Holohoax", and trivialized the actions committed against Jewry both in general and specifically in his comments.

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.	3 rd of August	Slomó Köves: No need to make a Jewish issue out of everything	Community News and Responses
2.	3 and 7 th of August	Zsolt Tyirityán: The white European race shows a demand for radical right-wing politics	Other News
3.	3 and 16 th of August	Sentence in the case of a Holocaust denier	APF Legal Actions
4.	8 th of August	Swastikas on the walls of a restaurant in Avás	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
5.	10 th of August	Slomó Köves: A day-to-day survival strategy is not required in Hungary	Community News and Responses
6.	14 th of August	A Chinese news agency demonstrates anti-Semitism using the example of the government's Soros posters	News and Opinion about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
7.	14 th of August	Gábor Vona ready to tender an apology to Jewry and the Roma people	Other News
8.	14-17 th of August	The Vona apology: Gábor Staudt's evasive responses	Other News
9.	18 th of August	András Heisler considers Jewry also responsible for Hungarians living across the borders from Hungary	Community News and Responses
10.	23 rd of August	Incitement to Hate through an inscription on a bench in Budapest	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
11.	24 and 30 th of August	A sentence was passed in the case of a Holocaust denier resident in Budapest	Official and Civil Responses
12.	25 th of August	Remembrance for the founding of the Hungarian Guard	Other News
13.	27 and 29 th of August	Gábor Vona sympathizes with an extreme-right Croatian figure	Other News
14.	28 th of August	Memorial to murdered Jewish forced laborers in Sopron vandalized	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
15.	31 st of August	A decision was also reached in the case of a Holocaust denier from the commemoration of the breakout from the Buda Castle	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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