

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT  
IN HUNGARY

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AUGUST 2021



ACTION AND PROTECTION  
LEAGUE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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, our Foundation found three antisemitic hate incidents throughout its monitoring activities in August. Two of these have been filed as Hate Speech, and in one case, we identified a Threat.

In the first case, antisemitic commentators attacked the philosopher of religion György Gábor on the news and commentary portal Mandiner. In the second case, a website using forbidden totalitarian symbols was reported to APF. And finally, guests at the inauguration of Pesti Stibel synagogue were called “stinking Jews” and threatened with a baseball bat.

This month, we have identified no incidents of hatred of another nature. APF did not initiate any legal proceedings this month, nor did we receive any notifications regarding our previous proceedings.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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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)<sup>1</sup> and the ADL Global 100<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: ANTISEMITISM - OVERVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2008–2018

<sup>2</sup> <https://global100.adl.org>

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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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 incidents<sup>3</sup> 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 whole<sup>4</sup>.

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

<sup>3</sup> See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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## METHODOLOGY

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The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows<sup>5</sup> (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people<sup>6</sup>
- 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 period<sup>7</sup> 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

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

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

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

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 statistics<sup>9</sup> :

- 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.

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

<sup>9</sup> The criteria for hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics were modified, therefore the present description is different from the one we used in 2013.

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<sup>10</sup>:

- 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.<sup>11</sup> In presenting timelines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

<sup>10</sup> CEJL 2012, 10–12

<sup>11</sup> These descriptions, in particular, are held to be the most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

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# ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

## – AUGUST 2021

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Action and Protection Foundation identified three Antisemitic hate incidents over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of August. One of them is classified as Threat and two as Hate speech.

### THREAT

*Guests at the inauguration of Pesti Síbél were called “stinking Jews” and threatened with a baseball bat*

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

**27 August 2021** Antisemitic insults were hurled at participants of the inauguration ceremony of the new synagogue of EMIH (Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities) on Friday, 27 August 2021. The foreign and Hungarian participants, dressed in religious attire, were on their way to Vörösmarty Street when two drunken middle-aged men spat on the congregation members, calling them stinking Jews and then tried to beat them. Passers-by noticed the incident, and the attackers moved on.

After the worship, the celebrants marched to Béke Hotel. On Szondi Street, a young man with a baseball bat shouted "ugh, Jews, get out, Jews" at the passers-by, and when several of them turned around, he responded with "don't look back, you stinking Jew". He then tried to hit them, raising his baseball bat, but thanks to the swift, decisive and professional police action, no physical assault took place. The perpetrators were taken into custody by the authorities, and criminal proceedings were initiated against them.

The Action and Protection Foundation (APF) appreciates the swift and professional actions taken by the authorities at the scene and their investigation. It expresses its special thanks to the police for the unique way they continued the investigation early on Sunday morning, due to the Shabbat work prohibition.

### HATE SPEECH

*Antisemitic commentators attacked the philosopher of religion György Gábor on Mandiner*

Source: nepszava.us

**15 August 2021** Some readers of mandiner.hu reacted with antisemitic and Nazi comments to Gábor György's Facebook post. Among others, comments like these and similar could be read:

"He clawed his way to the top ten of the nastiest Jews alive"; "Orban-phobic Khazar"; "You are a disgrace to your race"; "You bastard AVO Jew"; "You rascal anti-Hungarian Jew"; "May you be covered in a ton of shit"; "You should be on a display, monkey, stuffed with tow, in a panopticon"; "Why the fuck don't you aliyah, Jew?"; Get the fuck out of this country with your foreskinless family while you're still doing well, you fucking communist rabbi"; "For this exquisite anti-Hungarian Jew, the ideal man is Freud: the motherfucking Jewish charlatan"; "Nothing special. That's what you get from a stinking, lousy, rotten, gay Jew. Hitler had a point..."

The moderators deleted the comments.

*A website using forbidden totalitarian symbols has been reported to APF*

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

**30 August 2021** The overtly far-right, Nazi and Arrow Cross sympathising, Hungarian site (zoldinges.net) contains several antisemitic contents. For example, in the context of the situation in the Middle East, we read the following:



"In Bethlehem, once a Christian majority, the number of Christians has already decreased below 50%, while in Jerusalem, the other most important place in the Christian world, the number of Christians is less than 5%. The Israeli authorities are expelling those who remain, the construction of illegal Jewish settlements and the abuse of Christians continues."



An article from 2019 reflects on the humanity of Jews and Gypsies. Using convoluted logic, they conclude that there can be a position that they are not human. In another place, they write that it is not Nazism to list Jewish MPs. They also devote a series of articles in several parts to the history of national socialist movements in Europe. And they refer to Ferenc Szálasi as their "most outstanding intellectual" predecessor. The website also has a secret Facebook page; access is subject to prior authorisation.

APF will use all available legal measures to close the website legally.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*The EMIH reopens a synagogue*

Source: neokohn.hu, zsidó.com

**3 August 2021** The Orthodox community house of worship on Vörösmarty Street in the 6th district, which was closed around 1983, has undergone a complete renovation and will reopen its doors to the public during the Synagogue Week series of events starting at the end of August. The synagogue will be under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Oirechman Shmuel, according to zsidó.com.

On the synagogue's Facebook page, Rabbi Oirechman writes: "The synagogue is a real urban pearl, a shtiebel, as they call such small, intimate, family synagogues in Yiddish. We are creating a joyful and welcoming prayer house where young and old alike feel comfortable and at home, where we can enjoy each other's company, our community, celebrate and say our ancient prayers in the spirit of tradition."

*Shlomo Köves: the House of Fates will be open next year*

Source: 24.hu

**9 August 2021** Shlomo Köves, head of the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities (EMIH), was a guest of Partizán on Monday evening. In the interview, the House of Fates project was also discussed. In this context, Köves said he expected it to be open to the public within a year. The new museum, which will cost 7.5 billion euros and present the Holocaust from a new perspective, was scheduled to open in 2021, 168.hu reports. Köves said: A lot of work has been done in the past year and a half, but it needs more time to be completed, as "we started practically from scratch a year and a half ago".

According to the rabbi, the problem with the "traditional" Holocaust exhibitions is that Jews are "presented exclusively as victims, anonymously, as victims without capacity, which does not necessarily evoke empathy". Another problem is that Judaism as an inherent value is not represented in these museums, while they are the only connection most visitors will ever have with Judaism.

The Holocaust museum on Páva Street is "not a success story; it has 10,000-15,000 visitors a year. Most of them are foreign tourists, and we don't see it has brought a huge change to Hungarian society". The House of Fates should be a novelty in comparison. "It is my responsibility to create something authentic for the Jewish community, for the Hungarian majority society and the visitors", he said.

Shlomo Köves states that the government's previous Soros campaign was not antisemitic, but he also could not identify with the term ethnic homogeneity, which Viktor Orbán also used.

*Fourteen-year-old girl wants to save the forgotten Jewish cemetery in Balatonfőkajár*

Source: telex.hu

**14 August 2021** Emma is a teenager from Budapest who discovered the Jewish cemetery of Balatonfőkajár during the quarantine and started researching its history. Despite her young age, she has found a way to make a positive change for the abandoned cemetery, telex.hu reports.

During the quarantine period, she used to walk around the area with her family, and the cemetery was visited for the first time by family friends who knew Balatonfőkajár well.

The first time, she noticed that the place was very deserted and neglected, and she was very interested in knowing who the people buried there might have been. She saw some restored gravestones and could read the names in Latin letters. The 14-year-old girl searched for these names on the internet and started to learn about the history of the former Jewish community of Balatonfőkajár.

Emma was very impressed when she visited the Jewish cemetery in Berhida, less than a quarter of an hour away from Főkajár, in 2020 and saw how beautifully it had recently been renovated. This experience inspired her to start acknowledging the cemetery's history and its condition and find funds to help restore it.

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*Shlomo Köves: the left also says yes to antisemitic politicians*

Source: [magyarnemzet.hu](http://magyarnemzet.hu), [hirtv.hu](http://hirtv.hu), [origo.hu](http://origo.hu)

**4 August 2021** By supporting candidates like Tóth Péter, the left sends a message to its voters that antisemitism or racism is a permissible and acceptable ideology, Shlomo Köves, the chief rabbi of the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities, told Media-works. The right-wing politician, who campaigned together with Ferenc Gyurcsány, has previously made many racist and exclusionary statements, which we have reported in detail in our previous reports.

According to Koloman Brenner, Jobbik's vice-president, their antisemitic and homophobic candidate has changed, he is doing a very decent job in the local government and has good local support. Philosopher Gáspár Miklós Tamás and the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) have also protested against the candidate.

*Tamás Deutsch: Ferenc Gyurcsány has entered into an electoral alliance with a politician who is openly antisemitic and racist*

Source: [168.hu](http://168.hu)

**11 August 2021** Tamás Deutsch has sent an open letter to several leading European politicians. In a Facebook post, the MEP condemned the alliance between the Hungarian left and the far-right Jobbik as incompatible - [168.hu](http://168.hu) wrote.

"Those who support Gyurcsány support racism and antisemitism," Deutsch wrote. His opinion is based on the fact that the creation of a united opposition was only possible by compromising with Jobbik, whose ranks include "politicians with openly antisemitic and racist views".

He is offended that the Democratic Coalition's (DK) candidate is Péter Tóth, a right-wing politician in Szeged, who has previously made openly anti-Gypsy, homophobic and antisemitic statements. He criticised Márton Gyöngyösi's involvement in the coalition as well; Gyöngyösi had once intended to list members of the Hungarian Parliament who were of Jewish origin. He also criticised László Bíró, a right-wing MEP who calls Budapest "Judapest", for being the opposition's joint candidate in the recent parliamentary mid-term election.

The head of Fidesz's delegation to the European Parliament said it is incomprehensible that European leaders who had previously openly stood up for liberal values could now remain silent in support of "openly racist and antisemitic candidates who evoke the darkest period in European history".

*László Bíró withdrew from the primaries*

Source: [444.hu](http://444.hu), [168ora.hu](http://168ora.hu)

**15 August 2021** Right-wing politician, László Bíró, withdraws from the opposition primaries in the "interest of the nation". According to his Facebook post, he has decided to "make the sacrifice" that he feels is "demanded by the country" and withdraws, saying he supports Gábor Jézsó, the MSZP candidate in the primary election, because he is better suited to defeat Fidesz, [444.hu](http://444.hu) reports.

Bíró was the opposition's joint candidate in the 2020 by-election. Bíró's candidacy caused tensions, following the publication of his exclusionary and antisemitic comments, for which he later apologised.

László Bíró said that he had made the most difficult and important decision of his life, but that he knew he had to support a better candidate than himself. "If you must, take one step back so that the nation can take two steps forward", he wrote.

*Charges were brought against the man from Békéscsaba who assaulted his flatmate because of his Jewish origin*

Source: koroshircentrum.hu

**14 August 2021** The Békéscsaba District Prosecutor's Office has brought charges against a 65-year-old man from Békéscsaba with no criminal record, for the crime of violence against a member of the community and minor bodily injury committed against a person who is limited in his ability to prevent the crime because of his age, reports koroshircentrum.hu.

In 2018, the elderly man moved into a social institution in Békéscsaba where he had several conversations with a man of a similar age, the later victim. During this conversation, the victim's Jewish origin and religion were also mentioned. The accused repeatedly, with varying frequency and in a drunken state, mocked the other man because of his religious beliefs and insulted him with the words "You're a stinking Jew", which he continued despite the victim's request to stop.

On 10 December 2019, the accused was also drunk when he took a knife from the dinner table and threatened the victim sitting next to him by saying, "You stinking Jew, I'll cut your throat anyway", then stood up and started waving an object that looked like a weapon. The next day, the management of the institution told the accused that he had to move out.

The man then became angry and aggressive, and in the afternoon, in the kitchen, he approached the victim, who could not defend himself well due to his old age, and — without any provocation — put his arm around his neck from behind saying, "I'll kill you, Jew". Although he released his grip, "he hit him once in the nose with his fist", Dr Márta Berg, the acting prosecutor reported.

*The vasarnap.hu journalist remembered a suicide attacker who murdered Jews*

Source: neokohn.hu

**9 August 2021** The Syrian Kassab Adonis was formerly a founding member of the paramilitary organisation Magyar Gárda, a politician of Jobbik, and currently an important journalist at the vasarnap.hu Christian site. He moved to Hungary in 2001, joined Jobbik in 2006 and became the party's vice-president in Budapest two years later. According to RTL Klub, he was one of the first 56 members of the Hungarian Guard, neokohn.hu reports.

The news portal found several previous public Facebook posts in which the journalist made scandalous antisemitic statements. In April 2020, Kassab wrote on his personal Facebook page, in a public post in Arabic: "9 April, the day of remembrance of the martyrdom of the bride of southern Lebanon who shocked the Zionist entity... long live Syria!" The post was accompanied by a photograph of Kassab Sana'a Mehaiddi, who drove an explosives-laden car into Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon on 9 April 1985 and blew herself up, killing two Israelis and injuring 12 others.

In 2011, he posted a video saying that Palestinians were suffering the "real Holocaust" at the hands of Israelis. In January 2013, he shared, without comment, a written question by Balázs Lenhardt, a member of the right-wing parliamentary party, entitled "Is there always money for the Holocaust industry?" The text in question referred to the victims of the Holocaust as "victims" in quotation marks.

In December 2014, he shared the article "ISIS is the new Israel". In another post, he argued that he had left Jobbik in 2012 because he felt the party had become soft, citing Gábor Vona's Hanukkah greeting to the Jewish community. In another comment, he clarified that "those I consider the enemy are the Zionists". Kassab asked his Facebook friends whether Tamás Somló was a Zionist or not.

Kassab also edits the website *orientalist.hu* under his name and image; *Átlátszó* previously described the site as one of Hungary's main Russian and Syrian state propaganda forums. The site represents anti-Israel, antisemitic hate speech, referring to Israel as a "Zionist state", "apartheid" in Israel, and Israelis as "occupiers". The site has also previously published articles on the "Palestinian Holocaust", *neokohn.hu* notes.

*Another right-wing politician has been revealed to have an antisemitic past*

Source: *magyarhirlap.hu*

**10 August 2021** The Jobbik politician Süle Zsolt is also running in the left-wing primaries. Like several of his party colleagues, he has regularly made statements that vilify Jews and Gypsies and often shared extremist, hate-mongering content from *kuruc.info*, wrote *magyarhirlap.hu*.

One such comment was published in 2013 when police refused to allow far-right Nemzeti Érzelmű Motorosok to march with the slogan "Give me gas!" at the same time as

the March of Living, which commemorated the victims of the Holocaust. In this context, the right-wing MEP said on his social media page that "the MSZP Jew tells Viktor what to do ... So much for this little dipshit!".

Süle also shared a *kuruc.info* meme: "Well, then write nicely, Vitya [Viktor Orbán]! From now, only those who can prove that they are victims of the Holocaust, [...] and the letters on their motorbike plate begin with JEW can march in Judapest." Also, in 2013, he shared a *kuruc.info* article entitled "The true face of the dreaded Jews holding a conference in Budapest: they are threatening to destroy our country."

In the same year, the far-right politician also complained that the management of the Győri ETO football club did not allow flags with the Árpád stripes and Great Hungary at the Champions League qualifying match against Maccabi in Israel.

"Jew henchmen!!!! Since when are the Arpad flag and the map of Great Hungary a forbidden symbol, [...] you disgusting worms!!!" wrote Süle.

In the campaign before the 2014 elections, the antisemitic MEP shared a meme calling the ruling party "Jews", and in several posts, he mockingly referred to the Roma as "Orban's hidden resources".

And in a 2017 Facebook post, he criticised Joci Pápai for giving a concert on 15 March and listed several non-Roma artists who he said would have been more acceptable performers.

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## OTHER NEWS

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*An editor-in-chief who glorifies Hitler and Szálasi has been appointed to a Christian news portal*

Source: 444.hu, medial.hu, kreativ.hu, neokohn.hu, tev.hu

**3 August 2021** A new editor-in-chief, famous for his far-right manifestations, has been appointed to the church newspaper *vasarnap.hu*, which is financed by the Prime Minister's Office, writes 444.hu. While he was still working for 888.hu, he wrote an article titled "Glory to the heroes: The breakthrough began 75 years ago". It referred to a hopeless German-Hungarian attempt to break through the lines of Soviet troops that encircled Budapest. In that article, he states that the military operation was a heroic struggle to defend Europe and Hungary. He also talked about Otto Wöhler's German military order in his text without criticism, fully identifying with its content.

Shlomo Köves, chief rabbi of EMIH and the Action and Protection Foundation (APF), also protested against the article. The article was eventually removed at the request of the editor-in-chief, Gábor G. Fodor. In an interview with *Mandiner*, the new editor-in-chief said: "*Vasarnap.hu* is not an ordinary press organ; our colleagues see their work as a vocation, and they use publicity tools to fight religious, ideological, cultural and political battles daily. A defeat would ultimately mean the end of European Christian civilisation."

He added that regarding the protection of life, "we will go all the way and beyond", which is identical to the spirit of *vasarnap.hu*. "Not because that is my thing, but because it is our Christian faith; we would be broken if we did otherwise." Horváth was an active participant in a neo-Nazi organisation

called *Erő és Elszántság Mozgalom* (Power and Determination Movement). At this demonstration, the leaders spoke, among other things, of their pride in being part of the European white race. He also participated in another protest in 2017, where he held the movement's flag near the podium during the speeches.

In an interview with *Magyar Nemzet*, he tried to explain his involvement with a neo-Nazi movement. He said that he "stayed close to the organisation for a while, participating in anti-EU demonstrations and in the commemoration of October 23". But, he continued, "I realized relatively soon that the path on which the Power and Determination Movement had started was not going to lead very far, so I distanced myself from the organisation". In the meantime, he responded to some questions from journalists but refused to say that he condemned the Nazis and the Arrow Cross Party.

Asked by *telex.hu* whether he thinks that the ideas of the movement he has adopted are compatible with the teachings of the Catholic Church, he said: "Racism is incompatible with Catholic teaching (...). On the other hand, there is a theological concept, *ordo caritatis* (order of love), which teaches that our love is not equal towards all, that we should and must love better those closer to us (...). It's not racism, it's not racism, it's a natural distinction, and that's why the Hungarian government's migration policy is acceptable from a Christian perspective."

Regarding the Arrow Cross Party members' abuses, he said he could not identify with them. He told *Hit Rádió* station that he distanced himself from Nazism. On his Facebook page, however, he said: "Attacks should not only be tolerated but also enjoyed."

*Far-left, anti-Zionist MEP could enter the Parliament in 2022*

Source: neokohn.hu

**9 August 2021** András Jámbor, the former editor-in-chief of the far-left and blatantly Israel-hating Mércé portal, is the most popular opposition candidate in Budapest's 6th constituency. Jámbor was formerly the editor-in-chief of the far-left portal Mércé, neokohn.hu reports. The Action and Protection Foundation (APF) looked at Mércé's news about Israel in 2018 when András Jámbor was still the editor-in-chief.

In one article, they called the Israeli government parties fanatics. The author of the piece said that Israel had been ruled by a militaristic regime behind the scenes of a representative democracy since the beginning, and its former prime ministers — Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir — were terrorists. It also says that the country has been engaged in ethnic cleansing since 1967. The author also would have taken Benjamin Netanyahu to an international court for deporting refugees, murdering innocent civilians, trading with genocidal foreign governments and illegally occupying land.

After this analysis, kibic.hu interviewed Jámbor, who did not dispute the accuracy of the quotes but denied that his paper "dances on the borderline of antisemitism".

Interestingly, Jámbor is officially put forward by the far-left Szikra Movement. During the Gaza conflict, the movement condemned Israel, accusing the Jewish state of "apartheid", and stood up for Hamas, neokohn.hu reports.

*The journalist of the Jewish publication Neokohn admitted that he gave Nazi salute*

Source: media1.hu, neokohn.hu

**12 August 2021** An article appeared in vasarnap.hu titled "Hitler salute and posing with an Arrow Cross flag - introduc-

ing Dániel Gyenge, writer at Neokohn", a neo-conservative Jewish publication. Vasarnap.hu claimed that a courier arrived with a pen drive containing photos of one of the writers at Neokohn, media1.hu reports. After the photos were published, Dániel Gyenge explained the incident to his employer: "The views symbolised by the Nazi salute or the Arrow Cross symbol have caused the death of millions of innocent people. As an adult, I cannot identify with them. I find them repulsive and despicable, and I regret that it took a long learning process from a young age to understand how destructive they are."

"There are several conclusions to be drawn from the case of our freelance writer Daniel Gyenge. As we stated in our editorial yesterday, Neokohn believes that everyone has the right to self-reflection. This confrontation is not only appropriate but also an obligation. It is the basis of the ancient Jewish tradition," writes Jonathan A. Megyeri, editor-in-chief of neokohn.hu.

According to him, it was almost inevitable that the editor-in-chief of vasarnap.hu would take revenge after the EMIH's chief rabbi published an article in Neokohn, which led to the "fascist" journalist's departure from the 888.hu news site. Megyeri states that Dániel Gyenge's background was not and could not have been known to them, unlike the background of Tamás Horváth, who, even when the scandal broke out, stood by his Holocaust-relativising, racist and antisemitic statements.

"But the real question is the future. Whether Neokohn should and can allow Dániel Gyenge to publish, after, as our publication has reported, the young publicist has apologised for his past actions and expressed remorse. Gyenge's apology is accepted, and we are happy to give him the space to fulfil his promise to publish on how to prevent other young high school students from being captivated by vulgar neo-Nazi ideas, as they were in his case a few years ago."

*The editor-in-chief of vasarnap.hu, who had previously taken part in neo-Nazi demonstrations, resigned*

Source: telex.hu

**13 August 2021** Tamás Horváth, the editor-in-chief of the Christian portal vasarnap.hu, which is close to the government, has

resigned. A freelance writer at the newspaper, Kassab Adonis, will leave with him on August 12, the portal's statement said, telex.hu reports.

"Our faith and our mission have been and will continue to be incompatible with any hatred. Anything that incites it is contrary to our values", the document reads.

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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	3rd of August	An editor-in-chief who glorifies Hitler and Szálasi has been appointed to a Christian news portal	Other News
2.	3rd of August	The EMIH reopens a synagogue	Community News and Responses
3.	4th of August	Shlomo Köves: the left also says yes to antisemitic politicians	Official and Civil Responses
4.	5th of August	Tamás Deutsch sees the LGBTQ rainbow and the swastika as similar	Official and Civil Responses
5.	9th of August	Gergely Homonnay: what Orbán said to Fox News, Hitler could have said too	Official and Civil Responses
6.	9th of August	Shlomo Köves: the House of Fates will be open next year	Official and Civil Responses
7.	9th of August	The vasarnap.hu journalist remembered a suicide attacker who murdered Jews	Other News
8.	9th of August	Far-left, anti-Zionist MEP could enter the Parliament in 2022	Other News
9.	10th of August	Another right-wing politician has been revealed to have an antisemitic past	Other News
10.	11th of August	Tamás Deutsch: Ferenc Gyurcsány has entered into an electoral alliance with a politician who is openly antisemitic and racist	Official and Civil Responses
11.	12th of August	The journalist of the Jewish publication Neokohn admitted that he gave Nazi salute	Other News
12.	13th of August	The editor-in-chief of vasarnap.hu, who had previously taken part in neo-Nazi demonstrations, resigned	Other News
13.	14th of August	Charges were brought against the man from Békéscsaba who assaulted his flatmate because of his Jewish origin	Official and Civil Responses
14.	14th of August	Fourteen-year-old girl wants to save the forgotten Jewish cemetery in Balatonfőkajár	Community News and Responses
15.	15th of August	Antisemitic commentators attacked the philosopher of religion György Gábor on the Mandiner	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	15th of August	László Bíró withdrew from the primaries	Official and Civil Responses
17.	27th of August	Guests at the inauguration of Pesti Stibel were called "stinking Jews" and threatened with a baseball bat	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Threat
18.	30th of August	A website using forbidden totalitarian symbols has been reported to the APF	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

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## 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.apleu.org](http://www.apleu.org)

The Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany](https://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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**Publisher:** Action and Protection League of Europe  
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The publishers expresses their gratitude for the self-sacrificing work of the volunteers who, under expert guidance, have put their continuous efforts into the preparation of this report over the past months.

Use of the Report or any part thereof requires written permission from the publisher and such use must properly cite this report as a reference.

2021 Budapest

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