

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

JUNE 2021

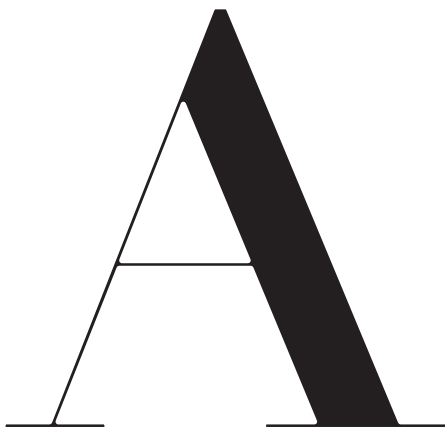


ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A significant part of combating antisemitism is monitoring of the prevalence of antisemitic incidents. One of the aims of the Action and Protection League (APL) is to heighten the awareness of antisemitism in the society. The primary tool in achieving this is continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes in public life. Neither Jewish communities nor individual Jews can be protected unless there is data on antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes and that these are collected and analysed. The data collected by the Action and Protection League, cooperated with Action and Protection Foundation (APF), are published in monthly reports, and a summary of the findings is published for the individual countries/regions in a yearly report. The monitoring report is carried out by the APF.

The reports deal with two forms of behaviour: antisemitic hate crimes and hate-motivated incidents. Both types of behaviour are referred to as "hate incidents"

in the reports. The main difference between an antisemitic hate crime and other hate crimes is that the former possesses an antisemitic motive. Due to differences in legislation and application of legislation in various countries, there are different interpretations of which antisemitic incidents that are violations of criminal law. In addition are some hate-motivated acts, albeit troubling for Jews, not considered criminal if they, e.g., are considered belonging to the realm of freedom of speech. The APL considers it essential to record both types of hate incidents in order to gain a general overview and to make it possible to analyse changes over time.

In order to have the most extensive scope possible, the APL uses a variety of sources simultaneously. The incidents are not only recorded, but the characteristics of the individual incident are also analysed. The data recorded includes the incident's location, the perpetrator (if known), victim, and consequences (if any). In addition, are the various types of incidents differentiated in the reports.

Based on its sources, APL found five Antisemitic hate incidents throughout its monitoring activities in June. They are both classified as Hate speech.

In the first case, Rabbi Gábor Fináli made another anti-Israel statement; in the second case, two Jewish teenagers suffered verbal anti-Semitic abuse in downtown Budapest. Furthermore, anti-Semitic neighbours harass a retired couple in Debrecen, and a person threatens Likud's foreign affairs coordinator in a chat.

Finally, TEV found out that the Jobbik Deputy Mayor of Dunaujváros had posted anti-Semitic content for six years.

This month we have identified one further hate incident: a swastika has appeared on a sidewalk in Kistokaj.

APL did not initiate any legal proceedings this month, nor did we receive any notifications regarding our previous proceedings.

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

In the last decade there has been a rise in antisemitism in Europe. Surveys by e.g. the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)¹ and the ADL Global 100² show a broad spectrum of antisemitism and how it fluctuates over time.

The character of antisemitic incidents is quite different in the monitored countries concerning content, expressions, and perpetrators. Current antisemitism is mainly connected to Islamism, Far-right groups, and Far-left groups. Islamist expressions are most frequent in countries with large Muslim populations in Western Europe and uncommon in Eastern and Central Europe. Far-left expressions of antisemitism can often be found disguised as Anti-Zionism in Western Europe and is often connected to the conflict in the Middle

East. In East and Central Europe, right-wing expressions of prejudice against Jews frequently have old roots, not only among groups related to Fascism and Nazism, but at times also in populist-nationalist settings. In several countries Jews have found themselves under more threat during the last decade. This does not only include physical attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions but is also visible in the growth of conspiracy theories, online hatred, and political campaigns favouring banning of, e.g., brit milah and kashrut.

Countering antisemitism becomes an increasingly urgent issue for Europe. Action and Protection League of Europe (APL) has been established to explore the causes of modern-day antisemitism and to implement effective defense.

¹ EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: ANTISEMITISM - OVERVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2008-2018
² <https://global100.adl.org>

ABOUT THE REPORT

The general opinion on, and treatment of, antisemitism often takes extreme forms. On the one hand, some voices try to belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion, one-off incidents are exaggerated in the public arena to such an extent that they give the impression that they are frequent or a regular part of daily life. Knowledge of the actual situation(s) is an indispensable condition for the treatment of real problems. Monitoring of antisemitic hate crimes and incidents³ is one of the tools used in achieving this objective.

From 2019 the Action and Protection League has decided to monitor seven European countries. In the first stage, data is collected from seven countries: Austria, Czechia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Sweden, and more countries will be added later. All countries have their own particularities and vast differences when it comes to the monitoring of antisemitism – in some cases, there are several organisations with similar goals as the APL and in other countries, few or no similar activities. In no case will APL try to replace existing organisations, but rather seek cooperation and exchange of data.

Apart from the monthly reports, an annual summary review, including more detailed analyses on the incidents, is published. All reports are published in English, and almost all are published in the local language.

The fight against hate crimes is of utmost importance since it differs from many other forms of criminal conduct. On one level can these crimes and incidents can be considered as messages. They are not only about the victim in question but points to a larger group. Antisemitism and other hate crimes are thus not only attacks against individuals, but the social fabric of the society as a whole. This does not, of course, diminish the distress and psychological trauma which individual victims might

suffer. These crimes are often not “only” against property or lead to physical threat of individuals, but it also concerns self-dignity. The offenses indicate that the victim is not an equal member or a member at all of the society. Since hate crimes, in general, target victims due to some unchangeable characteristics (real or imagined), the victim becomes almost defenseless. Victims often fear that they may again be targets of similar incidents or worse atrocities if they identify perpetrators to relevant authorities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents may easily lead to secondary victimization where the victim can be led to believe that it was their fault, e.g., by not being careful enough, etc. This type of criminal act also, as mentioned, has an effect on the group as a whole. The victims of these crimes are often interchangeable, since they are not targeted at individuals and any other member could just as well have been targeted. This means that all members of the targeted group become potential victims and might live in fear of a future when they themselves may be the target of a prejudice-motivated crime. This situation is particularly poignant for groups that have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length why Jews belong among such groups. These crimes undermine the fundamental value that all members of a society are of equal value. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the society as a whole. Not only may it encourage the perpetrators to commit further crimes, but it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society as a whole⁴.

It is not an exaggeration to state that fewer hate crimes are reported and documented than are committed. The discrepancy between committed crimes and reported crimes vary significantly between different countries is not necessarily connected to the number of Jews. A contributing factor

³ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

⁴ Levin & McDevitt 1999, 92-93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19-21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17-18; Perry 2001, 10).

to the under-reporting is that victims rarely report them to the police or relevant authority. There are several causes for this: many victims are not convinced that the authorities will handle the matter adequately, either because they lack the competence or that they are prejudiced. In addition, many victims are unaware of applicable laws or where to turn for help. Furthermore, some victims are worried that their concealed traits will be exposed and that they might suffer more by reporting incidents. Victims might also fear that authorities will not be able to prove a hate-crime motivation and that reporting is thus useless.

It is civic organizations that can help remedy these problems. These organizations can cooperate with police and relevant authorities, but also an intermediary between victim and authority. Reports by civic organizations can be expedient in alerting official authorities on hate-motivated crimes, and long-term tendencies can be outlined through the use of collected data. Civil organizations can prepare cases for legal process, may provide legal defense for victims, and give other forms of aid and support.

METHODOLOGY

The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows⁵ (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 people⁶
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a specific 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. Although there is a widely accepted definition of antisemitism (see IHRA 2017), there is currently no consistent definition of hate crimes in the countries monitored by the APL.

In addition are the legal consequences different in the monitored countries. This means that an incident which a crime in one country could be legal in another. The obvious example concerns the so-called Holocaust denial, which, e.g., is outlawed in Hungary, but legal in several countries monitored by APL. Since the Action and Protection League has a broad scope when it comes to data collection, everything is covered in the reports, but in some instances, similar acts are filed as a crime in one country and "only" an incident in another. In every case, we follow the definitions in the criminal code of the individual countries. We estimate that this problem will diminish over time due to the adaptation of the same definitions and legislation in the European Union.

Our reports contain detailed descriptions of the definition of hate incidents and our approach to solving the problems. The reports are based on sources taken from international, independent monitoring services, local informants as well as data collected by other organizations working with same or similar issues.

The monthly report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by antisemitism in the broadest possible sense: perpetrator, target, means, or message. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument, or other property. It is essential, however, that an antisemitic motivation can be established. This means that the perpetrator chose the given target on the basis that he/she was Jewish or perceived as being Jewish. It is thus not relevant whether the assumption is correct or not: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient.

In the course of monitoring, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are also considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code in the individual country (e.g. 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 etc.), 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 are recorded during the monitoring period⁷ and are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by antisemitism.

For the broadest possible scope in monitoring antisemitic hate incidents, the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. In addition to media monitoring, reports from local informants the Action and Protection League also rely on reports filed by victims. In Hungary, the Action and Protection League has a 24-hours-a-day Hotline that serves to ease the passage of reports. The goal is to supply a similar service for the other countries so reports can be filed in the local languages. It is also possible to file reports anonymously online. Such reports will be of especially great importance to this study. If a victim cannot or does not want to file a report, the APL can use an intermediary to help the victim in the process. Such an intermediary may be a family member, an acquaintance of

5 The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakrabarti and Garland 2009, 4–7).

These definitions can serve as important addenda to an understanding of these crimes; however, they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

6 For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behaviour would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

7 These indicators are described in the Methodology section

the victim, a witness of the incident, or another civil organization.

It is a declared objective of the League to be in close contact with the authorities, since in some countries, they are the first to be approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent relevant 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 online hatred as a phenomenon that is continually growing.

The public discourses are monitored by a team of experts. One of our aims is to cover the 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 comment arenas and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried out systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

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

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

- The hate incidents have to have occurred in the countries monitored; no matter whether the victim is a citizen of the country or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an antisemitic 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, antisemitic message was paired with the vandalism [for example, a Jewish synagogue's window is broken with a stone])

- Antisemitic comments that have been reported to Action and Protection League appearing on blogs, forums, community pages and similar.
- Antisemitic and neo-Nazi material delivered to particular Jewish individuals, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Antisemitic and neo-Nazi material deposited at Jewish-owned property, Jewish organizations, institutions or similar
- Criticism related to Israel and Zionism, if they go beyond a political statement and serve to recall traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes
- Moreover, events apt to raise fear among Jews.

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics⁹ :

- Antisemitic hate incidents that are related to the countries monitored and Jewry in these countries, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in the country in question, antisemitic intent cannot be proven, or the circumstances are unclear)
- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online forums, but have not been reported to Action and Protection League.
- Other news that only indirectly are linked to antisemitism

A number of the aspects of the registered incidents are recorded. The indicators that help decide whether a given incident was motivated by prejudice are mentioned above.

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 — possible legal — consequences.

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.

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 follows¹⁰:

- 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
 - Hate speech 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 environment in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often the processes, rather than separately occurring events (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which leads to a better understanding of the environment surrounding the incidents.¹¹ In presenting timelines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹⁰ CEJI 2012, 10–12

¹¹ These descriptions, in particular, are held to be the most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 16).

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS – JUNE 2021

Action and Protection League identified five Antisemitic hate incidents over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of June. They are both classified as Hate Speech.

HATE SPEECH

Two Jewish teenagers have suffered a verbal anti-Semitic insult in Budapest

Source: Action and Protection League

14 June 2021 Our foundation was informed that two Jewish teenagers in Budapest were subjected to a verbal anti-Semitic insult. The victims were walking downtown when one of them noticed a passerby spitting at them and then told them: “go to Auschwitz”. Then he cursed several times, calling the boys a filthy Jew.

Anti-Semitic neighbours harass a retired Jewish couple in Debrecen

Source: Action and Protection League

19 June 2021 The retired Jewish couple in Debrecen, who have been verbally harassed for a long time by their neighbours, turned to the Action and Protection League for assistance. From man and woman, who are mostly impaired by alcohol, is continuously the anti-Semitic verbal and blasphemous assault.

The intolerable anti-Semitic atmosphere has a detrimental effect on the health of couples struggling with serious illnesses, who have also complained to the Chief Notary of Debrecen and the Police Headquarters, with no results. APL is currently collecting evidence and examining what legal assistance exists.

Anti-Zionist rabbi of Mazsihisz continues to attack Israel

Source: neokohn.hu

21 June 2021 Fináli Gábor, the Mazsihisz rabbi of the Hunyadi Square synagogue, known for its former anti-Zionist scandals, this time criticized the Jewish state on the occasion of Jerusalem Day, which celebrates the Israeli occupation of West Jerusalem, writes neokohn.hu.

The neolog rabbi posted a video showing Israelis chanting extreme rhymes. “The plan to establish Bantustans, small-town states are not a real peace plan” he described the attitude of the Israeli side in his comment on the peace process. About the territory of Judah-Shomron, he wrote: “The population settled there is illegal. Using resettled civilians for occupation is a different sin.” The newspaper notes that, of course, Finali called the Israeli side guilty.

In his next post, he wrote about Israel “using Jewish civilians as a living shield”. One user added that “the people of hatred,” with which Finali did not argue, did not moderate the comment. Furthermore, a well-known anti-Israel commentator referred to Jerusalem-day Jewish marchers as “Netanyahu Jugend”. Finali responded: “It was before. It will be after that too,” he wrote, referring to the fact that there will still be “Israeli Nazis” after Netanyahu - neokohn.hu notes.

Tamir Wertzberger, foreign affairs coordinator for Likud in Budapest, threatened on WhatsApp and Messenger

Source: Action and Protection League

25 June 2021 Likud's foreign affairs coordinator regularly receives anti-Semitic, racist messages with various threatening content. The sender called Wertzberger a "homophobic Nazi cape, human garbage, anti-Semitic Jew and gay rat." According to him, Wertzberger serves Viktor Orbán and calls him to

leave Budapest. APL is currently collecting evidence and examining what legal options are available to prosecute the bully.



Six years ago, the Jobbik Vice Mayor of Dunaujváros posted anti-Semitic contents

Source: Action and Protection League

30 June 2021 In 2015, Vice Mayor Endre Barta shared anti-Semitic posts on the personal Facebook page - revealed by the investigation of APL's monitoring team. January 6, 2015, the oldest post shows anti-Zionist Jews, holding in their hands a banner that says not Zionism is the problem, but Fatah and Hamas. The July 8 post suggests that knowing Israel's history makes it clear who the terrorist is. While the photo montage uploaded on October 21 depicts Israel in the company of the United States, China and the EU, on the dark side that brings blood and war. Based on Barta's post, the peculiar interpretation of the Star Wars universe was his idea. Two of the three posts are no longer available, which calls Israel a terrorist is still visible.

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FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

A swastika has depicted on a sidewalk in Kistokaj

Source: hirklikk.hu

29 June 2021 Hirklikk noticed that in the village of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, a sidewalk forming a swastika was built in a public place. According to the newspaper, intentionality would be a serious sin, but chance cannot be excluded, which is an even more serious mistake.

The swastika is less conspicuous on the spot as the sidewalks continue with more changes of direction.



COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Holocaust victims remembered across the country

Source: baon.hu, dehir.hu, szeged.hu, dehir.hu, egriugyek.hu

1 June 2021 In June, Holocaust commemoration ceremonies were held in several places: Baja, Kecskemét, Kaposvár, Szeged, Kalocsa, Debrecen, Eger. Representatives of local and national Jewish religious organizations, community leaders, rabbis, representatives of the historical churches in Hungary and politicians recalled what happened 77 years ago and stressed the importance of remembrance and the need for unbroken faith in God. At the same time, they warned that nowadays, anti-Semitism is growing again, against which must use all strength. Government officials emphasized that there is zero-tolerance for all forms of anti-Semitism in Hungary.

The refurbished Rumbach Sebestyén Street Synagogue was inaugurated

Source: hirado.hu, szombat.hu, hetek.hu

11 June 2021 After decades of negligence, then years of renovation work, the Rumbach Sebestyén Street synagogue was finally reopened. Inaugurated in 1872, the building, which has been in ruin since World War II, was renewed in four years with government support of HUF 3.2 billion. Minister for families Katalin Novák told the opening event that it was a noble task to rescue a building from ruin, but the government had supported the project primarily because it was hoped that life would return between its walls - informed the Hungarian news agency MTI.

The Minister wanted the Jewish communities in Hungary, in addition to living freely and safely in Hungary, to flourish the religious and cultural tradition that was part of the cultural wealth of Budapest and the country before the tragedy of the Holocaust. She is also proud that while the persecution of the community of believers and anti-Semitism are strengthening elsewhere,

churches and synagogues are being closed, in Hungary, several synagogues have been opened in the last ten years.

András Heisler, president of the Mazsihisz emphasised, the diversity of the Jewish community is a fundamental value, the existence and acceptance of coexisting traditions within Hungarian Jewry "is not a new-fashioned fad of Mazsihisz." President of the World Jewish Congress Ronald S Lauder praised Hungary for being among the few countries that "dared to express its support" for the Jewish people during the recent Israel-Palestine conflict.

At the ceremony were also attended Chief Rabbi of Hungary Róbert Frölich, Israeli Ambassador to Hungary Yacov Hadas-Handelsman, Cardinal Péter Erdő, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, and Presiding Bishop Tamás Fabiny of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary.

An exhibition commemorating the Jews of Szombathely opened in Israel

Source: akibic.hu

27 June 2021 Face to Face - Pictures from the History of the Deported Jews of Szombathely provides insight into the everyday life of the Jews of Szombathely, who numbered about 3,200 people before the Holocaust. The photo presentation was exhibited in the public building of Ramat Gan Jad Lebnanim as part of the town twinning schemes, akibic.hu reports.

Levente Benkő, Hungary's ambassador to Tel Aviv, called the deportation of Hungarian Jewry the darkest chapter in Hungarian history. "The Hungarian state at that time could not protect our compatriots, so Hungary is responsible. We remember this, and it is necessary to recall," the Hungarian ambassador emphasized. He noted that today's Hungary is a safe home for Jews, where Jewish citizens can live and preserve their identity freely, and where the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe not getting through to.

According to Roi Barzilai, Deputy Mayor of Ramat Gan, racism, xenophobia, homopho-

bia, hatred is still a phenomenon today, and must seek to contend for human rights.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Anti-Semitism conference at the Danube Institute

Source: neokohn.hu, szombat.org

28 June 2021 The Danube Institute held a two-day conference entitled *Anti - Semitism in Hungary: Appearance and Reality* - reports neokohn.hu based on MTI. Human dignity must be protected. The cabinet's main task is to ensure the well-being of its citizens - Secretary of State Azbej Tristan said. He added that the measures adopted in the last eleven years are unprecedented in Hungarian history. The effectiveness of the steps is perhaps debatable, and the government's sincere intentions in the fight against anti-Semitism are indisputable, he said.

Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, Israel's ambassador to Budapest, said that Hungary has the largest Jewish community in Central Europe and whose members can walk safely on the streets, and its institutions are functioning properly. That says a lot after eighty years of the Holocaust. Hungary has one of the lowest numbers of anti-Semitic attacks in the EU, thanks to the government's declaration of zero tolerance for the phenomenon, he noted.

András Heisler, president of the *Mazsihisz* stated that the Holocaust still could cause trauma in second-generation members. In Hungary, the situation of Jews is better than in other states of Europe. They are free to assume their identity on the streets, physical attacks rarely hit them. Nevertheless, there are fears in the community, but there is no

anti-Semitism in the country from which they can be deduced directly, he stressed. Heisler also appreciated the government's measures, the principle of zero tolerance, the renovation of synagogues and abandoned cemeteries, and mentioned that anti-Semitism is everywhere in the online space, and the coronavirus epidemic has also produced new conspiracy theories. One-third of society is anti-Semitic to a greater or lesser extent, he said, referring to the Median survey.

Slomó Köves, Chief Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) emphasized that anti-Semitism had decreased in recent years but that it was still significant and that the phenomenon could only be combated in long-term.

National Chief Rabbi Róbert Frölich's opinion is that although the statistics on the extent of anti-Semitism in Hungary paint a favourable picture, they do not necessarily reflect the reality. According to him, even a single anti-Semitic manifestation is one more than acceptable. According to him, the emergence of anti-Semitism is indeed low, but this is not the reality. The reality is what appears in the statistics and what people live, for example, when they sit in a small-town pub. According to him, education will exert its effect in the long run.

John O'Sullivan, president of the Danube Institute, also noted that anti-Semitism is present in Hungary, but to a lesser extent than Western Europe. He expressed the hope that the phenomenon would disappear completely.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Opposition primaries: The DK nominates a candidate calling Israel an aggressor

Source: neokohn.hu

1 June 2021 Klára Dobrev announced on her Facebook page that the DK supports Gábor Pál, a politician from Jobbik, in the opposition primaries. The politician was previously a journalist for Magyar Nemzet and Magyar Hírlap, then became the press chief of Jobbik, and is currently a local government representative in Szentendre. He had previously supported Márton Gyöngyösi, who called in parliament for Hungarian Jews to be catalogued and screened as potential national security risks and did not consider László Csatóry a war criminal either - can be read on neokohn.hu.

Gábor Pál's latest anti-Israel affirmation was in January 2020, when he responded to Viktor Orbán's statement: "Why should Hungary side with a pro-war, provocateur, crazy major power leader and Middle Eastern aggressor?"

Sobotka: Anti-Semitism is like coffee grounds, should not be shaken

Source: neokohn.hu

1 June 2021 Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the Austrian National Council, visited the renewed Rumbach Sebestyén Street Synagogue. During the visit, the politician discussed with András Heisler, president of The Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz), the main topic of the conversation was growing anti-Semitism - informs mazsihisz.hu. Sobotka considers it very important to meet state leaders and representatives of local Jewry during his official visits abroad.

András Heisler said that the building has cultural, tourist and community-building functions in addition to its Jewish life of faith duties. He noted that Rumbach is a community space where 18 Jewish NGOs have found a home through the Mosaic Jewish

Community HUB, and that the Hungarian representation of the World Jewish Congress (WJA) also has found a home here.

According to the latest research, Sobotka noted: Anti-Semitism sprouts on the peripheries of society. This prejudiced worldview stems from within, in the middle of society. Anti-Semitism is abnormally anti-minority, and anti-community and its anti-democratic nature threatens the whole of democracy and must be combated by all means.

Szijjártó: Hungary stands by Israel

Source: demokrata.hu, magyarhirlap.hu, portfolio.hu, 24.hu

1 June 2021 Hungary, its friend and ally, stands by Israel, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó told Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, at their talks in Jerusalem. Hungary considers Israel a friend, so it is natural that Hungary will stand by its friend when it comes under attack, Szijjártó said. The head of Hungarian diplomacy assured Netanyahu that Hungary would take the same position in the future - Magyar Hírlap reports following MTI.

Szijjártó said Hungary would veto any future statement or resolution that was "unfair" to the Middle Eastern country, took an anti-Israel stance or had anti-Semitic undertones. Though a terrorist organization attacked Israel in Hamas, this was not made clear in the international political arena, Szijjártó said. He added the international community failed to stand by Israel due to "hypocrisy and double standards".

Szijjártó said Israel and Hamas had practically been treated as equals on the international political scene, "as if Hamas were some NGO". However, it should be made clear that Hamas is a terrorist group that attacked Israel, he said. Israel has a right to defend itself, Szijjártó told during his visit. "We regret that international political organizations have not taken a joint stance on the situation," he added.

“We regret the fact that a terrorist organization has attacked Israel. We regret that some international organizations wanted to treat Israel and Hamas on the same level as if Hamas were an NGO. We also regret that the international organizations did not speak clearly about Israel's right to self-defence” - criticized the international response to the Gaza missile attacks.

Hungary has vetoed multiple resolutions and statements in both the European Union and the United Nations that were “extremely unfair” to Israel, he said. They took a biased and anti-Israel approach to the situation,” Szijjártó said. “We have never supported such anti-Israel positions and will not support them in the future either.”

DK also supports György Szilvási, who previously considered the Simon Wiesenthal Institute a national security risk

Source: neokohn.hu

3 June 2021 The Democratic Coalition (DK) is supporting György Szilágyi in the autumn primary elections, said Klára Dobrev, DK's Prime Minister nominee on Facebook. Neokohn previously recalled that Szilágyi, as vice-president of Jobbik, had proposed in 2013 a ban on the Simon Wiesenthal Center, which he called an "anti-Hungarian organization".

Szilágyi complained that the center condemned a group of Hungarian football ultras who showed a banner depicting László Csatóry in a match. As memorable, Csatóry took a serious role as a gendarme in the 1944 deportations in Ko ice. Szilágyi has had an anti-Semitic scandal ever since. Recently the immunity certificate reminded him of the concentration camp and the yellow star. APL also condemned his statement.

The other opposition party LMP previously supported Szilágyi in the opposition primaries.

Lajos Rig, who considers the gipsies as a biological weapon of the Jews, is supported by the DK

Source: mandiner.hu

6 June 2021 Lajos Rig from Jobbik will run in the parliamentary elections with the support of DK and Klára Dobrev. The politician announced this on Facebook, accompanied by a picture with Klára Dobrev. Lajos Rig seems to have undergone a profound change, because as the politician posted an article a few years ago stating that Jews use Gypsies as a biological weapon, writes mandiner.hu.

“It's time for our region to put ideological debates aside as well. DK did this, which earned me my gratitude and respect. The basis of our alliance is not to look for what separates, but for what connects” - Rig wrote.

Viktor Orbán had talks with the President of the World Jewish Congress

Source: kema.hu, szon.hu, vg.hu, magyar-nemzet.hu, neokohn.hu

10 June 2021 In the Carmelite Monastery, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) Ronald S. Lauder after his guest attended the synagogue opening in Rumbach Sebestyén street in Budapest, Bertalan Havasi, the Prime Minister's press chief, informed the Hungarian news agency MTI. The refurbishment of the historical building of international significance awarded an ICOS prize was implemented from a budget of HUF 3.2 billion, including government funding.

At the meeting, which was also attended by Minister without Portfolio for Families Katalin Novák, Mr Orbán and Mr Lauder established that similar to the years before, the Jewish community in Hungary can continue to rely on the Hungarian government's assistance in every possible way.

The President of the WJC spoke in words of praise about the government funding provided for the Jewish community in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and about the health care, social and cultural projects, and developments that serve to improve the quality of life of Jews living in Hungary.

Lauder described Orbán's recent visit to Israel as encouraging and thanked the Government of Hungary for standing up for and supporting the Jewish state at international forums. Prime Minister Orbán recalled that the Hungarian government continues to advocate zero tolerance regarding anti-Semitism, and in the spirit of common values, he offered the President of the World Jewish Congress continued cooperation.

Borsod's primaries: the Jobbik's candidate is László Bíró

Source: telex.hu, hvg.hu, 24.hu, magyar-narancs.hu

10 June 2021 László Bíró was the joint opposition's candidate back at the primary in the 6th constituency of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county held in October 2020. According to Jobbik's statement, Bíró "as a right-wing, Christian, married man will fight persistently, with heart and soul after the by-elections" for the inhabitants of his constituency and understands the problems of those living there - telex.hu writes.

In the autumn, László Bíró lost against the Fidesz candidate, Zsófia Koncz, by 1,700 votes. The campaign also included Bíró's previous anti-Semitic manifestations, in which he called Budapest "judapest" According to Magyar Nemzet, he also mentioned that

there are many Jews among the guests of the wellness hotels nearby. Bíró apologised for his anti-Semitic remarks last year. Jewish organisation Mazsihisz also protested against the candidacy of László Bíró. According to the organisation, politicians with anti-Semitic, racist and exclusionary views have no place in Hungarian public life.

Hungary became the first EU member state to boycott the Durban Conference

Source: neokohn.hu, mandiner.hu, tev.hu

28 June 2021 Hungary became the first EU member state to announce that it will not participate in the 20th anniversary of the United Nations "Durban World Conference against Racism" due to the anti-Semitic nature of these gatherings - reported Neokohn following The Jerusalem Post.

The Hungarian government has a zero-tolerance policy against anti-Semitism and fully committed to ensuring the security of the Jewish people that we also constantly represent in international forums, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjártó wrote in a letter to Mark Weitzman, director of government affairs at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. "In this spirit, Hungary did not support the Durban process and voted against the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 31 December 2020" - Szijjártó said.

Also USA, Canada, Italy, Australia, Israel and Germany boycotted the conference in previous years. In 2011, the number of countries boycotting Durban 3 increased to 14. Last week, the UK said it would join the US, Canada and Australia to boycott the event.

OTHER NEWS

Axel Springer: If you're anti-Israel, don't work for us

Source: zsid.com

23 May 2021 The head of the German media giant publisher Axel Springer, who also has a significant market presence in Hungary, harshly criticized those outraged by the Israeli flag hoisted at the company's headquarters in Berlin, zsid.com writes.

Mathias Doepfner, chairman of Axel Springer, says gesture made to take a stand against antisemitism, instructs 16,000 employees to look for work elsewhere if they object. "After these weeks of terrible antisemitic demonstrations, we at our building

headquarters said next to the European flag, and the German flag, the Berlin flag, let's raise for one week the Israeli flag as a gesture of solidarity," he said. "We do not accept these kinds of aggressive antisemitic movements. Some people said they did not want to work for a company that does such a thing. So, I think that is also a good point. This person does not fit the company and its values. It's very simple" he said.

Döpfner said he welcomed "critical questions" and that some of those complaining had good points, which he responded to. "But this fundamental opposition to it leaves the spectrum" of acceptable responses, Döpfner emphasised.

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

APL did not initiate any legal proceedings this month, nor did we receive any notifications regarding our previous proceedings.

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.	1st of June	Holocaust victims remembered across the country	Community News and Responses
2.	1st of June	Opposition primaries: The DK nominates a candidate calling Israel an aggressor	Official and Civil Responses
3.	1st of June	Sobotka: Anti-Semitism is like coffee grounds, should not be shaken	Official and Civil Responses
4.	1st of June	Szijjártó: Hungary stands by Israel	Official and Civil Responses
5.	3rd of June	DK also supports György Szilvási, who previously considered the Simon Wiesenthal Institute a national security risk	Official and Civil Responses
6.	6th of June	Lajos Rig, who considers the gipsies as a biological weapon of the Jews, is supported by the DK	Official and Civil Responses
7.	10th of June	Viktor Orbán had talks with the President of the World Jewish Congress	Official and Civil Responses
8.	11th of June	The refurbished Rumbach Sebestyén Street Synagogue was inaugurated	Community News and Responses
9.	14th of June	Two Jewish teenagers have suffered a verbal anti-Semitic insult in Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
10.	19th of June	Anti-Semitic neighbours harass a retired Jewish couple in Debrecen	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
11.	21st of June	Anti-Zionist rabbi of Mazsihisz continues to attack Israel	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
12.	23rd of June	Axel Springer: If you're anti-Israel, don't work for us	Other News
13.	25th of June	Tamir Wertzberger, foreign affairs coordinator for Likud in Budapest, threatened on WhatsApp and Messenger	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
14.	27th of June	An exhibition commemorating the Jews of Szombathely opened in Israel	Community News and Responses
15.	27th of June	Borsod's primaries: the Jobbik's candidate is László Bíró	Official and Civil Responses

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	28th of June	Anti-Semitism conference at the Danube Institute	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
17.	28th of June	Hungary became the first EU member state to boycott the Durban Conference	Official and Civil Responses
18.	29th of June	A swastika is depicted on a sidewalk in Kistokaj	Further Hate Incidents
19.	30th of June	Six years ago, the Jobbik Vice Mayor of Dunaújváros posted anti-Semitic contents	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection League is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread antisemitic manifestations.

The Action and Protection Foundation is the partner of the Action and Protection League in Hungary.

In case anyone faces insults or antisemitic 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 1 00 000

The website of Action and Protection League: www.apleeu.org

The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

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

13597539-12302010-00057157

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2021 Budapest

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