

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

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NOVEMBER 2017



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE



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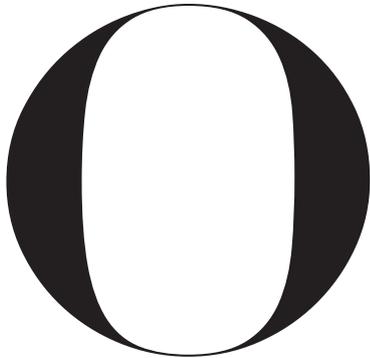
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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One of the most important requirements for the struggle against anti-Semitism is an investigation of the actual prevalence of anti-Semitism. One of the aims of Action and Protection Foundation is to eliminate ignorance of this issue. Instrumental in achieving this objective is the continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes that occur public life. The community cannot really be protected unless current information on anti-Semitic acts and other hate crimes are collected and analyzed. Results of the monitoring are published, monthly by the Foundation.

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: anti-Semitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report refers to both types of behavior as “hate incidents”. An anti-Semitic hate crime is distinguished from other hate crime by possessing an anti-Semitic motive. Anti-Semitic hate crime is a violation of criminal law, yet not all hate-motivated acts are regarded as criminal. Nevertheless, a record of both types of hate incidents is necessary in order to gain a general overview.

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

Action and Protection Foundation identified two incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during November monitoring. Mandiner.hu reported several anti-Semitic statements by Jobbik politicians. The guests of Szent Korona radio broadcast Sin City expressed their discriminatory opinion several times. The recordings registered the conversation of István Apáti, György Gyula Zagyva, András Balasi, Gábor Hunyadi, Adrián Magvasi and László Toroczka. Their anti-Israeli comments contained Jewish conspiracy theories and relativized the Holocaust. Erzsébet Erős, Vice President of the senior citizens’ branch of Jobbik, posted her anti-Semitic, anti-Roma, Holocaust-denying thoughts on Facebook.

Three new items are included in “Further anti-Semitic hate incidents” this month. In the first case, a Facebook user posted anti-Semitic, Holocaust-denying comments to an article shared by our Foundation. In the second case, someone painted a street sign. In the third case, zsurpubi.hu reported an individual posted a Holocaust relativizing remark and some discriminatory comments to a photo-manipulated image of Martin Schultz on Facebook.

Action and Protection Foundation organized a conference on its fifth anniversary under the patronage of Sándor Pintér, Minister of Interior, entitled “Are Europe’s Jews Safe? Challenges of Europe’s migration crisis and the threat of Islamic Fundamentalist Terrorism”.

The speakers of the events were Rabbi Slomó Köves, founder of APF, István Mikola, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Csaba Latorcai, Deputy State Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office, Rabbi Andrew Baker, representative of OSCE on fight against anti-Semitism and other experts, university professors and head of charities dealing with anti-Semitism.

Action and Protection Foundation made no legal action in November. There was no progress in our previous cases.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

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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

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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.

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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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 incidents<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

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.<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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)

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## METHODOLOGY<sup>3</sup>

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The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows<sup>4</sup> (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 people<sup>5</sup>
- 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 sentence<sup>6</sup> (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-

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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 period<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

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

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics<sup>9</sup>:

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

<sup>7</sup> These are described in the *Methodology* section.

<sup>8</sup> The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

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

<sup>10</sup> These descriptions in particular are held to be a most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

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## ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS NOVEMBER 2017

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Action and Protection Foundation identified two anti-Semitic hate incidents during November monitoring; both are cases of hate speech.

*Jobbik's representatives' previous Jew-baitings were sound recorded*

Source: mandiner.hu; pestisracok.hu; 888.hu; origo.hu; magyarhirlap.hu

**14-23 November 2017** In November, Mandiner news portal published several anti-Semitic statements of Jobbik's representatives. István Apáti, Member of the Parliament of Jobbik, said on the broadcast "Sin City of Szent Korona radio station on the 23rd of July 2011 "As the representative of the national radical party, I feel obliged to say that the Jewish economic and political influence could only get this far because during the past 20 years all political parties and governments assisted to this apart from Jobbik." In 2017, Apáti said in an interview they represent all Hungarians and it is enough of the division that occurred over the past three decades in Hungary. At the same press conference, he said Hungary used to be the ground of "foreign dominance (rulers?)".

Journalists confronted Ádám Mirkóczi, Jobbik representative, with the previous speech of Apáti who said, "The words of Apáti in 2011 have no relevance to today's politics of Jobbik. " He also said Apáti "at that very moment, he specifically reacted "to the words of Simon Peresz Israeli Head of State who talked about the acquisition of Hungary. Then the journalist of Magyar Idők confronted Mirkóczi with the fact that Simon Peresz talked about the acquisition of Hungary in 2007, not in 2011. According to the report of Pesti Srácok, Mirkóczi referred the journalist to the editors of Szent Korona radio station to ask about their motivation to define such a topic of the broadcast. The Jobbik representative said

they never judged nations, populations or countries in general terms but they stood up against specific phenomena, politicians and political actions.

Mirkóczi said to the reporter of Echo TV "I am not saying that everything was ideal, it was an opportunity to be misunderstood. They stepped on the path of becoming a populist party because they learnt from experience, their own and others' political mistakes."

Mandiner portal asked András Gerő historian about his thoughts on the recently published statements of Apáti. He answered "this is an openly anti-Semitic text which contains both the old and new prejudices, it is a good example of how traditional anti-Semitism and anti-Israeli tendencies work together. I think the politicians of Jobbik are now in the state where a part of French population stood after the loss of Alsace Lorraine in 1871. After their total defeat, the French never talked about it but always thought about it. I think this is where Jobbik stands now when it comes to racism."

Later Mandiner published the entire sound recording, which contained further anti-Semitic thoughts.

"We know the reason. During his conversation with Tomcat, Tibor Szanyi admitted who the inhabitants of Budapest District 13 are and what the outcome may be if someone confronts them. He could win the elections with these voters who have specific nutrition needs, who dress in a specific way and who are not necessarily Catholic. "On the recording, Apáti implicitly refers to the Jews several times, using the expression "the Chosen People". Jobbik's politician György Gyula Zagyva also participated at the conversation and the two politicians quote the writing of the death camp of Auschwitz "Work makes free" in relation to the self-maintained prisons. Right after that both of them were laughing.

Television channel M1 interviewed Ádám Mirkóczy and he said István Apáti misinformed him about the recording before the press conference, so this is the reason why he lied. At the same time, he added Jobbik doesn't distance itself from the statements of István Apáti because, as he said, "It was long ago". "I will be honest. Now it is November 2017 and he had a radio interview in June 2011. I don't care about it", he said.

A few days later, Mandiner published further recordings where György Gyula Zagya, András Balasi, the representative of Jobbik of Budapest District 5 and Gábor Hunyadi, the previous delegate of Jobbik to the National Election Commission made jokes on the Holocaust on Szent Korona Radio Station.

In a conversation when they talked about the number of victims of the Holocaust, Hunyadi asked back, "What six million?"

In another case, Adrián Magvasi, the chief editor of Jobbik's news portal "Alfahír" had a discussion with László Toroczka who talked about a "Jewish Facebook" which András Balasi, another Jobbik supporter later called "Nosebook."

Mandiner.hu interviewed György Gyula Zagya about the anti-Semitic scandal. He said he was not thinking about the Holocaust and the Jews when he quoted the writing of the death camp in Auschwitz.

"Did I say anything of which I should be ashamed of now?", he asked. The interview covered other topics too. He repeated the official position of Jobbik concerning the questions about Márton Gulyás and the visit of Gábor Vona head of party to Spinoza House. He did not comment on the idea of tactical alliance between Jobbik and the left wing, raised by Ágnes Heller.

On 22 November, they published another recording of a discussion on Szent Korona Radio Station from 2011. György Szilágyi, the representative of Jobbik identified SZDSZ and the colonial aspirations

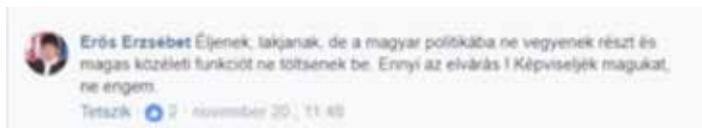
of a "certain state" (Israel) behind LMP. He called them a "bunch of gentlemen from the City." A day earlier, Gábor Vona considered LMP a potential coalition partner.

*The Vice President of Jobbik's Senior Citizens' Branch formed discriminatory opinion in her Facebook posts*

Source: pestisracok.hu; 24.hu; atv.hu; hirado.hu

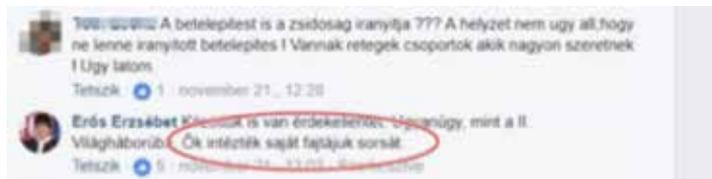
**29 November 2017** Pesti Srácok internet portal reported Vice President of recently formed Senior Citizen's branch of Jobbik, Erzsébet Erős, expressed her anti-Roma, anti-Semitic, quasi Holocaust denying thoughts several times. "If migrants never arrive, they will say that they protected the country. Unless Hungarian Jews want to see the migrants in Hungary, we have nothing to worry about. It will be what they want to see. It is as simple as that. They can stay here, they can live here but they should not take part in Hungarian politics and they should not fulfill any important functions in public life. This is the expectation. They should represent themselves but not me."

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Source: pestisracok.hu

"They have their own internal conflicts. Just as it happened during World War II. They defined their own destiny."

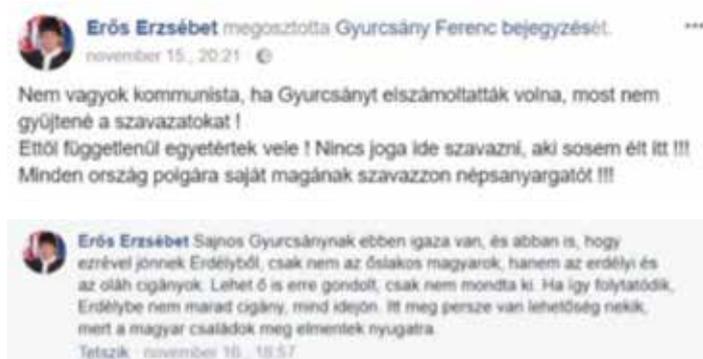


Source: pestisracok.hu

The article refers to an online TV broadcast. Its link appeared on the webpage. Here, Erős says the core problem of the country is the Jewish community, which turned the country's most spectacular square into a

marketplace. The Jews are just confronting and shouting in the home country of the Hungarians and then they are surprised people get enough of it. She says she does not doubt the Holocaust because certain things surely happened but she does not understand why Hungarians are blamed for it. “We need a government now which stands up and says “Mazsihisz, enough is enough.”

In the interview, she said what really destroys the Hungarian nation is “its good hearted people who are too tolerant, they welcomed the Jews and the Roma people “who cannot identify themselves as Hungarians. She expressed a similar opinion on Hungarians living beyond the borders. According to Erzsébet Erős, Ferenc Gyurcsány who is now against the voting right of Hungarians beyond borders is completely right and the Hungarians beyond the borders have no right to vote. According to her opinion, those who arrive from Transylvania are thousands of Roma people, not the native Hungarians.



Source: pestisracok.hu

Jobbik reacted to the opinion of Erős. “The comments of the Vice President of Jobbik’s Senior Citizens’ Branch will have certain consequences”, said Dániel Kárpáti, the Vice President of Jobbik in Budapest at a press conference. “Jobbik is not a party without consequences” and they will deal with this issue. When the procedure is over, they will communicate the results. Kárpáti was especially sensitive on the issue of the Hungarians beyond the borders. Shortly after the case was published, Erős was excluded from Jobbik.

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## FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

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In the course of its monitoring activity for November 2017, Action and Protection Foundation identified three incidents, which are not included in the statistics because some circumstances in the cases are unclear and the offenders remained unidentified.

*Anti-Semitic Facebook comment to an article shared by APF*  
Source: facebook.com;  
Action and Protection

**13 November 2017** László Szim Facebook user made anti-Semitic and hateful comments to an article shared by Action and Protection Foundation.

168 óra published the article on the activity of extreme right movements.



Source: facebook.com

Among Szim László's comments, there were jokes about the Roma, threats, discriminatory, anti-Semitic and Holocaust denying comments, which he tried to publish shortly one after the other on our Foundation's profile. APF started the necessary data search and filed a charge against him for the denial of the Holocaust and for the incitement to the community.

*APF cleaned a street sign in Budapest from anti-Semitic writings*

Source: Action and Protection

**19 november 2017** A citizen reported to our Foundation that individuals painted abusive, discriminatory writings on a street sign in Budapest. Someone wrote "The Jewish bastard" on the street sign on Hegyalja Street in Budapest District 11. APF cleaned the sign.



Source: Action and Protection

*Article on anti-Semitic, Holocaust denying Facebook posts*  
Source: zsurpubi.hu

**22 november 2017** Zsurpubi.hu reported several anti-Semitic comments which appeared on a Facebook group "I never regretted voting for Fidesz".

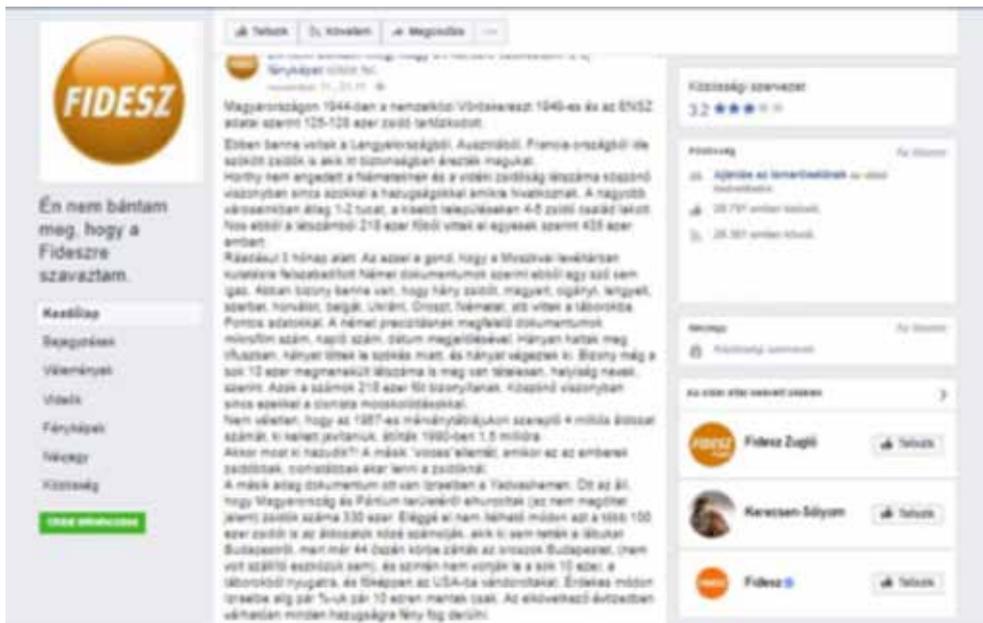
The photo-manipulated image of Martin Schultz received 571 likes and 144 individuals shared it, 269 people commented on it. There were many, simply nasty comments, such as "Not even an acrobat squirrel would



Source: zsurpubi.hu

go out on his nose to collect some hazelnuts “but hidden anti-Semitic comments also appeared, “On decision making level, they are everywhere. “Another individual shared his discriminatory opinion, “He is not a Christian type.”

The article contained a Holocaust relativizing comment, which questions the number of murdered Jewish victims, supported by false scientific arguments.



Source: zsurpubi.hu / facebook.com

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*Vona Gábor at Spinoza House*

Source: Action and Protection; hvg.hu

**14 November 2017** Katalin Rangos, journalist led a public discussion with Gábor Vona on the 16th of November on the stage of Spinoza House.

Both the invitation and the discussion led to serious debates. Many news portal reported about the event, the recorded video was uploaded to the internet, the colleague of Action and Protection Foundation participated at the event.

Gábor Vona kept repeating it is everyone's own right to judge the credibility of his and his party's turn to a new direction. According to his opinion, the movement toward becoming a populist party began in 2013. He said the change in direction was not a superficial tactical game. He talked about Magyar Gárda as well. In 2010, it seemed to be a good idea to wear their uniform when he took the oath at the Parliament, but he would not wear it today, people change, he said.

They also talked about the case of Csanád Szegedi, the representative of Jobbik who recently discovered his Jewish origins. Vona doesn't know much about him now but it is a painful story for him as they were not only colleagues but also friends. Vona thinks Szegedi finally left the party for another reason; they accused him of corruption. Vona said another Jobbik member also informed him about his Jewish identity but he said it was no problem; they should continue working together. Another person, Előd Novák, had to leave the party because he was against the populist party direction. He still counts on László Toroczkai, as he is a successful major and he has important experience in handling the migrant crisis.

The invitation and the appearance of Vona caused intense turmoil both in the press and among the intellectual society. Our foundation's position is "We can only see the change of direction of Gábor Vona and Jobbik as a small adjustment in style in order to gain political advantages."

*This year's March of the Living awards*

Source: MTI; nepszava.hu

**19 November 2017** Péter Kardos, executive rabbi, Anikó Kiss, head of SzoCsoMa, a social service and Judit Donászy teacher received the György Kézdy award, granted by the board of the March of the Living Foundation. This year was the fourth occasion they awarded this prize. The objective of the prize is to acknowledge efforts on fight against the hatred by strengthening social solidarity.

The March of the Living Foundation supports this event every year because they believe the key to the future of Europe is solidarity and cooperation. The Foundation welcomed the prizewinners: Péter Kardos executive rabbi has been a close mentor of the Foundation since the beginning. Anikó Kiss and the volunteers of SzoCsoMa Foundation work all year long for helping those who live in poverty. Judit Donászy was a high school teacher in Veszprém when she entered in contact with the Foundation. A couple of years ago she participated at a March of the Living in Poland together with a colleague. It was a deep experience for her and since then she has been organizing Holocaust commemorations and sensitization programs. The prize is named after one of the founder's. They acknowledge the achievement of charity workers, volunteers and institutions who "endlessly take care of collective historic memory. "

*Our Foundation celebrated its 5th anniversary by organizing an international conference*

Source: Action and Protection; MTI; origo.hu; szombat.org

**27 November 2017** Action and Protection Foundation organized an international conference, "Are Europe's Jews Safe? Challenges of Europe's migration crisis and the threat of Islamic Fundamentalist Terrorism" to celebrate the fifth anniversary of

the organization. The event was organized under the patronage of Sándor Pintér, Minister of Interior. Slomó Köves, the executive rabbi of EMIH and founder of APF gave an opening speech. Other speakers were Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism (OSCE), István Mikola Dr., Minister of State for Security Policy and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary and Csaba Latorcai Dr., Deputy State Secretary for Priority Social Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office.



Source: MTI

Slomó Köves rabbi talked about the founding idea of Action and Protection Foundation. The Jewish community cannot wait for others' protection if it does not stand up for itself.

István Mikola highlighted that “We must continue the fight against all forms of anti-Semitism, we are obliged to do everything we can for the freedom of religion and ethnic identity.”

Csaba Latorcai underlined the importance of Christian-Jewish identity as the strength of resilience.

Andrew Baker appreciates the efforts of those governments that show zero tolerance towards anti-Semitism. He thinks it is promising more and more countries find it important to commemorate the Holocaust.

The theme of the first panel of the conference was migration. According to Dániel Bodnár, the chairperson of the board of APF, there are no anti-Semitic politics in Europe apart from the denial of certain elements of traditional Jewish religion prac-

tice. In Hungary, anti-Semitic rhetoric exists mainly linked to Jobbik.

Jagil Henkin, the researcher of the military academy of Israeli Defense Forces talked about the difficult assimilation of today's migrants but radical Muslims have a “vision” about how to change Western world order.

A panel discussion followed the presentation. On the panel were Andrew Baker, personal representative of OSCE; Eli Hazan, the foreign affairs director of Likud; and Michael Whine government counsellor, the international director of CST.

The theme of the second panel was an assessment of anti-Semitism. András Kovács, the professor of CEU said anti-Semitism is a very old phenomenon but its assessment was based on solid grounds only after the Holocaust.

Melissa Sonnino, the project coordinator of CEJI analyzed the methodology of the fight against hate speech in her presentation. The presentations were followed by panel discussion where the two presenters, Dániel Róna, the research director of APF and Endre Hann, the CEO of Median Research talked about the research outcomes and methodological particularities.

The third panel was about the anti-Israeli phenomenon and anti-Semitism, the European presence of the BDS movement. The following speakers participated at the panel: Jigal Palmor, the PR director of Szochnut, Benjamin Alex, the director of lobby group “Europe Israel Public Affairs” and the deputy director of international affairs of ADL, Andrew Srulevitch.

The panel discussion brought some good news. The US based Jewish organizations efficiently stand up against the growing BDS movement at universities. More and more universities declare this movement a contrast to their funding principles and forbid this activity at campuses.

APF Secretary, Kálmán Szalai made the closing remarks of the conference.

Most of the Hungarian media and several Israeli newspapers reported about the event. A daily Israeli newspaper, the Jerusalem Post highlighted that over the past few years, Jobbik tried to distance itself from its anti-Semitic past but it emphasized, accord-



Source: Action and Protection

ing to APF, this change was superficial. In the Hungarian countryside, the same anti-Semitic and anti-Roma voices are heard.

The London based Jewish Chronicle highlighted European Jews are threatened by two sides, once by extremist right political parties such as Jobbik and by Islamist members of newly arrived migrant com-

munities. In another article, the magazine quoted Csaba Latorcai deputy state secretary, responsible for social affairs. He thinks the number of anti-Semitic attacks is higher in Great Britain than in Hungary.

Arutz Seva, the Israeli National News media group also reported about APF's international conference.

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*Reactions to the Jew-baitings of Jobbik*  
Source: Action and Protection; MTI

**14-23 November 2017** “Jobbik based his politics on racism over the past 15 years and now they want to get clean without stepping out of the bucket full of shit.”, said **Slomó Köves**, the executive rabbi of Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH). “The president of this party recently said that if it turned out that he had Jewish roots, he would resign. Isn’t it anti-Semitism?”, the rabbi asked.

**MSZP** expressed its concerns in a statement. “Jobbik is now the same radical party as it used to be.”, The party cannot withdraw its past, they wrote. According to MSZP, “If it was a real objective to become a populist party, István Apáti would not be the member of Jobbik’s fraction now because in 2011, he held a hate speech on the broadcast of Szent Korona radio station.”

Ádám Sermer, the deputy head of the **Hungarian Liberal Party** rejected any form of cooperation with Jobbik at a press conference in Budapest. He called for the same position on behalf of other democratic parties in opposition. The politician said if Gábor Vona, head of party never considered Jobbik an extremist party, consequently Gergely Kulcsár is not considered an extremist politician either although he spat on the iron shoes by the Danube riverbank. Ádám Sermer thinks it is disgusting to see a person in the Parliament “who still undertakes today his previous statements”, referring to the radio interview of István Apáti some years ago. Sermer find it even worse that the representative of the party, Ádám Mirkóczky still thinks, “there is no reason to distance the party from this extremely disgusting Jew baiting.”

“Jobbik would do anything for power and money even for denying its previous anti-Semitic statements”, said **Fidesz** to MTI.

They added it is shameful that Jobbik insults certain groups including Hungarian

Jews. “The leaders of Jobbik never apologized for these statements and never excluded anyone from Jobbik due to their extremist statements”.

According to **KDNP**, the statements of István Apáti question the ability of Jobbik to turn the party into another direction. “We think that the “central opening” and “the sweetening” only serve the maximization of votes without a real change”, they wrote to MTI.

According to **Democratic Coalition**, “the party of Gábor Vona is still an anti-European, discriminatory, racist, anti-Semitic party. The statements of Apáti show the real nature of the Party”, wrote the party.

According to **Együtt**, Jobbik has not changed a bit over the past few years. It is the same extremist right party as before. They try to “disseminate their disgusting thoughts in a sugary coat, they speak against Roma, Jews or other strangers”, said Viktor Szigetvári, the President of Együtt.

Neither of the journalists was able to reach István Apáti in any ways, he did not react publicly to the opinions.

*Foundation Bálint Hóman still operates*  
Source: Action and Protection; MTI

**27 November 2017** Action and Protection Foundation published a statement about Bálint Hóman Foundation on November 27. The Bálint Hóman Foundation has been operating illegally at least for the past one and a half year. The organization is named after a politician of the Arrow Cross Parliament. Action and Protection Foundation turned to the Chief Prosecutor’s Office of Fejér County in 2015, claiming the Foundation, registered in Székesfehérvár is named after a person who played major role in the building of the Arrow Cross regime.

In response, the Court of Székesfehérvár asked for the statement of MTA and called upon the name change in August 2016. This has not happened over the past one and a



Source: tev.hu

half year, so the organization is still operating in the same way with the name of the politician. Our Foundation turned to the Chief Prosecutor's Office again in order to take the necessary steps.

After the legislation, four years after the period of grace, one and a half year after the statement of MTA, the Foundation still operates in the same way. APF turned to the Chief Prosecutor's Office of Fejér County again.

According to current legislation, since January 1, 2013, there is no way for an NGO to be named after a person who took part in the building and maintenance of the autocratic Arrow Cross system of the 20th century. One-year period of grace has been granted for organizations already registered, including Bálint Hóman Foundation to implement the name changes.

According to the position of APF, it is unacceptable that five years af-

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## NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

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*According to the report of the German Public Television, Hungary became the shelter of foreign extreme right forces*  
Source: 444.hu

**16 November 2017** ZDF German public television channel made a report about Hungary in relation to the foreign extreme right movements. The broadcast “Auslandsjournal” dealing with foreign policy issues made a report “Shelter in Hungary”. They emphasized Hungary became “the

crossroad of extreme right movements arriving from all parts of the world”. “The different movements often have meetings or conferences in the country. There are also extreme right activists who moved to Hungary. “As APF pointed out in the May report, Hungarian authorities expelled several extreme right politicians and activists who had to leave their country for political or existential reasons (for example James Dowson and Nick Griffin). They are subject to an entry ban now.

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## OTHER NEWS

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*So far, no improvement on the limitation of kurucinfo.hu*

Source: Action and Protection

**2 November 2017** APF published a statement in relation to the person who was sentenced to community service because of the denial of the Holocaust. Our October report dealt with the case. It also raised the issue of the Holocaust denying subpage of the web portal “kuruc.info”. Although there is a legally binding judgment on the limitation of the anti-Semitic homepage, the technical implementation seems to be problematic. In 2013, Action and Protection Foundation made charges against the webpage where extremist opinions were published. At the same time, APF requested the inaccessibility of the sub-webpage “Holokamu”.

Prosecutor’s office of Budapest District 5 and 13 initiated the inaccessibility of the sub-webpage. Shortly after, the Central District Court of Pest made a legally binding decision on the inaccessibility on June 11, 2015. Since then, the webpage is still accessible.

The server of the portal is operating in the United States. The Court, with the help of the Ministry of Justice sent the request to the authorities in the USA. Unfortunately, this led to no result. The Court informed the National Media and News Authority (NMHH) about the final inaccessibility of Holokamu sub-webpage of Kuruc.info.

The correspondence between the Court and NMHH shows “due to technical problems, the authority is not able to block the content of the sub-webpage only. In case NMHH blocks the content, the entire webpage will be inaccessible.”

According to APF’s position, national authorities have to find a suitable technical solution for this issue that has been going on for five years now, in order to implement the legally binding judgment of the Court. It is unacceptable to prevent the implementation of the legislation due to technical difficulties.

Index.hu, 168 óra and kuruc.info reported about the case.

*Jobbik has a Polish extremist ally*

Source: origo.hu; 24.hu

**2 November; 6 November; 13 November 2017** Origo.hu reported the announcement of Jobbik according to which Jobbik considers Robert Winnicki, Polish Member of the Parliament an ally. He supported the initiative of the party to set up a permanent V4 Parliamentary Assembly. Robert Winnicki is still the Honorary President of All-Polish Youth organization. A few years ago, the members of this organization threw stones and eggs on the participants of gay and lesbian marches in Poland. In 2015, a few of their members presented the Nazi salutation that appeared in a newspaper with illustrated photos.

Several newspapers published articles on a potential link between the Polish and German neonazi extremists. Origo.hu also reported about the commemoration of Jobbik on the 23rd of October where the members of All-Polish Youth organization held banners.



Source: zoom.hu

Jobbik presented again an international ally in line with the past rhetoric of the party now to be denied. Earlier, a similar ally was the Croatian Frano Cirko neo-nazi head of party. Our Foundation reported on that too.

On November 13, the Hungarian press reported about a march that was organized in

Warsaw on the 11th of November with the participation of 60,000 people. The march was organized by several extreme right organizations to commemorate the independence of the country in 1918.

According to the report of 24.hu, the participants claimed a white Europe, banners appeared with the writing, “We pray for the Islamic Holocaust”. Several politicians and the youth organization of Jobbik represented themselves at the event where young men marched with torches, making Warsaw center full of red smoke. The Youth Organization of Jobbik prepared a banner specifically for this event CNN reported. Tamás Pintér, Member of the Parliament of Jobbik and László Toroczkai, the Vice President of Jobbik, mayor of Ásotthalom also participated at the event.

The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a statement on the event. They completely reject racist views; the march of independence should not be totally identified with racist conceptions.

*National Security Committee investigated the operation of extreme right organizations*  
Source: MTI; 24.hu; zoom.hu; index.hu

**9 November, 20 November 2017** The Chief Prosecutor’s Investigation office is still analyzing the source of the educational and propaganda video of the Islamic State. Magyar Nemzeti Arcvonal (MNA), paramilitary nationalist organization prepared and distributed the video in 2000-2500 copies. APF reported on this in October. The investigation is linked to István Györkös who is accused of a murdering a police officer in Bőny and also to the explosion at one of the avenues in Budapest. The National Security Committee of the Parliament also discussed the case.

“There are a lot of questions raised in relation to extremist, paramilitary armed groups and Azeri financial flows, so these topics remain on the agenda of the National Security Committee of the Parliament.”, said Zsolt Molnár, the head of the committee, delegated by MSZP. He requested zero tolerance on all extremist right paramilitary organizations from Károly Konrát

state secretary, representing the Ministry of Interior. He thinks it is necessary to clarify the endangering operation of Nemzeti Arcvonal, Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement and Nemzeti Betyársereg. László Toroczkai, the Vice President of Jobbik, mayor of Ásotthalom is invited to the next Committee meeting to elaborate on his role in these movements.

On November 20, the members of the National Security Committee declared the extremist paramilitary organizations operating in Hungary constitute no risk. They are withdrawn.

*Discussion on the radicalization of youth in Budapest*  
Source: zoom.hu

**9 November 2017** On November 9, the theme of the discussion at Youth2Youth was the political radicalization of youth. It is not necessarily the dynamism of the youth that results in extremity. It was the Foundation for Democratic Youth who organized the event that took place in Falkó event center. The participants were Dániel Róna, the research director of APF, Anna Kende psychologist and Bulesú Hunyadi, the researcher of Political Capital.

It’s been said that apart from Jobbik in Hungary, only in Austria we can find a massive youth movement behind a radical right wing party (FPÖ). According to Dániel Róna, it is a misconception that the poorest segments of society turned towards radicalization after 2008. Bulcsú Hunyadi justified this fact by a study that showed that the poorest people in society were underrepresented in Jobbik. One of the main supporter groups of Jobbik composed of recently graduated college students. The extreme tensions between the Roma and the majority population and the good organizational skills of Vona also helped the strengthening of Jobbik. Hungarian society is not as extremist as the strengthening of Jobbik shows, participants said during the discussion. The extreme right wing has changed a lot over the past 10-15 years. The representatives of the alt right movement show a more decent image. At the same time, cer-

tain taboos were also broken; other things are now said aloud, which would have been unacceptable in public speech earlier. At this point, Dániel Róna highlighted the role of the President of the United States. Participants also said there is no real radical left wing, especially not among the political parties. Right now, Jobbik is trying to put on a sugary coat, at the same time it did not turn its back to its anti-Semitic past.

*According to Mária Schmidt, György Donáth can have a statue*  
 Source: hirtv.hu; nepszava.hu; merce.hu

**23 November; 26 November 2017** Mária Schmidt, the executive director of House of Terror Museum, László L. Simon, Member of the Parliament of Fidesz and Zsolt Bayer journalist participated at a discussion, “Re-written narratives in remembrance policies”, at a club in Budapest.



Source: nepszava.hu

“Why do we always have to step back? It is incomprehensible.”, said Zsolt Bayer about the statue of Bálint Hóman, former minister of culture. The statue was constructed but it was never inaugurated in Székesfehérvár because Hóman was charged with anti-Semitism. László L. Simon regretted the statue was never put up, he thinks it was wrong to accuse the former government of fascism. The former state secretary of culture thinks there is now an interesting narrative around the statue of Hóman. “Ob-

viously no one wanted to rehabilitate the fascist dictatorship, it was never the intention.”, he said. The executive director of the House of Terror Museum said the attacks of the European Union to Hungary are about the differences in values. “These debates are about the incapacity to say Christianity is a positive heritage, to say the nation state is something important, to say national sovereignty is important for us, these values are said to be sins.”, said Mária Schmidt who would put up the statue of György Donáth again.

They tried to place the statue of the leader of Hungarian Life Movement and Hungarian Life Party in February 2016 in Budapest District 9, but it has given rise to a large-scale protest movement, so they stepped back. Opposition argued Donáth supported the Jewish laws and organized that racist movement.

Mária Schmidt thinks Hungary now has to let this narrative go that links everything to the loss of World War II and only gives legitimization to the winner countries.

A few days later, the article of Kettős Mércé pointed out György Donáth already has a statue. Sándor Szakály historian, the director of Veritas Institute inaugurated it at Kozma street prison memorial site where individuals can pay tribute to the victims of retaliation after the revolution of 1956 and commemorate the Stalinist Hungarian regime.

Magyar Hírlap reported about the event on 24th of October.



Source: merce.hu

Kettős Mércé asks “whether it is worth to commemorate those with respect who were persecuted by the Communist but who actively contributed in the anti-Semitic legislation making.”

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## **ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS**

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

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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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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.

Sorszám	Dátum	Esemény	Kategória
1.	2 <sup>nd</sup> of November	So far, no improvement on the limitation of kurucinfo.hu	Other News
2.	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> of November	Jobbik has a Polish extremist ally	Other News
3.	9 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> of November	National Security Committee investigated the operation of extreme right organizations	Other News
4.	9 <sup>th</sup> of November	Discussion on the radicalization of youth in Budapest	Other News
5.	13 <sup>th</sup> of November	Anti-Semitic Facebook comment to an article shared by APF	Further Anti-Semitic Incidents
6.	14-23 <sup>rd</sup> of November	Jobbik's representatives' previous Jew-baitings were sound recorded	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
7.	14-23 <sup>rd</sup> of November	Reactions to the Jew-baitings of Jobbik	Official and Civil Responses
8.	14 <sup>th</sup> of November	Vona Gábor at Spinoza House	Community News and Responses
9.	16 <sup>th</sup> of November	According to the report of the German Public Television, Hungary became the shelter of foreign extreme right forces	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
10.	19 <sup>th</sup> of November	APF cleaned a street sign in Budapest from anti-Semitic writings	Further Anti-Semitic Incidents
11.	19 <sup>th</sup> of November	This year's March of the Living awards	Community News and Responses
12.	22 <sup>nd</sup> of November	Article on anti-Semitic, Holocaust denying Facebook posts	Further Anti-Semitic Incidents
13.	23 <sup>rd</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> of November	According to Mária Schmidt, György Donáth can have a statue	Other News
14.	27 <sup>th</sup> of November	Our Foundation celebrated its 5 <sup>th</sup> anniversary by organizing an international conference	Community News and Responses
15.	27 <sup>th</sup> of November	Foundation Bálint Hóman still operates	Official and Civil Responses
16.	29 <sup>th</sup> of November	The Vice President of Jobbik's Senior Citizens' Branch formed discriminatory opinion in her Facebook posts	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

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## 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](http://www.tev.hu/forrodrot)  
The Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany](https://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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2017 Budapest

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