

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

MAY 2018



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.

The Foundation identified one anti-Semitic incident this month. The newspaper *Ripost* reported that one of the sons of Tamás Sneider, President of the Jobbik party, had the slogan of the Nazi SS tattooed on himself. Photographs illustrated the article. Sneider’s elder son can be seen on the photograph, with the slogan of the Nazi SS commando appearing on his chest: “*Becsületem a hűség*” (in German: *Meine Ehre heißt Treue*, English: *My honor is loyalty*). In an interview Tamás Sneider responded by saying that he was very angry when he saw the tattoo on his son at age 17, but to the best of his knowledge, his son no longer has this tattoo.

No news items can be reported in the category of Further Hate Incidents this month.

This month, the Foundation received news of a procedure it had initiated earlier. The Chief Prosecutor’s Office of Csongrád County informed the Foundation that it had examined the complaint submitted against the Bálint Hóman Association registered with the Szeged Court of Justice, and as a result a legal supervision procedure has been initiated.

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 discour-

se, 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.

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 frequent, where official authorities do not establish the hate-crime motivation. It is civil organizations that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs—

¹ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

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 organ-

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

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 Chakrabarti 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.

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.

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.

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 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

– MAY 2018

Action and Protection Foundation found one case of anti-Semitic hate crimes in the May monitoring, which was an incident of hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Jobbik president's sons had one of Hitler's slogans tattooed on himself
Sources: ripost.hu; index.hu;

17 May 2018 Ripost reported that one the Jobbik President, Tamás Sneider's sons, had the slogan of the SS tattooed on himself. A photograph appeared with the article. Sneider's older son can be seen on the photograph with the motto of the SS, the



Source: ripost.hu

infamous Nazi deaths-head commando, the Schutzstaffel visible on his chest: *“Becsületem a hűség”* (German: Meine Ehre heißt Treue, or English: My honor is loyalty). The article also reports that there is a criminal procedure under way against Sneider's son at present, in which the brothers are secondary and tertiary defendants. According to the indictment, he and his friends threatened, harassed, persecuted and intimidated a gipsy family.

It is noted, moreover, that when the crime became public knowledge, Tamás Sneider gave a statement to *Népszava* to say he is proud of his children, for whom the prosecution seeks prison sentences. The president of Jobbik told *HírTV* in an interview¹¹ that he had been very angry with his son when he saw the tattoo, but to his best knowledge it is no longer on him. In the criminal procedure underway against two sons of Tamás Sneider, the court accuses G. K., the primary, M. S. as secondary, E. S. as tertiary, I. D. as quaternary, P. M. as quinary, and A. J. K. as senary defendant on multiple counts of continued criminal violence committed in groups, as accessories, and coercively against members of a community, and the crime of trespassing on private property committed as a group.

Tamás Sneider was given a final – suspended – prison sentence in the 90s, because he beat up a Roma citizen.

¹¹ <https://www.vadhajtasok.hu/2018/05/18/sneider-nagyon-merges-volt-a-fia-tetkojara-de-ugy-tudja-azota-mar-nincs-meg/>

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of its monitoring during May 2018, Action and Protection Foundation identified no incidents that belonged in this category, which covers hate incidents that do not figure in the statistics either because they were insignificant, or the anti-Semitic intent was not clear enough.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

“Some level of anti-Semitism characterizes a broad thirty percent of society”

Source: Action and Protection Foundation



9 May 2018 According to the research study examining the prevalence and strength of anti-Semitic prejudice in Hungary in 2017, there has not been a marked change in anti-Semitism overall, though the proportion of extreme anti-Semites has risen somewhat – said the results of the survey prepared by Medián Opinion and Market Research Institute, commissioned by Action and Protection Foundation (TEV). TEV’s monitoring report for 2017 has found that 37 anti-Semitic hate incidents were registered last year.

The survey questionnaire of November 2017 was filled out with a representative pool of 1,200 persons aged 18 years or above. The 2017 results reaffirmed that a negative attitude of respondents to other ethnicities relates to a greater chance for the rejection of Jews. The rejection of Jews compared to other ethnicities was not high, migrants “top the list”, who are viewed with even more antipathy than the Roma.

The survey showed that affective anti-Semitism, involving a general emotional rejection and deliberate social distance grew insignificantly compared to earlier years, and cannot be divorced from the general xenophobia of Hungarian society. A slight shift in the sphere of cognitive anti-Semitism (i.e., acceptance of false beliefs and conspiracy theories) can also be observed: more people agreed with a majority of the statements than last year. Drawing the two categories together, it can be said that some level of anti-Semitism characterizes a broad two-thirds of society, and a quarter has a strong anti-Jewish attitude. Though no major shift emerges in an overall comparison, the proportion of strongly anti-Semitic people grew last year.



Respondents were also in the survey, what occurred to them on hearing George Soros’s name, with the answer left open to them – rather than being multi-choice. Most voiced some form of disapproval regarding him, with migrants being mentioned most frequently. Two percent associated Jewry with his name directly, while there were many who linked the two indirectly: the words “Soros” and “Jew” remind three out of five respondents of money, power, influence, getting rich, typically in a negative context. Those who were found to be anti-Semitic on the basis of their other replies were also more likely to speak of Soros in a negative context.

Basically, there are no great changes year on year, but a moderate, incremental rise can be observed since 2006. On the basis of the surveys it can be stated overall that reviewing a larger period of time, cognitive anti-Semitism has spread noticeably in Hungary. The most conspicuous finding is a significant surge – a shift in public mood that has proved lasting – from 2009 to 2010: the figure, which had been around 10 percent earlier, has been well over 20 percent since then. Though true that the figure is always a shade higher in election years, the surge of 2010 cannot be explained away with this.

Our Foundation, as commissioner of the survey has been monitoring anti-Semitic hate incidents in Hungary in monthly and annual reports since 2013. In the recently published annual report for 2017 we found that the number of hate incidents in Hungary decreased in 2017: while 52 such incidents were registered in 2015, the figure was 37 last year. These belonged in the categories of anti-Semitic hate crimes committed through vandalism and hate speech. On a less positive note, the identity of the perpetrators remained unknown in 57 percent, i.e. 21 of the registered cases. Legal sanctions followed three procedures we initiated.

Action and Protection Foundation's research results and reports can be found here:

Anti-Semitism in Hungarian Society 2017: <http://tev.hu/antisemitizmus-kutatasok/>

Anti-Semitic incidents 2017: <http://tev.hu/en/annual-report/>

Budapest held its 16th March of the Living this year

Sources: eletmenete.hu;

[MTI](http://mti.hu); 168ora.hu; propeller.hu

13 May 2018 As customary, Chief Rabbi Tamás Ver blew on the shofar made of the ram's horn. Upon this signal the March of the Living, remembering the victims of the Holocaust set off.

Speakers at the March of the Living emphasized the importance of remembering and the dangers of exclusionism. Gábor



Source: MTI

Gordon, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the March of the Living underlined in his speech: annually returning participants of the March of the Living have become a huge community. He expressed joy at the increase in young people joining the march. He also said that for the first time this year, the anniversary of the day on which the Second World War ended was also commemorated. The March of the Living ended on the Friedrich Born Embankment this year. As a Swiss citizen, Friedrich Born remained in Hungary from May 1944 to June 1945 working for the Red Cross and saved nearly fifteen thousand Jews in this period – Gábor Gordon recounted.

Yossi Amrani, Ambassador of Israel in Budapest spoke about how people had walked down the Danube riverside in peace and love under this “beautiful blue sky”, but 74 years ago, “the same sky saw horrors that the human mind is incapable of comprehending”.

Aharon Tamir, the director of the March of the Living international organization said: The March of the Living considers



Source: 168ora.hu

it a duty to spread its views and principles across the whole world, to bear witness to the facts, teach history, and not to accept compromises that are not right.

Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna, who welcomed those gathering on Március 15-e Square for the procession before it set off, asked participants to keep the memory of those almost 600 thousand Jews whose lives could not come to fruition, and whom they attempted to wipe off the face of the earth so not even a trace of them remains.

In his speech, the Holocaust survivor Imre Leibovits noted that Jewry was exposed to a great deal of persecution over the last 2,000 years, and there is no state in which pogroms did not occur.

Participants of the memorial procession were greeted in video messages by the ambassadors in Budapest from the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and France.

The honorary guests of the memorial were the Swedish author Majgull Axelsson and March of the Living Chairman Aharon Tamir. The miniature of The March of the Living Foundation Memorial was presented to the Edit Zsuráffy and Gyula Pichler



Source: propeller.hu

couple, who lived through the Holocaust as children.

Organizers of the memorial procession reported that there were six thousand participants. The objective of the march organized for the sixteenth time this year, is that participants can pay respect to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust together, irrespective of their religious denomination and political camp, professing their faith in social solidarity and a democratic political culture.

House of Fates could open soon?

Source: hvg.hu

14 May 2018 *HVG* reported that according to “government sources knowledgeable about the matter”, the House of Fates, which has remained empty since its completion three years ago, may shortly open to the public. The museum envisioned by Mária Schmidt and built with a budget of 7.5 billion HUF, will commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and the bravery of the rescuers of lives.

The idea, that the train station of Józsefváros – where some deportations, if not too many did depart from, and even became the site of one of Raoul Wallenberg’s rescue missions – should become a memorial, was first put forward by the historian Szabolcs Szita. He proposed it in 2013 as

a program for the Holocaust Memorial Year the following year, however Mária Schmidt secured a concept and support for the project from János Lázár, for whom she had built a memorial site and Holocaust museum in his home town, Hódmezővásárhely. The elderly professor was gradually left out of the project.

Schmidt wanted to design an accessible, spectacular, and emotionally impressive exhibition able to reach out especially to young people, on the model of the House of Terror. There were widely voiced concerns that the director of the

House of Terror would create an exhibition exculpating the Hungarian authorities of their responsibility. The organizations commanding international respect left the advisory board of the House of Fates, as did the representatives of the Yad Vashem in Israel.

Due to protests by a number of organizations, János Lázár halted the project in 2015. In the following he announced



Source: hvg.hu

a number of times that “the House of Fates would be completed only when the Jewish communities of Hungary are ready to support the content.”

By this point the construction of the museum had in fact already finished, only the exhibition remained to be completed. The Hungarian state has since spent about 82 million forints just on maintaining the facility.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Viktor Orbán: “We will build a Christian democracy of the 21st century”

Sources: pestisracok.hu; origo.hu; hvg.hu

10 May 2018 Viktor Orbán held his inaugural speech in the Parliament. He touched upon a number of subjects in his speech, from the economy, through stopping the demographic decline in Hungary, to the role of Hungary in the world and the European community. He also noted the fight against anti-Semitism.

As the head of government put it in his speech, the Hungarian response to a changed world is, that *“Liberal democracy is no longer able to protect people’s dignity, provide freedom, guarantee physical security or maintain Christian culture. Some in Europe are still tinkering with it, because they believe that they can repair it, but they fail to understand that it is not the structure that is defective: the world has changed. Our response to this changed world, the Hungarian people’s response, has been to replace the shipwreck of liberal democracy by building 21st-century Christian democracy. This guarantees human dignity, freedom and security, protects equality between men and women and the traditional family model, suppresses anti-Semitism, defends our Christian culture and offers our nation the chance of survival and growth. We are Christian democrats, and we want Christian democracy.”*

Viktor Orbán holds Open Society Foundation’s operations responsible for growing anti-Semitism

Sources: MTI; 168ora.hu; 888.hu; b1.blog.hu

16 May and 18–19 May 2018 Hungary and its population are deeply insulted by the public stance taken by Ronald S. Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress, on the relocation of the Open Society Foundation from Budapest to Ber-

lin; Viktor Orbán wrote a letter on the issue to the leader of the organization – Bertalan Havasi, the Prime Minister’s Press Chief informed the MTI (Hungarian News Agency).

In closing his letter Viktor Orbán continued: *“I would draw the Honorable President’s attention to the fact that the OSF and its founder share personal responsibility for the growth of anti-Semitism in Europe. Among the migrants they have ushered into Europe are individuals whose political and religious views have perceivably increased the threat being faced by Jewish communities. By contrast, in preventing the uncontrolled entry of migrants into the territory of the European Union, Hungary and its government are also protecting Europe’s Jewish communities”* the Prime Minister made clear in his letter. *“Our policy is motivated by principles and moral considerations, and also serves the ideal of Jewish-Christian coexistence, in which we continue to firmly believe. We naturally expect neither recognition nor thanks for this from the World Jewish Congress. We do expect, however, that, when sharing their views with the public, Jewish leaders living on the other – safer – side of the ocean demonstrate more insight and sympathy – as well as more objectivity, respect and fairness.”*

In his reply Ronald S. Lauder wrote: Viktor Orbán’s letter addressed to him and published in the press, refers to a statement he never made, and which he does not believe. The President of the WJC emphasized that his high regard for Viktor Orbán and the people of Hungary has not wavered, and that he appreciates all that Viktor Orbán has done for the World Jewish Congress, especially that he joined the Budapest WJC convention in 2013. The President of the WJC, Lauder said in concluding his letter, he hoped that they would soon be able to meet again and wishes the Hungarian Prime Minister all success in guiding his great country through these “turbulent times”.

Responding to news of the Open Society Foundation ending its operation in Hungary and moving to Berlin, Ronald Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress gave a statement to the German paper *Bild*. “I am concerned about ongoing processes in Hungary”, he told the *Bild*. He said there is no need to agree with Soros about everything, but he should not be treated this way, because he has done a great deal for democracy.

Yossi Amrani: “The Hungarian government is not anti-Semitic”
Source: hvg.hu

19 May 2018 Yossi Amrani, Israeli ambassador to Hungary gave the *Vasárnapi Hírek* an interview. Among others, he said that the contemporary form of anti-Semitism is not only aimed at Jews in general, but specifically at Israel. In his opinion this can also be felt in Hungary, but not at a state level. He considered the repercussions of the *Stop Soros!* campaign a danger, but he had no objections to the law on NGOs.

With regard to the March of the Living he put forward that “it is very important that we remember, and more than 70 years later we understand the driving forces and lessons of this monstrosity. Anti-Semitism is still present today, almost everywhere in Europe. The notion itself has gone through marked change over the last decades. They say that the wave of migration in recent years is in the background of the increasingly frequent anti-Semitic incidents and attacks. This may be true in some cases, but this does not acquit those countries which have allowed, with impunity, the seeds of anti-Semitism to fall on fertile ground.”

With regard to the *Stop Soros!* campaign he said that he cultivated a good relationship with members of the Hungarian Jewish community. “It is my conviction that there is no threat to the life of Jewish citizens in Hungary. This is the government that supports the building of synagogues, reconstruction of Jewish cemeteries, and speaks of the

Judeo-Christian cultural heritage.” He added that he had of course perceived how the mentioned campaign and reactions to it from various personalities in political life gave many causes for fear. “But the clear messages we heard from Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on the occasion of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit should, in my opinion calm everyone.” With regard to the *Stop Soros!* campaign he stated that in his opinion it was not anti-Semitic, though there are those who try to make it appear anti-Semitic. “But I know that he operates social and political organizations in numerous countries, facilitating the spread of ideas that he considers important. I believe he can do so if he wishes. But then people also have the right to give their opinion about his politics too. This is not anti-Semitism. Certain elements of the campaign you have mentioned, and expressions used in it perhaps do signal caution, and attention must be paid to these things, but I can only repeat: the statements of the Hungarian government and its representatives are convincing to me.”



Source: vasarnapihitek.hu

Péter Szijjártó: “Hungary is committed to the protection of the Judeo-Christian heritage of Europe”
Source: MTI

31 May 2018 “Hungary is committed to the protection of the Judeo-Christian heritage of Europe and is proud of the Jewish community living in the country”, Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade said in Washington, at the Israeli embassy.

In the speech he gave before the concert given in memory of Tivadar Herzl, he not-

ed that one of the largest Catholic churches in Budapest can be found very near to the Dohány Street Synagogue, which is a good illustration of the fact that Jewish and Christian people can live peacefully together in Hungary. At the same time, he emphasized that many believe that there is at present a post-Christian, post-nationalist period in Western Europe, whilst Europe has a great deal to lose if it forgets its Judeo-Christian heritage, and that it is a collection of nations. *“The Hungarian*

government declared zero tolerance on anti-Semitism”, he reminded his audience. In his speech he recalled: Tivadar Herzl, the conceiver of the modern state of Israel was born in Budapest.

Ron Dermer, Ambassador of Israel to Washington spoke about how Hungarian-Israeli relations are excellent, and the cooperation between the two countries is becoming closer in a number of areas. He emphasized: Israel sets great value by its friendship with Hungary and the support Hungary has given, the stand it has taken by Israel in the international organizations. Israel also appreciates that the Hungarian Prime Minister has declared zero tolerance on anti-Semitism. Ron Dermer explained: it is no coincidence that the second largest Jewish community in Europe lives in Hungary.



Source: MTI/KKM

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Hearing of the American ambassadorial nominee to Budapest

Sources: nepzava.hu; hvg.hu; magyaridok.hu; propeller.hu

9 May 2018 The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing of its ambassadorial nominees, among them David B. Cornstein, a 78-year-old New York businessman, who was nominated ambassador to Budapest by President Donald Trump. In his statement, Cornstein spoke, among



Source: foreign.senate.gov

others, about how the American experience in Hungary was that democratic values were being eroded and anti-Semitic incidents were on the rise. He would work diligently with Jewish organizations, the religious communities, and the Hungarian government to make sure the Jewish community feels safe and secure. He considers it an important task to deepen American-Hungarian relations. In particular, he would encourage Hungarian officials at all levels of government to advance American interests and to promote American and democratic values. Specifically, the issues of freedom of speech, the freedom of press and the freedom of religion. These “are values that cannot and should not be compromised”.

One of the members of the Senate committee asked Cornstein whether he would

push Hungary to stay consistently in line with the sanctions against Russia. The ambassadorial nominee replied to this question with a determined yes. Cornstein’s response to the question whether he would make efforts towards a reassuring settlement of the situation of Central European University (CEU) founded George Soros was also affirmative. In his opinion, the institution in question is important to both countries, and he would ask the Hungarian government to take a step back and look once again at what CEU has given the country.

Replying to a question whether he knew who Raoul Wallenberg was, he said no. Cornstein also spoke about how he had also suffered attacks on account of his origin as a New York Jew, and that his grandmother, Sarah was Hungarian.

Asia Times journalist reports that the Jewish community is safe in Hungary

Sources: figyelo.hu; pjmedia.com

31 May 2018 David P. Goldman, a journalist for *Asia Times* wrote an article about Hungary, in which he dealt with the life of the Jewish community in Hungary. The article was also published by the Hungarian weekly, *Figyelő*.

In his piece he reported that in his opinion Budapest has developed a great deal under the current government. He pointed out, the level of safety in which Jews live in Hungary is virtually unparalleled in Europe. “Last Friday evening I put on a kippah and walked half an hour across Budapest”, David P. Goldman begins his piece.

“After violent attacks on Jews in German streets, the leaders of Germany’s Jewish community warned Jews last month not to wear a kippah or any other visible sign of Jewish iden-

tification in public. The French community issued such warnings years ago. Belgian TV could not find a single Jew in Brussels willing to wear a kippah in public. I walked across Budapest four times (for Friday evening and Saturday daytime services), and no-one looked at my kippah twice. Whatever residual anti-Semitism remains among Hungarians, it doesn't interfere with the open embrace of Jewish life." He also addressed the campaign against George Soros. He rejected the opinion that the Hungarian government was attacking George Soros because of his Jewish origins. "Soros, to be sure, is Jewish by descent but not by practice or affiliation." He added that the billionaire had openly spent a great deal on his foundations, so he would say "there is nothing inherently anti-Semitic about campaigning against a plutocrat who is trying to buy your country."

OTHER NEWS

*Tamás Sneider elected
new President of Jobbik*
Source: 444.hu

12 May 2018 As reported by 444.hu, the former skinhead leader, Tamás Sneider – supported by the outgoing party president Gábor Vona – became the new president of Jobbik. The portal recounted how Sneider was prosecuted in 1992 in relation to a racially motivated incident. The indictment was written because of one of the episodes



Source: origo.hu / facebook.com

in the skinhead-Roma war in Eger, when Sneider was the leader of the skinhead group called Association of National Youth (Nemzeti Ifjak Egyesülete). He was finally given a suspended prison sentence for the

case. The skinhead leader Tamás Sneider, then known by his nickname, Roy, has now been elected president by Jobbik.

After the election, the party communicated that the election of Sneider means that the People's party line will remain, and a shift to the extreme right is not to be expected. This was based on the fact that his opponent for the position of president was the still openly radical László Toroczkai, beaten by a very close margin according to press reports.

After his period as a street fighter, Sneider became a MIÉP politician between 2000 and 2007, as a MP of the municipal government and as the vice-president of the Heves County chapter of the party. He ran for Parliament in 2006, still representing MIÉP and a delegate of the shared list of MIÉP-Jobbik, but he only came third. The same year he "*refreshed his abilities as a street fighter, participating in the siege of the TV headquarters*", 444.hu wrote. In the following year he switched allegiances and became a member of the then still young Jobbik, to become the party's national vice president only two years later. He has made it into the Parliament every election since 2010, on the party list. He was reelected deputy speaker of the National Assembly in 2018.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

*Legal supervision process against
Hóman Bálint Association initiated*

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

10 May 2018 The chief prosecutor's office of Csongrád County reported to our Foundation that the complaint it filed against the Hóman Bálint Association, which is registered in the Szeged Court, has been examined and a legal supervision procedure has been triggered.

Our Foundation had earlier reported to the responsible authorities, with reference to the law governing registration of NGOs – based on the decision of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences – that the use of the association bearing the name of Bálint Hóman violates the law, and therefore it is requested that the law is enforced by the appropriate legal means, and the name of the association is changed.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	9 th of May	"Some level of anti-Semitism characterizes a broad thirty percent of society"	Community News and Responses
2.	9 th of May	Hearing of the American ambassadorial nominee to Budapest	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
3.	10 th of May	Viktor Orbán: "We will build a Christian democracy of the 21st century"	Official and Civil Responses
4.	10 th of May	Legal supervision process against Hóman Bálint Association initiated	Action and Protection Fundation Legal Actions
5.	12 th of May	Tamás Sneider elected new President of Jobbik	Other News
6.	13 th of May	Budapest held its 16 th March of the Living this year	Community News and Responses
7.	14 th of May	House of Fates could open soon?	Community News and Responses
8.	16 th of May	Viktor Orbán holds Open Society Foundation's operations responsible for growing anti-Semitism	Official and Civil Responses
9.	17 th of May	Jobbik president's sons had one of Hitler's slogans tattooed on himself	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
10.	19 th of May	Yossi Amrani: "The Hungarian government is not anti-Semitic"	Official and Civil Responses
11.	31 st of May	Péter Szijjártó: "Hungary is committed to the protection of the Judeo-Christian heritage of Europe"	Official and Civil Responses
12.	31 st of May	Asia Times journalist reports that that the Jewish community is safe in Hungary	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary

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:

13597539-12302010-00057157

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