

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

OCTOBER 2021



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Excecutive Summary | 3 |
| Action and Protection League | 4 |
| About the Report | 5 |
| Methodology | 6 |
| Antisemitic Hate Incidents – October 2021 | 7 |
| Damage to property | 10 |
| Hate speech | 10 |
| Community News and Responses | 11 |
| Official News and Civil Responses | 14 |
| News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary | 16 |
| Other News | 17 |
| The Month's Chronicle | 18 |
| Contact and Support | 19 |
| References | 19 |
| Contributors and Publisher Information | 20 |

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, our Foundation found three antisemitic hate incidents throughout its monitoring activities in October. These have been filed as Damage to Property and Hate Speech.

In the first case, we found antisemitic graffiti painted on a government poster in Harminckettesek Square. It was also revealed that a popular Győr nightclub has been hosting Nazi events for years and FTC fans were photographed making Nazi salutes during the FTC-MTK match.

APF 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 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.

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 CEJL 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, 18).

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

– OCTOBER 2021

Action and Protection Foundationa identified three Antisemitic hate incidents over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of October. One of them is classified as Damage to Property and two as Hate speech.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Antisemitic graffiti painted on a government poster in Harminckettesek Square

Source: tev.hu

25 October 2021 Unknown perpetrators added an antisemitic inscription to the government's poster encouraging vaccination in Harminckettesek Square. The advertising shows Béla Merkely, the rector of Semmelweis University, with a Hitler moustache drawn under his nose and the inscription Dr Béla Mengele written on his forehead. In connection with the vaccination campaign, similar symbols have also appeared on several billboards in Budapest recently.



Source: tev.hu

The Action and Protection Foundation (APF) has contacted the billboard owner and requested a replacement.

HATE SPEECH

A popular Győr nightclub has been hosting Nazi events for years

Source: propeller.hu

9 October 2021 Győr's only club specialising in live rock, punk and alternative music, Dongó, regularly hosts Nazi events. In September 2020, the Legion Hungária, Blood and Honour, and C18 (short for Combat 18, where "18" represents the first and eighth letters of the alphabet, "A" and "H" for Adolf Hitler)) organised a joint concert there, Propeller reports.

In 2021, the organisations have not yet specified the exact location of any events, but the photos show that Dongó is still available. The last time, on 11 September 2021, an event decorated with swastikas was held in the concert hall. Propeller contacted the venue managers to ask if they had ever hosted a far-right event with banned totalitarian symbols as decorations. The management replied that it was a private event. They did not comment on the fact that if they were renting out the space for money, it would be questionable for them to cooperate with extremist groups that so openly incite hatred and expose people in the area to this.

The newspaper notes that, at the very least, it is interesting that the concert hall accommodates adherents of extremist and incendiary ideologies, thereby supporting the perpetuation of that ideology.

The Action and Protection League (APL) has contacted the Győr Police Station to ask whether there is an investigation into the illegal use of symbols of 20th-century totalitarian regimes in connection with the event.

Nazi salute at the Fradi-MTK match

Source: propeller.hu

25 October 2021 Krisztina Baranyi, the independent mayor of Ferencváros, shared a photo she took at the Ferencváros - MTK football match on Sunday. The picture shows Fradi supporters holding up a banner with a motto known from the government party's Peace March: "Criminals of 1956/2006!



Source: Facebook/Baranyi Krisztina

"We will not forget, never again left-wing!" Many of the supporters contributed to the banner's message by raising their right hands and doing a Nazi salute, propeller.hu reports.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

IPSOS-APL survey: no correlation between level of antisemitism and attacks against Jews
Source: index.hu, akibic.hu, szombat.org

12 October 2021 Hungary, Poland and Greece are the countries where non-Jews are the most hostile to Jews, yet these countries have the lowest incidence of assaults against Jews, according to a joint survey by the market research agency Ipsos and the Action and Protection Foundation (APF). The research, which covers 16 European countries, also found that countries where Jews are the most highly accepted are the most dangerous places for Jews. The main results of the study, titled "Antisemitic Prejudices in Europe" and coordinated by CEU professor András Kovács, were presented by Shlomo Köves in Brussels during a two-day conference on antisemitism organized by the Action and Protection League (APL); the European Jewish Association, a Brussels-based lobby group; and the Consistoire, a major French-Jewish community organization, which also helped publish the report. Several dozen Jewish leaders were in attendance, including the Netherlands' Chief Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs and Rashela Mizrahi, a prominent lawmaker from Macedonia who has dealt with public antisemitism.

Chief Rabbi Shlomo Köves, the founder of the Action and Protection Foundation and President of the European Action and Protection League, said: There is no connection between antisemitism and attacks against Jews. The relativization of the Holocaust and classical antisemitic stereotypes were more frequent among Eastern European respondents. However, anti-Israel statements, including those with antisemitic content, were more predominant among Western Europeans. A third of Austrian, Hungarian and Polish respondents believed that Jews would never be fully integrated into the majority

society. In Poland, 24% of respondents, in Greece, 23% and in Hungary, 21% agreed with the statement that "it would be best if Jews left the country". In contrast, in countries where there have been several attacks on the Jewish community, most respondents rejected this statement.

In Germany, where a record-high number of 2,351 incidents were recorded last year, 62% of respondents rejected the question, and only 7% agreed. Similar trends were observed in France, where 687 antisemitic attacks were recorded in 2019, and in the United Kingdom, where 1,668 incidents were documented last year.

Other countries in the category of low overall antisemitic sentiment, at least according to this survey, include the Netherlands, Sweden and Italy. Some countries with a low number of antisemitic assaults have a relatively small number of Jews, as is the case in Latvia and Greece. But others — including Hungary, where about 100,000 Jews live — have Jewish communities comparable to those in countries with a high number of assaults, notes index.hu.

To combat antisemitic violence, European Jewish leaders have long pushed for increased Holocaust education and other ways of affecting the broader trends of troublingly high antisemitic sentiment in many European countries. This survey complicates that narrative. Köves called for a holistic approach to the problem but also said, "Education and legislative measures, as well as law enforcement practices, are the key to our fight for survival." He added that an evaluation of the results by country is currently in progress.

Joël Mergui, who heads the Consistoire, said that "while the European institutions and politicians are devoting significant resources and spare no effort in the fight against antisemitism, the situation in Europe is not improving. Worse, it is deteriorating".

Action and Protection League opens an office in Brussels

Source: tev.hu

14 October 2021 The opening of the European Coordinating Office of the Action and Protection League was timed to present the results of the largest-scale antisemitic research to date, covering 16 countries. The Action and Protection League (APL), the European network of the Action and Protection Foundation (APF), which has been operating in Hungary since 2012, has opened its office in Brussels, where it will coordinate the continent's fight against antisemitism and liaise with EU bodies, according to APF's website.

In addition to Hungary, the Action and Protection League currently monitors antisemitic incidents in Romania, Sweden, Austria, Norway, Poland and Slovakia, with the aim of extending this activity to the whole of Europe. APL will take on two important tasks in the fight against antisemitism in the coming year: monthly monitoring of antisemitic hate crimes in EU countries, and reviewing and commenting on curricula used in secondary educational institutions in each country. Monitoring activities include, in addition to monitoring physical atrocities, monitoring media and social platforms as well as investigating anti-Israel manifestations.



Source: tev.hu

The APL considers the critical element of its educational activity to be the examination of textbooks used in secondary schools to ensure that students receive adequate knowledge and understanding of Judaism, the Holocaust and the State of Israel. Simultaneously with the presentation, the new APL website was also launched, providing a unique overview of the research findings in each country.

Kálmán Szalai, Action and Protection Foundation's secretary-general, finds it very exciting and is proud that the methodology, which has been tried and tested in Hungary for many years, has now been extended to most of Europe. "We are determined to start our operations in other countries of the continent to obtain a continuous, well-documented and coherent picture of the situation of antisemitism in Europe and the changes that are taking place in it, which is essential for the containment and, at best, the eradication of this pathological view."

Shlomo Köves: Hungarian Jews are less threatened today than seven years ago

Source: tev.hu

25 October 2021 The Chief Rabbi of EMIH also spoke to Deutsche Welle about the new antisemitism survey conducted by the Action and Protection Foundation (APF) and Ipsos. The recent study shows that antisemitism is deeply rooted and even on the rise in the EU, some 80 years after the Holocaust.

The survey also contains a glimmer of hope despite all the negative tendencies, according to Köves. He says that the work of APF in Hungary shows that it is possible to turn this trend around: From 2006 to 2013, the growth of far-right and right-wing populist parties in Hungary also led to a deterioration in the climate for Jews, according to the rabbi. But in 2012, the foundation started to improve its outreach work to raise awareness about the issue and fight prejudice, he says. The new study shows that Jews in Hungary now feel less threatened than they did seven years ago.

The problem was clearly identified in Hungary, and educational and outreach programs were developed and implemented together with state organizations. "Other EU states should follow this good example", adds the Hungarian rabbi.

Köves was reflecting on the experience he had several years ago. He travels throughout Hungary and Europe helping to dismantle prejudices among the younger generation in particular and tell them about the life of the 100,000 or so Hungarian Jews today. Köves believes his talks to school classes can make a difference, saying: "Most pupils have loads of questions because there are still so many prejudices."

The survey was conducted by the market research agency IPSOS, and the results are based on responses from 16,000 people in 16 EU member states. There are still plenty of antisemitic prejudices in Europe, according to the new study. They include global conspiracy theories, blaming Jews for Christ's crucifixion, and allegations about "dubious business practices".

The survey found that hostile opinions towards Jews were most widespread among Polish, Hungarian and Greek respondents. However, despite the high levels of antisemitic attitudes, violent attacks against Jews are rare in these countries, while attacks against Jews are more common in countries where antisemitism is less widespread.

The European Commission only presented its first political-strategic program to fight antisemitism last week. It plans to outlaw trade in Nazi memorabilia and boost the fight against antisemitic hate speech on the internet. According to European Commission data, 9 out of 10 Jews in Europe see antisemitism as a severe problem.

At the European Jewish Association meeting, Jewish leaders said the European Commission's strategy should only be the first step. At present, not even all EU member states record antisemitic attacks, let alone take concrete measures to address the problem.

OFFICIAL NEWS AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Deputy mayor of Ózd resigned due to Nazi photos

Source: telex.hu, magyarnarancs.hu, hirklikk.hu

7 October 2021 A new Nazi salute photo has been published of Farkas Péter Barnabás, the deputy mayor of Ózd, who did not wait for the municipal vote on his mandate and resigned from his post. The photo was taken on the same occasion in 2018 as the previous one at the Holocaust Museum in Chorzów, Poland. Farkas is not smiling in this photo, but his hand gesture looks even more like a classic Nazi salute, telex.hu reports. The newspaper has also received another photo of the former deputy mayor of Ózd, Péter Fidrus. It looked like he was imitating the Hitler moustache while doing the Nazi salute as well. According to Telex, the two politicians were supposedly taking photos of each other.

The mayor of Ózd, also a member of Jobbik, told Telex that "it is an unacceptable disgrace, but it is even more disgraceful that the person who took the photo was the one who initiated or supported this whole media campaign", said Dávid Janiczak, referring to the role of former deputy mayor Péter Fidrus. Janiczak also said that the unqualified arm-waving does not reflect the personal worldview of Farkas, who is a museologist and ethnologist.



Source: naphire.hu

Farkas apologized for the photos. "There was no malicious intent or mockery that I intended to offend Jewry", he said in a video he made in front of the Holocaust Museum on Páva Street. "Regarding the photos that came out a couple of days ago, I'd like to say I'm deeply sorry." Farkas visited the museum at the request of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz). "I faced all the horrors that were committed against these

people", the now-former deputy mayor said after visiting the museum. "Crimes against Jewry must never be repeated."

Reacting to a picture of him, Fidrus said it was a bad joke made in the wrong place at the wrong time. "Yesterday, I thanked the deputy mayor for finally publishing the picture of me because it proves beyond any doubt the aspect in which the photos were taken. He lied publicly in a statement when he claimed that he was just waving to the people in front of him." Fidrus stressed that he is not a racist. He has several Roma friends and acquaintances, but he has a strong opinion about the Roma people who shout, litter, and commit crimes in his neighbourhood, and he responds to these problems.

Katalin Novák: We must not give up the fight against antisemitism

Source: demokrata.hu

13 October 2021 Katalin Novak, Hungary's minister for family affairs, highlighted the importance of the fight against antisemitism at the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism. The minister stressed that the Hungarian government is working a lot to preserve the memory of the Holocaust.

In a statement to MTI, Katalin Novák stressed that preserving the memory of the Holocaust and relentless action against antisemitism is very important throughout Europe, including Hungary. She emphasised that the Holocaust also had many Hungarian victims. Regarding the threat of antisemitism, she stressed the need to fight the phenomenon because it could reappear again constantly.

"Antisemitism is present, even here, in Sweden, and many countries across Europe", she said, calling for a continuous fight against its manifestations. Advocates of antisemitism must not be allowed to take decision-making positions in Europe, she insisted.

She underlined that Holocaust education is part of Hungary's national curriculum and has been developed in cooperation with Jewish organisations. Hungary also commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day and supports the Jewish community in many other ways. For example, the renovation of the synagogue on Rumbach Sebastyén Street in Budapest also contributes to the safe life of the Jewish community.

She additionally referred to the protection of Hungary's borders, which she said, among other things, also serves to protect the country's Jewish communities. "If we protect Hungary's borders, we contribute to ensuring that Jewish and non-Jewish Hungarians, Jews and Christians can live together in peace and security. We can be proud that today Budapest is a safe city, that today Hungary is a safe country and that Jews and non-Jews can live safely in Budapest and Hungary."

The medal of the Righteous Among the Nations awarded to a formerly retired officer and his wife

Source: magyarnarancs.hu

14 October 2021 Minister of the Interior Sándor Pintér and Israel's Ambassador to Hungary, Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, bestowed the honour of the Righteous Among the Nations to Sándor Nagy and Mária Bergován, magyarnarancs.hu reports. The medal was awarded to recognise the humanity and courage of the formerly retired officer of the Ministry of Defence and his wife. The posthumous medal was received by their grandson, Sándor Nagy. The family provided shelter for Mihály Jellinek and his wife's family, a total of eleven people, for half a year in Budapest in 1944.

Interior Minister Sándor Pintér said that the honoured had set a high standard of humanity, solidarity and goodwill by risking their own lives to save others during the war. They took the risk that if their mission failed, they too would be persecuted. The medal sends the message that anyone who saves even one person saves the world, said the minister, who stressed that people cannot be excluded or vilified for reasons of origin or religion.

Yakov Hadas-Handelsman stressed that people must remember the atrocities of the Holocaust. He was also struck by the courage of the couple and their children, who also made a significant contribution to the rescue of the Jewish family of eleven.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

The Hungarian QAnon story in Válasz Online

Source: valaszonline.hu

6 October 2021 Imre Posta and the radical Pí circle he leads, recently arrested on charges of preparing to commit murder and violently changing the constitutional order, have a few hundred followers and thousands of sympathisers.

This organisation, which believes in conspiracy theories from all over the world, has a worldview similar to the American QAnon, writes valaszonline.hu. The newspaper asks what led ordinary people to make death lists, how Jobbik and Echo TV helped Imre Posta's rise to power, and whether there is a limit to the antisemitic madness.

The article recalls how on 11 September, a few dozen people gathered in a small village farm in Fejér County for a festive cooking party and public discussion. In addition to their anti-vaccine views, the speakers of the group expressed the following thoughts: Jewish resettlement is planned in Hungary; Jewishisation is underway; Mi Hazánk is a gay Jewish party, but is really Fidesz; Fidesz is the most Zionist Jewish party; Pope Francis is the Pope of the Jews; and Christianity has nothing to do with Hungarians.

At the climax of the event, one of the speakers read out a list of government and opposition politicians, and other public figures, on whom he pronounced a death sentence in a passionless tone. The TEK arrested the speakers at the end of September for crimes against life. After that, it turned out that Imre Posta and his circle appeared in the far-right subcultures around 2006–2008, which called for the killing of 31 people in the name of the "Responsible National Government of Hungarians".

The compilation reveals that Imre Posta's name became known in 2007 when he was fired from his job as a psychologist in the Republican Guard Regiment for exceeding his authority. His dismissal resonated strongly with the radical right-wing subculture: On the one hand, the country was still riled up after the 2006 police attacks, and on the other, Posta's statements had some antisemitic overtones from the start.

Posta said that "the domestic policy processes are not managed in Hungary" and that In-Kal Security, which is linked to the army and the Interior Ministry, serves Israel's interests. He became increasingly popular on the far-right and found common ground with Jobbik. At one of the party's events, he said that "in our current situation, being antisemitic is not an option but a duty for every patriot". In March 2009, he said to Kapu newspaper that "Hungary exists only on paper" because "70-75% of investments are in Israeli hands" and "Dutch settlers have already bought up whole villages in Transdanubia", but in reality, "they are settlers belonging to Israel".

In 2009, he called Jobbik Jewish, forcing Kuruc.info to dismiss him. But that was not the end of him. Alongside antisemitism, esoteric rampages and Scythian-Hungarian antiquity, another important element was added to his identity: anger over foreign currency loans. In 2010, he announced the formation of the Responsible National Government of Hungarians, the organisation that announced death sentences in Kulcs, Fejér County, in September.

OTHER NEWS

Hungarian bands and Kuruc.info are also on Facebook's blacklist

Source: telex.hu

13 October 2021 So far, more than 4,000 individuals and organisations have been banned by Facebook due to their links to terrorism, hate crimes and other crimes. The leaked list also includes Hungarian organisations, telex.hu writes. Facebook has classified people and organisations considered dangerous into three different categories. The top tier is for entities that engage in severe offline harm. The second tier is for entities that engage in violence against state or military actors but do not generally target civilians. The lowest, third tier, is for entities that may repeatedly engage in violations of Facebook's Hate Speech or Dangerous Organisations policies on or off the platform or demonstrate strong intent to engage in offline violence in the near future but have not necessarily been involved in violence to date or have advocated for violence against others based on their protected characteristics.

Of those on the list published by The Intercept, 53.7% are classified as terrorism-related, 23.3% as militarised social movements, 17% as hate groups, 4.9% as criminals, and just under 1% as violent non-state actors.

The list of more than 4,000 actors has 26 mentions with Hungarian links, including music bands and organisations. The list also includes Kuruc.info, which was banned from Facebook in 2017, the Arrow Cross Party and the Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement (Hungarian: Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom, HVIM). All the Hungarian participants belong in the "hate" category; most of the bands — including Archivum, Divízió 88, Egészséges Fejbőr (Healthy Scalp), Nimród, Oi-Kor, Arbeit Macht Frei, Romantikus Erőszak (Romantic Violence), and Titkolt Ellenállás (Secret Resistance) — are known as skinhead bands, writes telex.hu.

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. | 6th of October | The Hungarian QAnon story in Válasz Online | News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary |
| 2. | 7th of October | Deputy mayor of Ózd resigned due to Nazi photos | Official News and Civil Responses |
| 3. | 9th of October | A popular Győr nightclub has been hosting Nazi events for years | Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 4. | 12th of October | IPSOS-APL survey: no correlation between level of antisemitism and attacks against Jews | Community News and Responses |
| 5. | 13th of October | Hungarian bands and Kuruc.info are also on Facebook's blacklist | Other News |
| 6. | 13th of October | Katalin Novák: We must not give up the fight against antisemitism | Official News and Civil Responses |
| 7. | 14th of October | Action and Protection League opens an office in Brussels | Community News and Responses |
| 8. | 14th of October | The medal of the Righteous Among the Nations awarded to a formerly retired officer and his wife | Official News and Civil Responses |
| 9. | 25th of October | Antisemitic graffiti painted on a government poster in Harmincettesek Square | Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property |
| 10. | 25th of October | Nazi salute at the Fradi-MTK match | Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 11. | 25th of October | Shlomo Köves: Hungarian Jews are less threatened today than seven years ago | Official News and Civil Responses |

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

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

Contact details for Action and Protection League
Address: 1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium
Phone: + 32 2 245 61 05
web: <http://www.apleu.org>
e-mail: office@apleu.org

REFERENCES

- Anti-Defamation League (ADL). 2012. *2011 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents*.
Anti-Defamation League (ADL). <https://global100.adl.org>
CEJI. 2012. *Make hate Crimes Visible. Facing Facts! Guidelines for Monitoring of Hate Crimes and Hate Motivated Incidents*. Facing Facts! project.
Chakraborti, Neil and Jon Garland. 2009. *Hate Crime. Impact, Causes and Responses*. London: Sage Publications.
Community Security Trust (CST). 2013. *Antisemitic Incidents Report 2012*.
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). *Antisemitism - Overview of data available in the European Union 2008-2018*
Levin, Jack and Jack McDevitt. 1999. "Hate Crimes." In *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict*, edited by Lester Kurtz. San Diego: Academic Press, 89-102.
OSCE/ODIHR. 2009a. *Hate Crime Laws. A Practical Guide*. Warsaw: OSCE/ODIHR.
OSCE/ODIHR. 2009b. *Preventing and responding to hate crimes. A resource guide for NGOs in the OSCE region*. Warsaw: OSCE/ODIHR.
Perry, Barbara. 2001. *In the Name of Hate. Understanding Hate Crimes*. New York: Routledge.
-

CONTRIBUTORS AND PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Publisher: Action and Protection League of Europe
Kálmán Szalai, Executive Director

The publisher wishes to thank **Dr. András Kovács**, sociologist, Professor at **CEU**, for all the encouragement and helpful advice.

Editors: **Krisztián Nádasi**, research scholar, head of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Dr. Kristóf Bodó, legal advocate,
László Seer, Ph.D., researcher, member of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
István Súlyom, researcher, member of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Julianna Görög, translator

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

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

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium
<http://www.apleu.org>

