ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS REPORT

JANUARY 2018

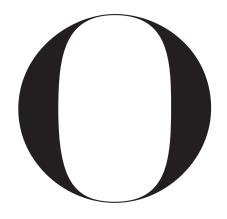


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 of World War II, so it is also Holocaust Reon anti-Semitic acts and other hate crimes are collected and analyzed. Results of the monitoring are published, monthly by the three legal actions in January. In the first 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 review proceedings at the Chief Prosecuhate-motivated acts are regarded as crimitor's Office of Csongrád County for illegal nal. Nevertheless, a record of both types of use of the name "Bálint Hóman Associahate incidents is necessary in order to gain a tion". 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 one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime during January monitoring. APF classified the case as vandalism. Unknown individuals painted a swastika on the wall of a shop in Székesfehérvár.

One new item is included in "Further hate incidents" this month. A priest planned to celebrate a mass for Miklós Horthy and his daughter-in-law at Nagyboldogaszony F plébánia Church on January 23. It is the 73rd anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp at the end membrance Day.

Action and Protection Foundation had case, we reported a business, which calls itself the Holocaust waiter.

In the second case, the Court suspended our case from May 2013 for denying the Holocaust (denial of crimes committed by the national socialist regime) because the offender remains unidentified.

In the third case, APF initiated judicial

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

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-

The phenomenon of anti-Semitism is by se, exclusion, and the ignorance in which no means new to Hungary. The hate speech encountered earlier has however been es 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

to provide as comprehensive an overview of the scale of anti-Semitism in Hungary as 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 are many victims who are not clear about to society itself. It is important that in the the applicable legal regulations. Victims course of such crimes the victims are the may feel shame, or fear that one of their target of attacks because of some unchangeable characteristic, and for this reason may categorizations of the crimes are also frewell feel more defenseless. The victims are quent, where official authorities do not esoften afraid that they may again become tablish the hate-crime motivation. It is civil victims of further atrocities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents can easily lead problems. Cooperation with state organs-

General opinion on, and treatment of Hun- to a secondary victimization of the targetgarian anti-Semitism is often unusually ex- ed person. This type of criminal act also treme. Voices are heard on the one hand, has a strong effect on the group to which that belittle the importance of such offenses the victim belongs. The victims of such and manifestations. On the other hand, on crimes are often interchangeable, because occasion it may be the case that in relation in countless cases the attack does not target to one-off incidents the image registered is a certain individual, but anyone who, in the of a public life deluged by such incidents. given instance, is a member of the group Knowledge of the actual situation is an in- under attack. In the event, members of the dispensable condition for treatment of the group also become involved emotionally, real problems, which is why Action and might live in fear of the future when Protection Foundation considers it its duty they themselves may become the target of such prejudice-motivated crimes. This is especially true of groups, which have been possible. Monitoring of anti-Semitic hate exposed to prejudice for a long time. There crimes and incidents1 is one of the tools of is no need to justify at length that Jewry achieving this objective. The monitoring belongs among such groups. These crimes results are published by the Foundation on 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 concealed traits will be exposed. Lesser organizations that can help remedy these such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor's office—may be particularly beneficial.² Reports prepared by civil organizations can be expedient in alerting the official authorities to hate motivated crimes in the country. Long-term tendencies can be outlined on the basis of the collected data. Civil organ-

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

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/DDIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealine 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. In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS - **JANUARY 2018**

tified one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime during January monitoring. APF classified the case as vandalism.

VANDALISM

Individuals painted a totalitarian symbol on a wall in Székesfehérvár Source: feol.hu

24 January 2018 Someone painted totalitarian symbols on a building on Széchenyi Street in Székesfehérvár (a swastika and a

Action and Protection Foundation iden- Hungarian-Arrow Cross symbol — an arrow of four directions) pointing at the Chinese store next door.

> "Normally, the Police launch an investigation for offence or infringements of the rules, but circumstances need to be clarified in all cases. If the Police are informed about an action that falls under their jurisdiction, the Police can launch the process without a file or a report.

> The police officers in Székesfehérvár will check the gathered information and will take necessary steps, said the police representative."



Source: feol.hu

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During monitoring activity for January 2018, Action and Protection Foundation identified two incidents that are not included in the statistics because some circumstances in the cases are unclear — the offenders remained unidentified, as we pointed it out in the methodological chapter.

A commemorating mass planned for Horthy on the Holocaust Remembrance Day Source: mandiner.hu; atv.hu; szombat.org; szemlelk.blog.hu; kormany.hu; algemeiner.com, magyarhirlap.hu

24-25 January 2018 The Catholic Church planned a mass with a remembrance of Miklós Horthy and his daughter-in-law (maiden name: Ilona Edelsheim-Gyulai) on January 27 at Nagyboldogasszony Church in Budapest. On the same day, we commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp, on Holocaust Remembrance Day. The United Nations declared this day International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005.

The timing and the content of the mass created a storm of controversy. Among others, Sándor Lezsák, Vice-President of the Parliament, Péter Boros, former prime minister and Sándor Szakály from Veritas Institute planned to participate at the mass.

Several news portals point out that the organizers originally planned the mass for Horthy's 150th and his daughter-in-laws 100th birthdays. January 27 is not the birthday of either of them; the Governor was born on June 18 and the widow of his son was born on January 14. According to the newspaper "Saturday", the "timing of the Holy mass is especially tasteless for a politician who contributed to the exclusion of 500,000 Hungarian Jews from society. It is hard to decide if it is scandalous thoughtlessness or a provocative step before the na-

tional elections with a gesture to those who feel nostalgia for Governor Horthy."

After the story was published, ATV Channel contacted the invited public figures. Sándor Lezsák said he will be there and he will deliver a speech on January 27. Péter Boross said the timing is "incredibly disturbing". He said that when the organizers invited him to the mass four months ago, Holocaust Remembrance Day was not on his mind yet. He added he will probably go to the mass and will start his speech by discussing the German occupation in 1944, the deportation of the Jews and the victims of the Holocaust. Then, he will talk about the decision of Horthy that led to the end of the deportation of the Jews. Magyar Nemzet reached out to Péter Zachar, head of the organizers, but he was unavailable.

A day later, Zoltán Osztie, head of the church made a step back. As he said, "I checked which Saturdays were available on the calendars. This weekend seemed to be the closest to the death of Miklós Horthy; we always schedule the commemoration according to this principle. We did not pay attention to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. We can be blamed for that but the two commemorations cannot be contrasted. Nevertheless, we finally decided to cancel both the commemoration and the Holy Mass."

Csaba Latorcai, deputy State Secretary for priority social affairs, said at the opening of the March of the Living: "Although for the past twenty years, there has always been a Holy Mass for Miklós Horthy, now this legacy stops because of International Holocaust Remembrance Day."

After the cancellation of the event, Sándor Lezsák published his speech. He portrayed Governor Horthy as a victim of politically driven character attacks. In his speech, he supported the activities of Horthy. Lezsák thinks Horthy was "brave" and "exemplary" to the Jews. "The governorm of the statement of the supported that the support of the support

nor was brave enough to defend our fellow compatriots and the Jews of Budapest with weapons, an action which was exemplary in Europe. As long as he could, he resisted the claims of Hitler for the good of the Jews. Therefore, it is not a scandal but it is rather a natural gesture to commemorate the governor of Hungary and his family on the Remembrance Day of the terrible and inhuman Holocaust. Our Jewish fellow compatriots can learn from those fellow Jewish compatriots who acknowledge the brave decisions of Governor Miklos Horthy and who communicate this in many different ways."

The American based Algemeiner Journal also reported on this incident. APF publishes the political and civil responses, including the reactions of Jewish executives in the "Official and Civil Responses" chapter of this report.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Commemorations on the anniversary of the liberation of the ghetto in Budapest Source: MTI; hirtv.hu; vs.hu; infostart.hu

18 January 2018 Jewish organizations held commemorations on the 73rd anniversary of the liberation of the Budapest ghetto. Participants lit candles at the remembrance wall of the ghetto on Dohány Street. The organizer was the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH). "When discrimination and hatred exist in society, the martyrs killed in the Holocaust have an important message for the present", said Oberlander Báruch, the Hungarian head of the Orthodox Rabbinate of Budapest and of Chábád Lubavics. "The former Budapest ghetto used to be the island of discrimination, where many victims were deported or killed but thanks to the rescuers, lots of Jews were saved. In Hungary, there were many similar islands. The ghettos in the countryside, the brickworks, the labor camps from where there was no escape", said János Schiffer, the President of the National Association of the Persecuted People by the Nazi. "It is hard to think back to that era. It is difficult because we lived under permanent insecurity. We could have been shot any time in the street by an Arrow Cross Policeman or a youngster. There was nowhere to escape to.", said one of the survivors, György Sándor. He added that the Budapest ghetto consisted of 162 houses where 70,000 people lived together; there were 14 people in one apartment on average.

László Győrfi, the Vice President of EMIH said that the objective of the organization is to show an authentic life and an authentic Jewish future for the young generation. The remembrance wall of the ghetto is the wall of Bét Menáchem Elementary School where hundreds of young people learn every day.

At the event, Oberlander said a prayer, and then the invited guests including Gábor Bagdy, deputy chief mayor; Zsófia Hassay, mayor of Terézváros; Zsolt Vattamány, mayor of Erzsébetváros, members of the diplomatic corps and the students of the



Source: MTI

city schools lit memorial candles. After the event, there was a discussion at Bét Menáchem Elementary School's auditorium with Klára Molnár Andorné Auschwitz Holocaust survivor and Gábor Gellért ghetto survivor.

There was a memorial ceremony in the Synagogue of Dohány Street where István Tarlós chief mayor gave a speech. He said, "everyone needs to face the past and take a look at the events objectively, this is how the pressure can ease up on the collective conscience of society. The guilty plea is not the sign of weakness of society, community or individuals but the opportunity to forgive, to process and to draw conclusions." He reminded "Several thousands of innocent people suffered and died at the ghetto in Budapest. The history of the Hungarian Jews was always inseparable from the his-



Source: MTI

tory of the Hungarians. Europe's last and largest ghetto was in Budapest. Its story is tragic, but due to the positive turn in history, the massive elimination of the inhabitants was no longer possible."

At the beginning of the memorial ceremony, the participants held up signs #weremember; #emlékezzünk, joining the social media campaign of the Jewish World Congress.

Some politicians also participated at the event including Csaba Latorcai Deputy State Secretary for Priority Social Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office, Ferenc Gyurcsány former Prime Minister, leader of DK. Gábor Fodor, President of the Hungarian Liberal Party and several diplomats accredited to Budapest. The Budapest City Ghetto, isolated with a wooden fence from the other parts of the city, consisted of 162 houses giving shelter to 70,000 people. Authorities opened the ghetto on January 17, 1945.

Exhibition on the history of the March of the Living Source: kormany.hu

25 January 2018 "The March of the Living represents cohesion and reminds us of the victims of the Holocaust", said Csaba Latorcai in Budapest at Dohány Street Synagogue's cemetery, at the exhibition opening. The exhibition presents the organization's thirty years. The Deputy State Secretary for Priority Social Affairs emphasized that the participation at the March of the Living "means the expression of solidarity, dialogue, patience and tribute." He added that the Holocaust is the greatest tragedy of Hungarian Jews and Hungarian society; we all have to keep this memory alive. The Deputy State Secretary announced the cancellation of the commemorating mess dedicated to Horthy, pre-scheduled January 27.

Aharon Tamir, director of the international organization of the March of the Living said the 64-pieces photo exhibition arrived to Budapest from Poland where 2,500,000 people saw it during two and a half years. He stressed each photo reminds us of the mission of the organization. He

said the Hungarian March of the Living is one of the most important and most active player of the international movement. There is a great need for their work, they remind people where the hatred leads to, "unfortunately anti-Semitic movements and incidents are still present in the region", said Aharon Tamir.

The President of the Jewish Agency visited Hungary
Source: orientpress.hu

31 January 2018 The European representatives of Szochnut Jewish Agency met in Budapest during the last days of January. The President of the organization, Natan Sharansky participated at the event. The Israeli politician, also known for his work in the field of human rights, visited Hungary three years ago when he inaugurated the shared office of the Jewish Agency and Action and Protection Foundation. The positive feedback of the visit of Benjamin Netanyahu to Hungary and the good Is-



Source: orientpress.hu / Jewish Agency

raeli-Hungarian relations on governmental level influenced the choice of the venue for this annual meeting. Natan Sharansky paid a courtesy visit to Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén. Alex Katz, the Central-Eastern European regional director of the Jewish Agency, Slomó Köves executive rabbi of The Youth Organisation of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) and Gábor Tóth, chief of staff at EMIH also participated at the meeting.

The participants of the meeting welcomed the support of Hungary in relation to Israel and the United States in the EU and UN. (Hungary abstained from voting on the UN decision to condemn the US for relocating the US Embassy to Jerusalem.) The participants agreed that Israel and Hungary are important allies. He reported Hungarians are much less likely to immigrate to Israel than French people, which also means that Jewish communities in Hungary are safer. According to the famous human rights activist, there is a positive tendency in Hungary; more and more people have the courage to identify themselves as Jews. Zsolt Semjén

thanked EMIH and Slomó Köves, executive rabbi, for creating the renaissance of Jewish life and acting as a bridge between Israel and Hungary by doing community work.

Natan Sharansky hosted the executive leaders of the Hungarian Jewish organizations. At this short meeting were the representatives of Mazsihisz, the Hungarian Zionist Alliance and the Secretary of Action and Protection Foundation. The participants talked about questions of educational and cultural life of Jewish communities, the opportunities of infrastructure development of Jewish community life and community responses to anti-Semitism.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Tamás Varga-Bíró would have been permanent guests of Echo TV's broadcast Source: 444.hu; mno.hu; pestisracok.hu; Action and Protection

3-4 January 2018 444.hu reported that one of the returning guests of Echo TV's

weekly broadcast, "Hard core" is Tamás Varga-Bíró. Right now, he is a journalist at Pesti Srácok, but he used to be the creative writer of Irigy Hónaljmirigy and Bumeráng. Later he became the face of the radical, nationalist Jobbik party. According to Jobbik, he left the party several years ago and he supported Magyar Hajnal in 2014. Several politicians of Jobbik filed a charge against him for making false statements. 444.hu and Magyar Nemzet compiled a report of his anti-Semitic activities.

In 2010, he made a video about Viktor Orbán and Fidesz, Jew baiting at the government party.

In 2011, he performed a song entitled "The waltz of Mr. Kohn". The song is about his great-grandfather, who was fighting on the battlefield while the Jews got rich back home. "The trains passed by, there were no Kohns on them, thanks to all the tough lies, the half of the world was ashamed." In 2012, in front of the house of Csanád Szegedi, he gave a Jew baiting speech. These videos are accessible on YouTube.

In one case, he shared his ahistorical anti-Semitic thought: at the beginning of the deportations, rich Jewish families sent their money to America, sacrificing the Jewish middle and lower class. "They exactly knew what will happen to them. They practically made the ground for the further activities. They founded their greatest historical lies in these years. A lie that remains beneficial for

them in concrete terms. So let us not have any illusions: These were their fellow rich Jewish compatriots who abandoned and stole from those Jews who were sitting on the trains.

In 2015, he called St. Stephen a murderer of Hungarians and Maria Theresa an "illegitimate Habsburg bitch who hated Hungarians".



In 2013, Varga-Bíró wrote articles for the Holokamu column of Kurucinfo

garians". This happened when Judit Polgár received the Hungarian St. Stephen award. According to him, the chess player is a Zionist Jew, and because of that she would not deserve any high level state award. Varga-Bíró shared his view on Facebook saying he really is an anti-Zionist, which is considered legal and he only wishes to express his desire for peace and stability.

In June 2017 report, APF reported about the video of Márton Gulyás, claiming for fair elections. Gulyás confronted Gyula György Zagyva, former Jobbik representative, the Vice President of Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement with this issue who threatened him on the phone by Jew baiting. There was a judgment of first instance that we reported in the Official and civil reactions chapter.

II https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7dQfNRZXQY

¹² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdbvPpukAh8

¹³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8A_UnsEqlE

In relation to this event, APF wrote an open letter to the CEO of Echo TV. "We strongly believe that Tamás Varga-Bíró became unworthy for any public appearance. We are convinced that the most effective tool against anti-Semitism is education. In a broader context, this is why we cannot allow anyone in the media to destroy the commitment for national cohesion by using racist language. He consciously mocked and disagreed with the civil and national values."

Slomó Köves, the executive rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation said on Lánchíd Radio's broadcast he is deeply disappointed because these type of anti-Semitic articles can be published without consequences. Balázs Böcskei, political analyst, said on Lánchíd Radio's broadcast: Echo TV and Magyar Idők are making serious mistakes by allowing Tamás Varga-Bíró to publish. "Echo TV and Magyar Idők have no other choice, if they take themselves seriously, than to end his contract or this cooperation."

The following day, Tamás Varga-Bíró apologized for his earlier statements on the webpage of Pesti Srácok. He announced that he would not speak or write publicly; he will only continue songwriting.

APF said, "We take note that the author is reconsidering and distancing himself from his earlier position, and apologized to those whom he hurt with his statements. The mission of our Foundation is to clean public speaking from racist, anti-Semitic and discriminatory language. With the apology of Tamás Varga-Bíró and his withdrawal from public life, we made an important step to reach this goal. We hope that this can stand as a positive example for those who are able and ready to take responsibility for their previous negative public statements which hurt Jews or other minorities."

Viktor Orbán Prime Minister: "Zero tolerance in Hungary" Source: MTI; magyaridok.hu

14-15 January 2018 Viktor Orbán, the Prime Minister of Hungary, gave an interview to Welt am Sonntag German newspaper. Some of the topics were the migration policy, the border barrier, the so-called NGO legislation and György Soros. The Prime Minister thinks it is a lie that the government is taking advantage of anti-Semitic feelings. He said it is often the tactical game of leftwing European forces to declare right-wing politicians anti-Semitic people. "As a Jew, one can walk around the city for hours wearing a kippah without being disturbed. Where else is it possible in Europe?", he asked. He made it very clear: there is zero tolerance for anti-Semitism in Hungary.

Gyula Zagyva György, Jobbik's politician is sentenced for first instance Source: hvg.hu; 24.hu

16 January 2018 Gyula Zagyva György, former representative of Jobbik, was sentenced to pay 500,000 HUF for harassing Tamás Varga-Bíró musician. The judgment is not legally binding.

In June 2017, Zagyva participated in the propaganda video of Márton Gulyás, activist, claiming for fair elections. Earlier, Varga played music at the events of Jobbik and he blamed Zagyva for taking part in the video. According to the news, Varga said, "It doesn't matter who you were before and who you lie to be right now. If you take part in the liberal propaganda video of Marci Gulyás, opening your mouth above his bank account number, then you are just a liberal piece of shit." Then Zagyva answered, according to Varga: "You, fucking Jew! Let's leave behind this Jewish tempo. Listen TVB, don't sleep at home tonight, your life is over, you won't get away with this, you bastard, you will be fucked, we will take care of you forever. We will kill you, your wife and daughter!"

There were several phone calls. During the first call, there was no relevant statement from criminal justice point of view but the content of the second call is considered harassment. The Court found Zagyva guilty. It is not a legally binding judgment, and Zagyva made an appeal.

We elaborate on the anti-Semitic past of Tamás Varga-Bíró, his appearance on Echo TV and his withdrawal from public life in the "Other News" chapter of this report. Reactions on the Horthy mass Source: index.hu; mno.hu; atv.hu; 168ora.hu

24-25 January; 29 January 2018 As we reported above, the Church planned a mass in the honor of Miklós Horthy and his daughter-in-law Istvánné Horthy (maiden name Ilona Edelsheim-Gyulai) on Holocaust Memorial Day.

Slomó Köves, the executive rabbi of EMIH, said to ATV, "there are other more important factors than this very unlucky choice of date." He said he does not understand in general how one can pay tribute to the personality and work of Horthy. "According to my opinion, a political leader who represented his own and his class' interests only, in a tragic period of our nation, who was a proud governor of "three million beggars", (...), who was responsible for the tragic outcome of the Don river curve catastrophe, who was at least the passive observer of my grandparents' and great-grandparents' deprivation of rights, and the elimination of their families can only deserve remembrance from a scientific point of view.", he said.

András Heisler, the President of Mazsihisz sent a letter to Sándor Lezsák in relation to the commemoration. As he wrote, the timing of the commemoration "is the disrespect of the memory of all Hungarian victims". He thinks everyone deserves the right to have an occasion when others pray for his soul' sake and every Church community has the right to do so. "To do this on the Holocaust Memorial Day, it is only possible by altering history.", he added.

MSZP protested the commemoration in a statement through the National Press Service of MTI. Ágnes Kunhalmi and Tamás Harangozó wrote the statement, calling the mass and its timing disgraceful because the legislation against the Jews was adopted under the governance of Horthy. MSZP reminded Horthy "never got close the Jews" and he called himself "anti-Semitic" in a letter he wrote to Pál Teleki. According to MSZP, it is disrespectful of the prominent members of Fidesz to acknowledge Horthy on the Holocaust Memorial Day."

DK stated they do not even want to comment on the situation. Jobbik did not com-

municate anything but earlier the Party communicated that they take the activity of the Governor as a positive example.

The President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), Ronald Lauder, wrote a letter to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. He called the planned commemoration and mass shocking and provocative. He added, it is even more disturbing to legitimize the event with the participation of a high-level dignitary. Lauder called Horthy "shameless anti-Semitic person" who created a situation of terror for the Hungarian Jews when their rights and humanity was taken away from them. "His role in the deportation and murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews can never be forgotten and dismissed.", he said. The Hungarian Prime Minister answered the letter and he reminded, the organizers cancelled the event, so there is no case, said Bertalan Havasi, head of press of the Prime Minister. Civil society planned a demonstration against the commemoration, but the cancellation made it unnecessary.

Csaba Latorcai: "Let's be brave enough to stop discrimination"

Source: MTI; mandiner.hu

26 January 2018 The deputy State Secretary for Priority Social Affairs gave a speech in Budapest on International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Holocaust Documentation Center.



Source: MTI

"Let's be brave enough to stop discrimination", asked the deputy State Secretary. The commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust shall encourage each of us to

raise our voice against discrimination in our communities, in our schools and on every level of society. It is the joint responsibility of Europe's and Hungary's today's and future generations to learn from the mistakes of the past. Education has a major role in it.", he said.

Since 2000, every elementary and high school organizes a commemoration on April 16 where students remember the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust. The Remembrance Day is not only about the enlargement of historical knowledge but also about strengthening the "moral and emotional resistance of youngsters in relation to anti-Semitism, racism and any kind of hatred", he said.

Jean-Claude Juncker: "Keep an eye out!" Source: MTI

26 January 2018 Jean-Claude Juncker, the President of the European Commission reminded Europeans to pay attention to the hatred, discrimination and acts against human dignity on International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27. The leader of the European Commission said we must fight against those who disseminate lies

about history, who question the Holocaust or deny its fundamental significance. Simone Veil, the first directly elected President of the European Parliament and Holocaust survivor, reminded us some years ago, we have to recall the name and personal story of those who got lost during the Shoah in order to prevent their disappearance for the second time. "As the number of the Holocaust survivors is decreasing, it is our moral obligation to make sure that their stories remain part of Europe's common remembrance.", said the President. Juncker promised to strengthen the cooperation between the European Commission and the international organizations dealing with the Holocaust Remembrance. Anti-Semitism is not only a threat to Jews but also endangers open and liberal societies fundamentally.

Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy reminded European citizens, the European Union was funded with the intention to avoid future world wars and the horrors of the Holocaust. "After the biggest tragedy of history, we integrated diversity and made it a fundamental value of the European Union.", said the High Representative.

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ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS - JANUARY 2018

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Conference on anti-Semitism in Rome Source: kormany.hu

30 January 2018 István Mikola, Minister of State for Security Policy and International Cooperation, participated in a conference on combatting anti-Semitism. The current Italian Presidency of OSCE organized the event in Rome on January 29. The Minister's speech drew the atten-

tion of participants to the safety that surrounds Jewish communities in Hungary. He said the intention of the Hungarian government is to maintain this security by any means necessary. He reported on the reconstruction program for Jewish synagogues and memorials. He said Jewish culture is having its renaissance in Hungary; our country will host the European Maccabi Games in 2019.

OTHER NEWS

This year's Raoul Wallenberg awards Source: MTI; kormany.hu; 168ora.hu

17 January 2018 The Raoul Wallenberg award ceremony took place in Budapest. Those people receive this award, named after the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Shoah, for standing as an example in public life for their courage and career. This year's prizewinners: Ildikó Déri, former director of Gandhi high school, Zsuzsa Fritz, director of Bálint House, Zsuzsa Incze, the editor of TV broadcast "Runaway kids", István Kamarás, writer and sociologist, Attila Landauer minority researcher and linguist, Éva Rózsahegyiné Juhász, the leader of Szent Miklós Greek Catholic Roma talent program and the local authority of Pusztadobos.



Source: 168ora.hu

The Association of Raoul Wallenberg, the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities and Zoltán Balog suggested the prizewinners. At the ceremony, Katalin Langerné Victor, the deputy State Secretary for social inclusion of EMMI, acknowledged the career of the prizewinners and warned the audience of insensitivity, indifference and the dangers of forgetting.

According to Niclas Trouvé, Ambassador of Sweden accredited to Budapest, "it is everyone's responsibility to raise the voice in favor of those who are in need and marginalized." Yosef Amrani, Ambassador of Israel, talked about the importance of combatting anti-Semitism on the 73rd anniversary of the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg. He thinks that we need zero tolerance, "political actions and determination" in order the make the world a safe place for everyone. He recalled that anti-Semitic attacks became more frequent in Europe recently. He said, what he learnt from Wallenberg is "if you saw the devil, say it and name it aloud".

Research: We hate more in election year Source: nepszava.hu

25 January 2018 Political Capital Research Institute, together with the Pedagogy and Psychology Faculty of ELTE Uni-

versity, organized a conference, entitled "Anti-Roma behaviour and anti-Semitism in Hungary – What do we know about them?".

"The level of anti-Semitism that primarily shows in feelings against the Jews has seen highs and lows over the past years. The actual political climate has always had a strong impact on the tendency.", said a speaker at the conference.

According to experts, as long as politics have an interest in maintaining the "ongoing frustration",

there will be no change in the approach of society. The level of anti-Semitism and xenophobia is increasing in emergencies. "We don't always need to have an actual emergency, it is enough for people to have a feeling of emergency", said Péter Krekó. The CEO of PC referred to the earlier research reports of the institute and András Kovács sociologist: statistics show that the level of anti-Semitism is increasing in election years. Surveys elaborated in election years show that there are more people who

agree with statements such as "The goal of the Jews is to obtain world power." It is not because suddenly the number of anti-Semitic people increases but because there are more anti-Semitic and xenophobic statements in public life. As a consequence, more people have the courage to undertake their real feelings which they hid before." – said Krekó.

Mónika Kovács, professor at ELTE University, said political parties lately target the ongoing frustration of society and sometimes they even use history for that. She referred to the Horthy commemoration and mass scheduled for the anniversary of the deliberation of the Auschwitz death camp. She thinks it is like pouring salt continuously into a wound.

There are other anti-Semitic permanent guests on Echo TV Source: 444.hu

31 January 2018 As we reported above, one of Echo TV's permanent guest is Tamas Varga-Bíró, known for his anti-Semitic thoughts and discriminatory manifestations. APF reported about his actions regularly. 444.hu reported about Ferenc Kőházy, also known as "Fankadeli", another returning guest of Echo TV's broadcast "Civil circle". Last vear, Gábor Vona said he has respect for this musician who made a supportive video for Jobbik in 2009 with the appearance of Csanád Szegedi and who participated in Jobbik community forums in 2010. A few years ago, Fankadeli performed with Tamás Varga-Bíró at Magyar Sziget. He regularly selected minorities based on ethnical and religious ground.

According to Index, in 2010, at a community forum he spoke about, "the Jews and Roma people who live their life gaining their strength from the hatred, this is why we cannot scold them. We have to invite them to our homes, but make sure the property remains ours." Fankadeli later said he meant the Jews' and the Roma people's energy stems from the hatred surrounding them. He made a rap song "The arrows of Hungarians" with similar content. "The

agree with statements such as "The goal of Jew gains its power from the hatred you the Jews is to obtain world power." It is not demonstrate. He will be helpless on the day because suddenly the number of anti-Se-you get to like him."

On his webpage, his writings from 2008 and 2009 are still accessible. "On top of the fact the Jews obtained half of the world, the Catholic religion is not any better than the Jewish. We should love the Jews; this is how we can control their mind. Then, a Jew would say, "Oh my God, it makes no sense to make the fuss after ten thousand years, they do not hate me anymore." But right now, everyone is Jew baiting, everybody hates them and they continue to do what they are good at: they screw the non-Jews and take over everything. If you could transmit the message to a Jew that "this is all yours, you can keep it but I don't hate you, moreover bring your kids over to my house to play with my kids, then the entire world would change."



Source: echotv.hu

"The Roma people, as they are now, would not accept anything from anybody so they should work this out within their own house and they would drastically develop." The Jews as well: as long as they despise Hungarians, they feed a self-portrait that is unable to live peacefully with other nations."

"Over thousands of years, they created a global democracy with a fortune hitting the sky. Their society positions itself above other nations. (...) They probably generate the conflict around themselves in order to shift the attention from them. This does not mean, influential Jewish politicians, businessmen and artists don't cause huge damage to the world's societies from other perspective but it is important to understand that the real enemy is behind them."

After the article, Fankadeli reacted on Facebook: "Neo-nazi label is still an attractive asset...this moment, several hundred thousand Hungarians read I Jew baited. For me, this is unclear from the quotations, but according to my experience, the three-quarters of the readers take the titles of the articles for granted. This is where we stand. I am still incredibly dangerous. According to this...but hey. Of course, I will have an answer. But I will make it nice and complete."

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Suspension of the investigation Source: Action and Protection

10 January 2018 The Court suspended one of APF's cases. APF filed a charge against an individual in May 2013 because the webpage of Jobbik Magyarországért Movement published a letter of a reader in the "National news" section on December 1, 2001. The author of publication, "The Holocaust spark comes back again' is Attila Pónya. The author questions and denies the massive and systematic elimination of the Jews during World War II. He openly and publicly denied this historical fact. The Orosháza Police Department Crime Investigation Unit declared this act is a suspicion of the open denial of crimes committed by the Nationalist Socialist regime. In their decision, officials reported that the data search and the witness investigations did not bring any result; the offender remained unidentified, so they suspended the case.

Request for legal supervision of Hóman Bálint Association Source: Action and Protection

17 January 2018 On January 17, 2018, APF turned again to the Chief Investigator's Office of Csongrád County in relation to the illegal use of the name "Bálint Hóman Foundation". 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 a major role in the building of the Arrow Cross regime. The Court of Székesfehérvár asked for the statement of the MTA, Hun-

garian Academy of Sciences. MTA confirmed Bálint Hóman was a leader in the foundation of the 20th century autocratic regime. Consequently, the use of his name in any organization is illegal. On November 22, 2017, APF asked the Chief Prosecutor's Office of Fejér County to implement its decision. A one-year grace period has been granted for the organization, registered in Szeged, to implement the name change.

Report on a misleading business Forrás: Action and Protection

31 January 2018 Action and Protection Foundation filed a report of an unknown business at the Administrator's Office of Budapest District 7. A person, calling himself Avner Friedman, operates a place "Shoah Cellar Museum" on Wesselényi Street, Budapest District 7. He states Hanna Szenes, the first Israeli parachutist, was executed at this place, this is why he established the "museum" there. On his marketing leaflets, he advertised the museum as the only Holocaust museum in the world that used to be a Nazi bunker. He also said the museum presents Adolf Eichmann's office and a torture chamber. In another advertisement, he stated that Tivadar Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement was born there. We reported the case due to his misleading of the audience. The "museum" in fact is a former, simple coal cellar. The facts are that Hanna Szenes was executed at Hadik barracks on Margit Avenue on November 7, 1944. The office of Adolf Eichmann was in Karthauzi Street in Buda. Tivadar Herzl was born thirty years before the building was established. Moreover, the place lacks a legal permit to operate.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	3-4th of January	Tamás Varga-Bíró would have been a permanent guests of Echo TV's broadcast	Offical and Civil Responses
2.	10 th of January	Suspension of the investigation	APF Legal Actions
3.	14-15 th of January	Viktor Orbán Prime Minister: "Zero tolerance in Hungary"	Offical and Civil Responses
4.	16 th of January	Gyula Zagyva György, Jobbik's politician is sentenced of first instance	Offical and Civil Responses
5.	17 th of January	This year's Raoul Wallenberg awards	Other News
6.	17th of January	Request for legal supervision of Hóman Bálint Association	APF Legal Actions
7.	18 th of January	Commemorations on the anniversary of the liberation of the ghetto in Budapest	Community News and Responses
8.	24 th of January	Individuals painted a totalitarian symbol on a wall in Székesfehérvár	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism
9.	24-25 th of January	A commemorating mass planned for Horthy on the Holocaust Remembrance Day	Further Hate Incidents
10.	24-25 th of January	Reactions on the Horthy mass	Offical and Civil Responses
11.	25 th of January	Exhibition on the history of the March of the Living	Community News and Responses
12.	25th of January	Research: We hate more in election year	Other News
13.	26 th of January	Csaba Latorcai: "Let's be brave enough to stop discrimination"	Offical and Civil Responses
14.	26 th of January	Jean-Claude Juncker: "Keep an eye out!"	Offical and Civil Responses
15.	30 th of January	Conference on anti-Semitism in Rome	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
16.	31st of January	The President of the Jewish Agency visited Hungary	Community News and Responses
17.	31st of January	There are other anti-Semitic permanent guests on Echo TV	Other News
18.	31st of January	Report on a misleading business	APF Legal Actions

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 I) 5 IO 00 00

The website of Action and Protection Foundation: www.tev.hu/forrodrot The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

Action and Protection Foundation's undertaking can only be successful if great numbers share in our commitment to prepare the grounds for the right to fair process for all those who have suffered offenses. In aid of this cause please support the work of the Foundation with your contribution!

Donations can be made to the Foundation on the following bank account:

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