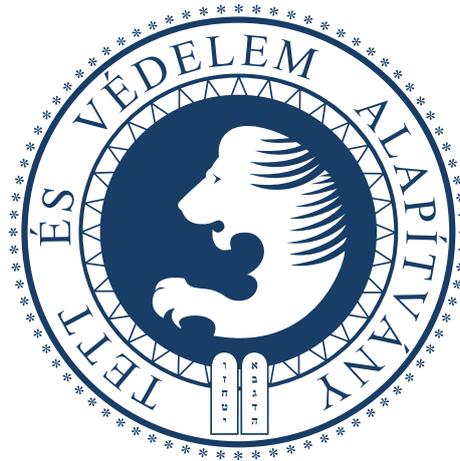


ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

APRIL 2018

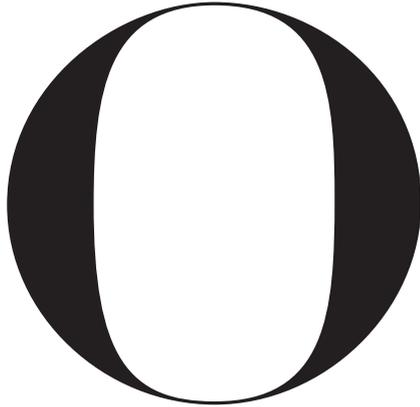


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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.

Our Foundation has found eight anti-Semitic hate crimes this month, far more than usual. Three of these are incidents of hate speech, four as vandalism and one as assault. In the first case a racist picture shared in a Facebook group was reported to our Foundation. This picture shows the Prime Minister of Hungary in the Parliament, holding up a sign with this text: “My father is Roma, my mother is Jewish; I have been trying to sell Hungary for 22 years.” We have also found out about the second case through a report made to us. The poster described the story of a taxi-driver, who was asking about the text on the wall of the Dohány Street synagogue. As he explained, he was asking his passenger, because the passenger’s *“nose, eyes and hair”* looked Jewish to him. In the third case a biker passing by the protesters in the City Park screamed *“While Hitler was around, you lot were not around, sod you.”* The cases of vandalism we reported included a Star of David scrawled on an election poster, and graffiti on a bus stop sign sending the Jews to death. The third case of vandalism was committed in Keekskemét, where a man painted totalitarian symbols (swastika) and the words “Auschwitz” and “Gestapo” on his landlord’s house and punctured the tires of one of his cars. He shot himself in the head after

this. In the fourth case, swastikas and other racist words were written on several houses and cars with red and black spray paint, in Soroksár. An assault has also been recorded this month, which is otherwise uncommon in Hungary, according to our statistics. A Canadian rabbi was assaulted in Budapest at the Árkád shopping mall. Because of exemplary action, the police arrested the attacker the following day.

This month, we have listed in the category of Further Anti-Semitic Incidents. A news site reported that their editorial staff

received an anonymous flyer during the run-up to the 2018 elections. The flyer disparages the leadership of Jobbik, claiming that Gábor Vona and Dániel Z. Kárpát are Jews, without saying much otherwise. The other incident involved an article about a CEU employee, Basil Hararah, a refugee from Gaza, who often shares anti-Semitic content on his social media page.

Our Foundation has not started any official proceedings this month, nor have we received information about progress in our ongoing cases.

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 organizations can help in setting particular cases on track for legal process, may provide legal defense for the victims, and give various other forms of aid. These organizations may also serve as intermediaries between the victims and the police (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 34–36).

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

METHODOLOGY³

The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows⁴ (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people⁵
- hate-motivated incident: an offence, also based on prejudice against a certain group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

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

also be categorized as having been committed on racist motives. In such cases the courts must pass a heavier sentence⁶ (TASZ 2012, 3–4). Apart from these, Paragraph 333 of the Criminal Code also describes the crime of denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regime. Furthermore, Paragraph 335 bans the distribution and use in wide public, or public display of the symbols of various autocratic regimes (among them the swastika, the SS insignia, arrow-cross).

Detailed descriptions of approaches to, and recent tendencies in the definition of hate incidents can be found in our May Report. The report also cites the findings of literature in this field internationally. The present report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, wherever perpetrator, target, means or message of a case suggest it. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument or other property. It is important however, that anti-Semitic motivation can only be spoken of if the perpetrator chose the given target expressly because it was assumed to belong to Jewry. In this context it is not finally relevant whether the assumption is correct: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient. In the course of monitoring, on one hand, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code (violent assault of a member of a community, incitement to hatred of a community, denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime, use of symbols of autocratic regimes), but can also include other acts mentioned in the Criminal Code, if 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 Chakraborti and Garland 2009, 4–7). These definitions can serve as important addenda to an understanding of these crimes, however they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

⁵ For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behavior would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24).

For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

⁶ The Criminal Code does not include racist motives verbatim, but for example the case of "contemptible motive" is fulfilled, if someone commits a crime out of such a motivation.

period⁷ are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

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

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

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

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

Among the monitored hate incidents there are some that are considered a part of the statistics, but there are also some that are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics.⁸

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

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics⁹:

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

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.

- 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 – APRIL 2018

Action and Protection Foundation found eight cases of anti-Semitic hate crimes in the April monitoring. Three of these are incidents of hate speech, four as vandalism and one as assault.

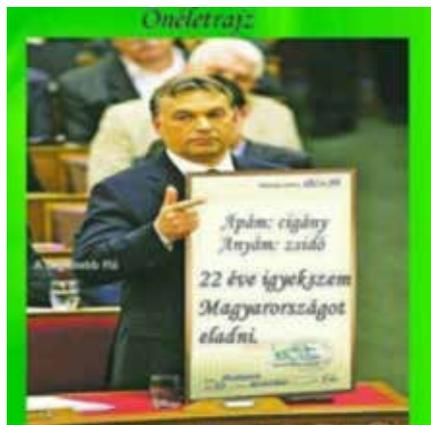
HATE SPEECH

Discriminatory pictures posted on Facebook

Sources: facebook.com;

Action and Protection;

April 4, 2018. One of our volunteers reported a discriminatory picture shared in a Facebook group named “Kalandvagyból Itthon Maradtak” (Remained in Hungary for the Adventure). The picture shows the Prime Minister of Hungary in the Parliament, holding up a sign with this text: “*My father is Roma, my mother is Jewish; I have*



Source: facebook.com / Action and Protection

been trying to sell Hungary for 22 years.” The picture, which had a message attributed to the Prime Minister with an explicitly racist motive, was reported to the service provider due to its viciously discriminatory content. The commenters unanimously condemned that one should be judged by their assumed or actual lineage. Most of these commenters found the shared content racist, tasteless and even barbaric.

Discriminatory events on Facebook

Sources: facebook.com;

Action and Protection;

April 12, 2018. One of our volunteers reported that a person shared a story from one of their friends on Facebook. “*A friend of mine took a taxi yesterday at Deák square. When the taxi was driving past Dohány Street synagogue, the driver addressed the following request to the passenger: ‘Could you translate the text on the synagogue for me?’ (Reference to*



Source: facebook.com / Action and Protection

the Hebrew text). The passenger: “*Why are you asking me?*” The taxi driver: “*You see, because your nose, your eyes and your hair look Jewish to me.*” The passenger stopped the taxi and left it without payment, to which the driver did not object. *WELL, THAT’S WHERE WE ARE NOW.*” The commenters condemned the story and pointed it out to our Foundation. Our Foundation contacted the person, who shared the story, and found out that the taxi driver was an “independent operator”. His identification is still pending.

A biker expressed his disapproval with anti-Semitic comments

Source: zoom.hu

April 26, 2018. A group of the Park Protectors (Ligetvédők) activists, protesting the reconstruction of the City Park, confronted a



Source: zoom.hu

security guard on 26 April. The Park Protectors held several demonstrations on that day. The news site zoom.hu presented a less aggressive, albeit verbally more discriminatory event, which was also recorded on video.¹¹ A middle-aged man on a bicycle, wearing a blue jacket stopped to have a look, and upon noticing the camera he started ranting “a typical Hebrew, I hate you like shit. While Hitler was around, you lot were not around, sod you. Or the homos. No homos, no kikes then.”

14

VANDALISM



Source: Action and Protection

posters displayed at Csobánka Square, Budapest District 3. One of the posters showed Márton Pataki, an Együtt candidate, with a Star of David on his forehead. The other

Scribble on election posters in Budapest

Source: Action and Protection;

April 4, 2018. One of our voluntary supporters reported that unknown persons had scrawled Stars of David and Hitler’s toothbrush

moustaches on election posters displayed at Csobánka Square, Budapest District 3. One of the posters showed Márton Pataki, an Együtt candidate, with a Star of David on his forehead. The other

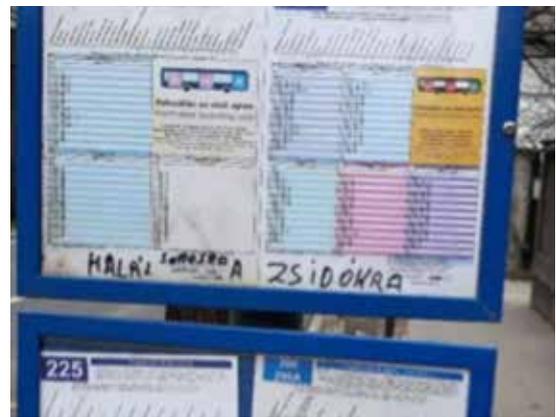
poster belonged to Jobbik: A moustache was scribbled on the face of Dániel Z. Kárpát, and “NAZI” was written underneath.

Vandalized bus stop signs

Sources: facebook.com;

Action and Protection;

April 4, 2018. Our Foundation received report of a person sharing a picture of a graffiti defacing bus stop sign on Facebook. The poster said that this bus stop was found



Source: facebook.com / Action and Protection

in Pozsonyi Street, in District 15. The unknown perpetrators wrote “Death (to Soros) to Jews” with a black marker pen.

A man drew swastikas and other texts on cars in Kecskemét

Source: hiros.hu

April 20, 2018. “A family home at Mátyás Király Bd. was the scene of a strange suicide, early Friday morning” – hiros.hu reported from Kecskemét. A man shot himself to death at the gate. The middle-aged man lived in the back of the building. He had painted totalitarian symbols (swastika) and written the words “Auschwitz” and “Gestapo” on his landlord’s house, and punctured the tires of one of his cars, before he killed himself.

¹¹ <https://zoom.hu/hir/2018/04/26/itt-a-felvetel-ahogyan-leutik-a-ligetvedot-nikoletta-agyrazkodast-szenvedett/>



Source: hiros.hu

The suicide was on 20 April, around 3 a.m. The neighbors learned of the events in the morning. The news site tried to interview the owners who had already started to clean up after the vandalism, but they would not make a statement. All they said was that they suspected it was retaliation. The police said they were investigating the details of the suicide.

Swastikas painted on several houses in Soroksár

Source: infostart.hu

April 25, 2018. Infostart.hu wrote that swastikas and other racist words were writ-

ten on several houses and cars with red and black spray paint, in Soroksár. These pictures appeared in a Facebook group. We have no further information about the developments; a complaint was filed based on the Facebook post.

ASSAULT

A Canadian rabbi assaulted in Budapest

Source: Action and Protection;

April 5, 2018. During early April in Budapest, a man attacked a Canadian rabbi at the Árkád shopping mall. Because of a quick action by our Foundation, police quickly identified and arrested the man.

The man attacked and hit the rabbi in a shop. He hit the rabbi without warning, knocked the kippah off the rabbi's head, and quickly left the shop. The rabbi's family saw the attack. The attacker ran afterwards.

The Foundation filed a police report and requested those with information about the perpetrator to come forward, on its Facebook page.

As a result of an exemplary police action, the perpetrator was apprehended the following day. The case was sent to expedited



Source: infostart.hu / facebook.com

prosecution, and he was charged with violence against a member of the community. Such felony is punishable by a prison term not exceeding five years, in line with the Hungarian Penal Code.

Thousands condemned the violence against the rabbi and expressed their sympathy with his family on social media.



Source: Action and Protection

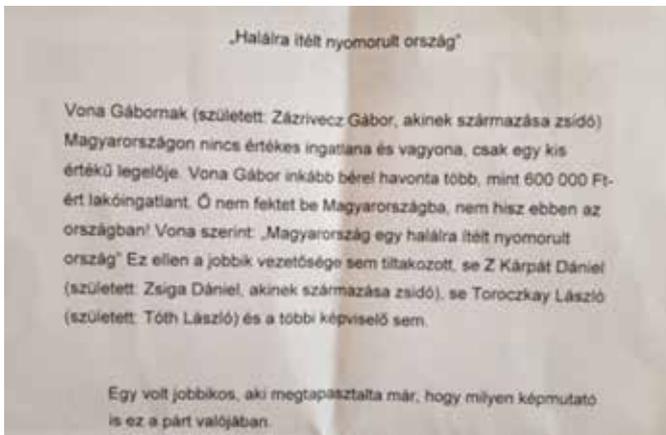
FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

In March 2018, Action and Protection Foundation found two cases of hate incidents, which are not part of the statistics because they are minor incidents or without a clear anti-Semitic motive.

Discriminatory election flyer

Source: valasz.hu

April 3, 2018. A journalist at valasz.hu reported receipt of an anonymous flyer during the run-up to the 2018 elections. The writing, which they called a “tinker paper”, attacked the Jobbik leadership, claiming that Vona and Dániel Z. Kárpát were of Jewish origin. There is no message whatsoever, as the valasz.hu journalist highlights: *“Interpreting this text is tricky. I got stuck trying to make sense of this: those are the true patriots, who have mansions in Hungary and are not Jewish Jobbik leaders.”*



Anti-Semitic CEU-staff?

Source: 888.hu

April 6, 2018. 888.hu news site reported of a certain Basil Hararah, who regularly shared anti-Semitic content on his social media page. Basil Hararah – a Palestinian refugee from Gaza 888.hu explained – works at CEU’s Open Learning Initiative. He has been known to post anti-Semitic comments and pictures and to promote Jihadist poets in his speeches and on his social media page. He regularly responds to the posts of Budapesti Szolidaritás Palesztinával (Solidarity with Palestine in Budapest) Facebook group. He has been noted to like a speech by Joseph Massad: the Palestinian professor, invited to Hungary by CEU in 2015, declared that the Jewish state was a colonial and racist project. *“The only conclusion we can come to is that Hararah agrees with these anti-Semitic views”* – 888.hu wrote.

A quick search brought up Hararah’s name in several contexts, 888.hu added. In an article of the periodical Szombat last year, at a demonstration in 2016, Hararah *“accused Israel of a senseless murder of Palestinian children in his very first sentence. A poem by Mahmoud Darwish, Palestinian poet was recited at this event. The poet is known to eat Jews in one of his pieces: ‘the flesh of the usurpers (i.e. the Israelis) will be my food’.* It does not take long to find anti-Semitic

content on Hararah’s Facebook page: take for example a news item in Arabic, where Erdogan, the Turkish head of state called ‘the Jews’ ‘liars’, was shared without any comment” – 888.hu quoted Szombat.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

*Benjamin Netanyahu invited
Viktor Orbán for a visit after the elections*
Source: MTI (Hungarian News Agency);

April 9, 2018. Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu called Viktor Orbán on the phone to congratulate on his re-election – MTI quoted a report in the Israeli press. Netanyahu extended an invitation to Viktor Orbán for an official visit to be held soon.

The Israeli Prime Minister paid an official visit to Hungary last July, which made him the first Israeli head of government to come to Budapest after several decades. Economic and political relations have been quite lively between the two countries since then. Israel finds Hungary an especially important partner, the home of the largest Jewish community in Central and Eastern Europe.

*Kálmán Szalai received
the Sándor Scheiber Award in 2018.*
Sources: Action and Protection;
kormany.hu

April 11, 2018. Zoltán Balog, Minister of Human Resources appointed Miklós Soltész, Minister of State for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations to



Source: kormany.hu

present the 2018 Sándor Scheiber Award. The award, prestigious in the life of the Hungarian Jewish community, was given this year to Kálmán Szalai, secretary of Action and Protection Foundation, to recog-

nize his outstanding efforts for the benefit of the Jewish community and in the fight against anti-Semitism.

Miklós Soltész emphasized at the award ceremony, that the Jewish community enjoys total security in Hungary as a result of the positive and firm government measures of the past few years. The Minister of State added that there is zero tolerance against anti-Semitism, the government introduced a day of memorial for the Holocaust victims and introduced the category of Holocaust denial in the penal code.

Laudation was given by Baruch Oberlander, member of the Sándor Scheiber Award selection board, rabbi of the Shas Chevra Lubavitch Synagogue and head of the Pest Yeshiva, Jewish Education Centre. Rabbi Oberlander highlighted Mr. Szalai's extensive activities in education and education management, his several presentations and trainings to sensitize and inform secondary and university students, his TV-appearances and parts taken in public dialogues and debates. He has done a great deal in the struggle against hate speech, and he has also raised his voice against manifestations threatening members of the mainstream society as well as the Jews. He is an important personality in the network of international and Hungarian organizations, which provide information exchange and knowledge transfer.

Kálmán Szalai said in his response that members of the Hungarian Jewry are proud of their culture, history, and religion as well as they are true patriots, constructive members of the nation, who wish to live in this country with their heads held high. Regular Holocaust denial and decades of Holocaust repudiation have almost completely disappeared from public discourse, which certainly required active partners. *"...some causes require that we stand up and join our forces to be effective, and such consensus will soon bring about the desired era, when the religious organizations of the Hungarian Jewish*

community will work together to fulfill the mission of the Action and Protection Foundation” the secretary of the Foundation said.

Attila Fülöp, Deputy Minister of State for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations of the Ministry of Human Resources and several leaders and representatives of the Hungarian Jewish cultural and public life were present at the award ceremony.

*Memorial event for the rescuers
at the Páva St. Holocaust Memorial Centre*
Source: MTI

April 14, 2018. Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem has been researching the history of non-Jews rescuing Jews in the Shoah since 1953 and has been awarding The Righteous Among the Nations prize (chasis umot ha’olam in Hebrew) since 1963. One needs to fulfil a set of requirements to qualify for the prize, which will only be awarded to those rescuers, who did not accept remuneration for their help. Three posthumous prizes were handed over at this event.

Additional decorations were given to descendants of the rescuers at the Páva St. Holocaust Memorial Centre. Historian Szabolcs Szita, director of the Holocaust Memorial Centre, opened the award ceremony. He said that World War II had brought everyone in Europe at crossroads. In the zeitgeist of anti-Semitism many were still able to recognize the danger. *“Several great thinkers cried out: Beware Europe! Blessed is their memory; their acts of sacrifice are important for all of us.”* *“They were the righteous and they forever remained righteous”*, the director added.

Levente Magyar, Parliamentary Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade spoke next. He said, *“every Hungarian family; believing in the Christian and civil values, feels profound pain in their hearts over the loss of our Jewish compatriots.”* Mr Magyar added that while the government shared the pain, it was also the government’s duty to protect the Jewish community. This protection is mainly targeted against an *“external danger”*, which threatens the Jewish communities in several European countries today. *“The rampant*

Islamic anti-Semitism has not, may not and will not reach the Hungarian Jews, thanks to the strong electoral mandate we received last Sunday,” Magyar added.

Yossi Amrani, Israel’s ambassador to Hungary was the third speaker. He said, the 1930’s had been the *“dawn of fascism and anti-Semitism”*, when the Germans and their *“numerous collaborators”* attempted to annihilate the Jews. Rescuers were rare, which makes those few even more precious. Amrani emphasized that Budapest, once the scene of murders and forced marches, can now boast of a blossoming Jewish community and active synagogues. He contrasted the goal of a better future for the next generations, a world free from discrimination and hatred with the crisis of humanity in the twenty-first century. The fate of the refugees, the suffering of the Syrians from the civil war and their own government’s attack *“remind us of our own moral obligations and shortcomings”*. Amrani explained that the Holocaust had been a genocide by the Germans and their henchmen, with an unprecedented historic significance that compares to nothing else.

The event closed with the Hungarian and the Israeli anthems. Until January 1, 2015, 25,685 persons had been decorated as Righteous Among the Nations, 823 of them Hungarian citizens. The database of Hungarian rescuers is also available online.

Holocaust Memorial Day in Hungary

Sources: MTI; origo.hu; index.hu;

kormany.hu; mandiner.hu; nepszava.hu

April 15-16, 2018. Hungary has been commemorating the Holocaust victims on April 16 every year since 2001. The country started herding the Jews into ghettos on this day in 1944. On an initiative from Zoltán Pokorni, then Minister of Education, secondary schools commemorated Holocaust victims for the first time in an organized form on April 16, 2001, while the Parliament held a memorial session on April 17.

The Prime Minister’s Office issued a statement for the day of memorial, pointing out that commemoration, understanding

the crimes of the past and learning from it are moral duties for the generations to come as well. It added that the violent religious intolerance “had grown out of hand” because of Brussel’s botched immigration policy. *“There is only one way possible against the painfully manifest anti-Semitic symptoms: Europe needs to return to its original values, nurtured on Judeo-Christian traditions (...). The Hungarian government was aware of this responsibility; when they made the decisions, which have resulted in Hungary being one of the safest countries in Europe and the world, where no one needs to fear discrimination or physical abuse because of their religion, origin or creed.”* Finally, the statement of the Prime Minister’s Office requested all to choose solidarity and active love, promoting the acceptance of one another, *“to be able to heal the wounds, to turn the evil around, to create peace in times of discontent, to build in times of destruction.”*

Fidesz and KDNP, the two government parties also issued statements in this spirit. The former expressed that they renounced all forms of racism and anti-Semitism. *“The Fidesz-government will continue to do everything in its power to prevent anyone’s discrimination on ethnic or religious grounds.”* KDNP declared, *“we have a dual task on this day: we need to remember, and we need to remind. We need to bow our heads to the crowds of victims, and fight with all of our might to make sure that no dictatorship or ideology may cripple the lives of our compatriots and families. We need faith and actions to provide a peaceful, free and successful future for all in Hungary.”*

LMP also issued a commemorative statement: *“Beyond homage we need to face the historic crimes and we need to say even today: never again!”* LMP added they were committed to make sure *“there are no second-class citizens in Hungary”*, and that the diversity of cultures and traditions were an organic part of the Hungarian national culture.

MSZP declared that beside tribute to the victims we needed to remember the results of hate mongering, the stigmatization, exclusion and listing of our compatriots.

Democratic Coalition warned that ghettoization had been preceded by sizing people up to decide who was *“our kind”* and

who was *“their kind”*. They added *“we have already gone too far along the way, which leads to the ghettos, the cattle cars and the extermination camps.”*

Our media observer has not reported of any official communication from **Jobbik** or any statement by their politicians on this day – our research since 2013 has noted that Jobbik has been the only party never responding to the March of the Living.

The Holocaust Memorial Centre in Páva St. was also opened on the Memorial Day, on April 15, 2004. Speeches were held by Bence Rétvári, Parliamentary Secretary of State for the Ministry of Human Resources, Yossi Amrani, Israel’s Ambassador to Budapest and Andor Grósz, President of the Board of the Holocaust Documentation and Memorial Centre Public Fund.

The Israeli ambassador explained to the audience that we needed to fight anti-Semitism. *“We are united in remembrance and introspection. We are also united in our moral commitments, as we are equally united in our constant fight against anti-Semitism. I call upon Hungary’s new government to apply the internationally approved guidelines in the fight against anti-Semitism, which has long been overdue. However, in Hungary we may witness a revival of Jewish culture and religion, as life defeats destruction”*, he added. Bence Rétvári expressed his hope that the government will continue to be able to protect Jewish communities against both the old and the new forms of anti-Semitism. He



Source: MTI

added, *“in recent years, not only words have been spoken against anti-Semitism, but actions have taken place, and as a result, anti-Semitism has been losing ground in the public discourse in Hungary.”*

Andor Grósz pointed out: Jews suffered an inconceivable tragedy in the Shoah, and the entire Hungarian nation suffered similarly inconceivable loss. *“When we invoke the memory the hundreds of names of famous persons, we must also invoke hundreds of thousands of everyday people: engineers, physicians,*



Source: MTI

artisans and factory workers”, he added.

At the end, the participants recited the Kaddish, lit candles and placed stones at the victims’ memorial wall.

Candles were also lit at the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial, while the House of Terror Museum held a memorial event with concert. The traditional March of the Living walk will be held this year on May 13, on Victory Day.

*Yossi Amrani’s interview
in the weekly magazine 168 óra
Source: 168ora.hu*

April 25, 2018. Yossi Amrani, Israel’s ambassador to Budapest gave an interview to 168 óra. The ambassador made low-key statements about Hungary’s current political challenges. When asked about the border fence he said he did not know the best way to safety, but that was what he would vote for. He added, he believed in an open society as long as it is no threat to the people, to *“the peoples’ own essence and identity.”*

He believed Israel and Hungary maintained good relations with one another. *“Prime Minister Netanyahu considers himself one of Viktor Orbán’s friends, and we must add that Mr. Orbán also treats Netanyahu as one. Our booming good relations are beneficial for both countries, I believe. These two politicians share a similar view of the world.”* In response to a question he added, he thought *“both countries were entitled to observe and control external impacts.”* Transparency is important in matters with national security implications – for instance in the case of NGO financing. At the end of the interview Mr. Amrani answered questions about Israel celebrating 70 years of its existence. *“Never mind seventy years, Israel is still very young as a state: vibrant, active and energetic.”* He added, he had been born in a country *“without any actual economy, living on international support.”* However, it has changed. Israel is ranked among the first twenty best performing nations with a continuously growing GDP, *“it is the country of startups, creating cutting edge solutions for cameras, computers, mobile phones and nanotechnology: Israel is the country of knowledge economy.”* Finally, he said he had no doubts about *“Jewish sovereignty or the existence of the state of Israel. And no one else should have doubts either.”*



Source: 168ora.hu

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Antal Rogán: “We refuse anti-Semitism as a principle.”

Source: pestisracok.hu

April 19, 2018. Pestisracok.hu interviewed Antal Rogán. The Head of the Prime Minister’s Cabinet Office talked about George Soros, the refugees, the campaign, Jobbik, Mazsihisz, Magyar Nemzet, Lajos Simicska and about the time the composition of the new government might be revealed.

He also mentioned Jobbik, where Márton Gyöngyösi might become the Co-President, known for his proposal earlier to list the MP’s of Jewish origin. However, a local Mazsihisz (Association of the Hungarian Jewish Communities) leader promoted Jobbik during the election campaign. *“I personally represented Fidesz with my speech at a demonstration in 2012, which protested against Márton Gyöngyösi’s proposal to list our Jewish compatriots”,* the minister said,

“The fight against anti-Semitism remains a tactical issue for the liberals, it seems. Those most vocal against Jobbik due to Gyöngyösi in 2012, are now equally vocal in encouraging people to vote for Jobbik in certain constituencies. It became clear in 2018, that fight against anti-Semitism remains secondary for Mazsihisz as well. Mazsihisz bravely teams up with anti-Semites for some Fidesz-bashing. The events at Hódmezővásárhely against Minister Lázár was the best example for this,” Rogán explained. He also emphasized, that *“our Jewish compatriots may always rely on the government’s protection, as we refuse anti-Semitism as a principle, and we never mix with anti-Semitic parties and politicians.”*

Later the Mazsihisz leadership took a stand against the statement made by the head of the Hódmezővásárhely Jewish community.

Péter Harrach: “Jews are safe in Hungary”

Sources: gondola.hu; echotv.hu

April 19, 2018. *“The events in France or Germany; where representatives of a violent ideology attacked the inhabitants due to their religion or origin, may not be repeated here.”* Péter Harrach claimed in Napi aktuális, a news program in ECHO TV.

The Christian Democratic politician added, that Hungary was unjustly blamed for anti-Semitism. *“The Jews and everyone else are safe in Hungary”,* the politician pointed out, adding that the safe image of the country was becoming increasingly clear.

Harrach added that in view of the changes of the past years, Hungary was not alone any more, as the V4 countries, Austria and Italy shared similar views on immigration. Citizens of several other countries have also changed their minds. He believed that views on Hungary had changed and would continue to improve.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

*Foreign Affairs Director of Likud,
Eli Hazan considers Jobbik an acute threat*
Sources: hvg.hu; likudnik.co.il

April 8, 2018. “*Today’s election in Hungary is historic: unless Viktor Orbán and his government wins, the country might head down the path of a cruel, institutionalized anti-Semitism*” the Foreign Affairs Director of Israel’s conservative government party wrote on their official site. Not only the Hungarian Jews, but Israel and everyone else, opposed to anti-Semitism, benefited from a Fidesz victory, Eli Hazan said.

A few years ago, he listed examples to show the threat in Jobbik’s anti-Semitic rhetoric. He added that a cooperation between the far right and the left would be alarming, and mentioned Gergely Kulcsár, István Apáti and Márton Gyöngyösi. He thinks Jobbik has only changed on the surface, which is nothing more than a political move, while the party leadership, the membership and the voters remain unchanged. He wishes to remind the mainly left-wing Jewish voters that in the early 1930’s liberal forces helped Hitler come into power.

Hungarian elections in the international press
Sources: hvg.hu; napi.hu; index.hu;
gondola.hu/magyaridok.hu; klubradio.hu

April 8-9, 2018. Several international papers published analysis and opinion about the Hungarian elections. Most highlighted the Fidesz victory and gave a gloomy forecast in terms of anti-Semitism.

Before the election results came through, the British **Guardian** had written about the Hungarian democracy’s wretched condition. Owen Jones gave account of the Soros-campaign, which he found was covert anti-Semitic hate mongering. He recalled the Russian and Turkish illiberal democra-

cies, where political parties, elections and a variety of newspapers were available, while life without fear, the true essence of democracy was already missing.

The **Financial Times** editorial wrote about “*a rancorous campaign*”, which had built on a poisonous mix of anti-Islamic and anti-immigration rhetoric, wrapping it all in a poorly disguised anti-Semitic conspiracy theory, without offering any source criticism for such allegations.

“*What to do with Orbán? EU centre-right ponders*” went the headline of EUobserver, the Union’s news site edited in Brussels. The European Parliament’s largest group, “*the European People’s Party is still wondering whether to digest or spit out Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán’s Fidesz party*.” The EPP Group put this on the agenda, and several MEPs criticized the Fidesz campaign at the debate, which they found heavy with “*anti-Semitic overtones*”.

*LIBE presented a condemning
special report on Hungary*

Sources: kormany.hu; hirado.hu;
hirtv.hu; origo.hu; hvg.hu

April 26-29, 2018. Standing Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament presented the Sargentini report, a draft special report on Hungary. It was submitted for debate on 26 April, where the exchange of opinions became passionate. The report lists 12 areas, where they believe the condition of Hungarian democracy is problematic. Heinz K. Becker, member of the EP Group said in the debate that the Soros-campaign had built on anti-Semitic rhetoric, which was disturbing for not only the Hungarian Jewish community.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Péter Szijjártó said the report was a “*collection of outrageous lies*”. In response to the al-

leged anti-Semitism, the Minister emphatically refused and resented the criticism in the draft report. He highlighted, it was not in Budapest, where Jewish youth were assaulted in the streets and elderly Jewish persons were attacked in their own homes.

The Hungarian government sent an itemized refutation of the report's allegations to the members of the LIBE group. LIBE will vote on the report in June and submit it to the EP Plenary in the autumn.

OTHER NEWS

Some of the opposition press is biased against Israel and gives a selective account on Middle East events and anti-Semitic incidents in Western Europe
Source: Action and Protection

April 5, 2018. A peculiar shift is taking place in the Hungarian media: our Foundation finds that Mércé, index.hu and 444.hu are biased against Israel and give a selective account on Middle East events and anti-Semitic incidents in Western Europe.



Source: Action and Protection

Mércé has recently started sharing anti-Israeli news, although the process started earlier. It even questioned the right of Israel to be a Jewish state and of an Israeli politician to find teachings and draw conclusions from the Holocaust. The site was more understanding about Ahd Tamimi, convicted in Israel for assaulting a soldier.

Tamimi, whose family members had taken part in murderous terror attacks, and

who had also spoken out to kill Israelis, was introduced simply as a 16 year-old teenager at Mércé. The site has recently blamed Israel for annexing Arabic land and identified terrorists shot in the protesting Palestinian crowds simply as "demonstrators", even though at least half of the Arabs who were shot served in armed jihadist organizations, according to official information.

Similar problems were noted with two bigger and well-known opposition portal, index.hu and 444.hu. These portals rarely analyses the potential anti-Semitism of the immigrants from the third world or the European Muslim communities. The case of Mireille Knoll, a Holocaust-survivor in Paris, is an extreme example, who was stabbed and then set alight March 23 in Paris.

Her grandchild posted in Hebrew on Facebook that the perpetrator was Ms. Knoll's Muslim neighbor. Although most of the Hungarian media reported this, their ranks including Magyar Idők, 888.hu but even the opposition's 24.hu and Népszava, 444.hu and index.hu have ignored this ever since the tragedy. Nor did these sites report of the ten thousand people demonstrating in Paris against anti-Semitism, after Ms. Knoll's murder.

It gives the impression that some of the Hungarian opposition media have started to follow Western European patterns when reporting about Israel and the Jews. The space formerly provided to report on anti-Semitic incidents has been on the increase, while anti-Israeli attacks are gaining momentum.

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

Our Foundation has not started any official proceedings this month, nor have we received information about the progress of our ongoing cases.

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. | 3 rd of April | Discriminatory election flyer | Further Hate Incidents |
| 2. | 4 th of April | Discriminatory pictures posted on Facebook | Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 3. | 4 th of April | Scribble on election posters in Budapest | Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism |
| 4. | 4 th of April | Vandalized bus stop signs | Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism |
| 5. | 5 th of April | A Canadian rabbi assaulted in Budapest | Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Assault |
| 6. | 5 th of April | Some of the opposition press is biased against Israel and gives a selective account on Middle East events and anti-Semitic incidents in Western Europe | Other News |
| 7. | 6 th of April | Anti-Semitic CEU-staff? | Further Hate Incidents |
| 8. | 8 th of April | Foreign Affairs Director of Likud, Eli Hazan considers Jobbik an acute threat | News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary |
| 9. | 8-9 th of April | Hungarian elections in the international press | News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary |
| 10. | 9 th of April | Benjamin Netanyahu invited Viktor Orbán for a visit after the elections | Community News and Responses |
| 11. | 11 th of April | Kálmán Szalai received the Sándor Scheiber Award in 2018. | Community News and Responses |
| 12. | 12 th of April | Discriminatory events on Facebook | Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 13. | 14 th of April | Memorial event for the rescuers at the Páva St. Holocaust Memorial Centre | Community News and Responses |
| 14. | 15-16 th of April | Holocaust Memorial Day in Hungary | Community News and Responses |
| 15. | 19 th of April | Antal Rogán: "We refuse anti-Semitism as a principle." | Official and Civil Responses |
| 16. | 19 th of April | Péter Harrach: "Jews are safe in Hungary" | Official and Civil Responses |

| No. | Date | Incident | Category |
|-----|------------------------------|--|--|
| 17. | 20 th of April | A man drew swastikas and other texts on cars in Kecskemét | Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism |
| 18. | 25 th of April | Swastikas painted on several houses in Soroksár | Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism |
| 19. | 25 th of April | Yossi Amrani’s interview in the weekly magazine 168 óra | Community News and Responses |
| 20. | 26 th of April | A biker expressed his disapproval with anti-Semitic comments | Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 21 | 26-29 th of April | LIBE presented a condemning special report on 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

Contact details for Action and Protection Foundation
Address: Baross utca 61, 1082 Budapest, HUNGARY
Phone: +36 1 267 57 54
+36 30 207 5130
<http://www.tev.hu>
info@tev.hu

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CONTRIBUTORS AND PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Publisher: Brussels Institute Nonprofit Ltd.
Kálmán Szalai, Executive Director

Author: Dr. Dániel Róna, political scientist,
professor of Corvinus University

Editors: Krisztián Nádasi, research scholar, head of the Incident
Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Dr. Kristóf Bodó, legal advocate, legal representative
of Action and Protection Foundation and the Brussels Institute
Zoltán Tatai, research scholar, member of the
Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Dr. Krisztina Szegő, lawyer
Anna Elődi, translator

Contributors: Dániel Bodnár, philosopher, Chairman of the
Action and Protection Foundation Board of Trustees
Andrew Srulewitch, Director, Anti Defamation League

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ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

1052 Budapest, Baross utca 61.
+36 1 267 57 54, +36 30 207 5130
<http://www.tev.hu>
info@tev.hu

