

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

FEBRUARY 2022

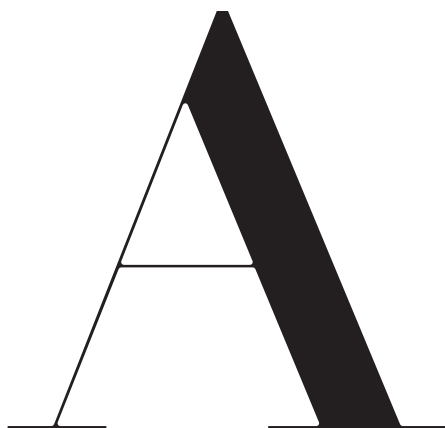


ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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.

This month, our organisation identified one Antisemitic Hate Incident, categorised as Hate Speech. Unknown perpetrators drew antisemitic slogans on the poster of opposition candidate András Jámbor.

In February, we found one Further Hate Incident. Neo-fascists held a commemoration and candle-lighting ceremony to mark the Day of the Break Out. In addition, the far-right group Legion Hungaria held a press conference on Kapisztrán Square.

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

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

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

METHODOLOGY

The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows⁵ (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people⁶
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a specific group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The heightened importance of individual hate crimes is indicated by the fact that the criminal code of numerous countries deals with these cases separately. Although there is a widely accepted definition of antisemitism (see IHRA 2017), there is currently no consistent definition of hate crimes in the countries monitored by the APL.

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

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

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

In the course of monitoring, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are also considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code in the individual country (e.g. violent assault of a member of a community, incitement to hatred of a community, denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime, use of symbols of autocratic regimes etc.), but can also include other acts mentioned in the Criminal Code, if prejudice can be proven as a motivating factor.

When identifying hate incidents, various indicators are recorded during the monitoring period⁷ and are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by antisemitism.

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

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

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

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

⁷ These indicators are described in the Methodology section

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

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

A variety of media channels also represent relevant sources: television, radio, as well as the printed and online versions of the press. An essential segment of the report is composed of monitoring the expressions of online hatred as a phenomenon that is continually growing.

The public discourses are monitored by a team of experts. One of our aims is to cover the increasingly large segment of the media with continuous monitoring. Monitoring extends to roughly all receivable TV and radio stations, all the printed press with high print-runs, as well as online material not only on news portals, but the social comment arenas and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried out systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

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

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

- The hate incidents have to have occurred in the countries monitored; no matter whether the victim is a citizen of the country or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an antisemitic intent or content can be proven, or if the victim was attacked for being Jewish or due to an assumed Jewish identity
- Deliberate and wanton impairment of any Jewish institution or building (even if no further, antisemitic message was paired with the vandalism [for example, a Jewish synagogue's window is broken with a stone])

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics⁹ :

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

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

These indicators pertain to various characteristics of the perpetrator, data concerning the victim, the time and location of the incident. These are recorded in the course of collection of data. Tabs are kept on whether incidents had any, and if so, what sort of possible legal consequences.

⁸ The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

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

Apart from registering incidents, it is also important to capture the qualitative differentials between them. The typification of cases is carried out in two ways. According to one of the systems of categorization, the following types are differentiated: incitement against members of a community, violence against members of a community, use of symbols of autocratic regimes, and Holocaust denial.

Based on the *Facing Facts! Guidelines*, seven types of incidents are differentiated as follows¹⁰:

- Homicide: any attack on a person that causes loss of life
- Extreme physical violence
 - Any attack on a person that potentially causes serious bodily harm
 - Any attack involving weapons, or other tools that can cause bodily harm
 - Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - Bombs and letter bombs
 - Kidnapping
- Assault
 - Any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not serious
 - Attempted assault, which fails due to self-defense, or if the victim runs away
 - Throwing objects at a person or people, including where the object misses its target
- Damage to property
 - Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
 - Desecration of property
 - Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson

- Threats
 - Any clear and specific threat, whether verbal or written
 - Any “bomb” which is assessed to be a hoax
 - Stalking
 - Defamation
- Hate speech
 - Public hate speech
 - Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media
 - Abusive behavior
 - Abusive literature sent to more than one person
 - Hate speech in literature and music
- Discriminatory incidents

Placing hate incidents in context is also a priority. These actions do not exist in empty space and are by no means independent of the social and cultural environment in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often the processes, rather than separately occurring events (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which leads to a better understanding of the environment surrounding the incidents.¹¹ In presenting timelines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2022

HATE SPEECH

Antisemitic obscenities scrawled on the poster of opposition candidate András Jámor
Source: tev.hu

13 February 2022 "As a first-time election candidate, it is an honour to have received an antisemitic scrawl in perhaps the fastest time yet in Hungarian political history.

After just half a day, it has already been put on one of my posters, even though not all of them are out yet", reported András Jámor, the United Opposition candidate in Budapest's constituency No. 6, on his Facebook page.

On the politician's election poster, unknown perpetrators scrawled the words "Jew" and "jerk".



Source: tev.hu

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

Neo-Nazi commemoration and antifascist demonstration in Buda Castle

Source: merce.hu

12 February 2022 Neo-fascists held a commemoration and candle-lighting ceremony to mark the Day of the Break Out. In addition, the far-right group Legion Hungaria held a press conference on Kapisztrán Square. On the other side of the square, antifascist groups had a counter-demonstration on 11 February, reports Mércé.

The newspaper recalls that on 11 February 1945, Hungarian and allied Nazi forces broke out of Buda Castle to escape the Red Army, prolonging the outcome of World War II. This event is known as the "Day of Honour" in far-right circles, the last "proud stand" of the Hungarian Nazis and their allies.

Béla Incze, a member of the Legion Hungaria leadership, told Mércé that on this day, "it is important to remember our military heroes who showed what honour there is in a superhuman struggle, with the sacrifice of an enormous amount of blood". According to him, the commemoration is a celebration of the heroism of the soldiers who broke out and has no political or ideological connotations.

The two events were accompanied by a significant police presence of nearly a hundred people, and police barriers separated the two groups of roughly the same number at opposite ends of the square.

The "Day of Honour" commemorations were also attended by representatives of foreign neo-Nazi and neo-fascist groups, according to various antifascist groups. The counter-demonstration was attended as well by antifascist activists from neighbouring countries, including Germany.

The rally, timed for the "Day of Honour", was banned by the police. Nevertheless, activists of the Magyarelvű Movement and

members of the Rockers Klan Hungária organised another "Day of Honour" meeting and concert in secret, one day earlier than initially planned, on Friday. On the same day, the MEASZ and antifascists in Germany held a commemoration of the Hungarian victims of fascism at the Martyrs' Memorial.

In 2020, historian Krisztián Ungváry told HVG that in such an ideologically charged period, it is inevitable that thinking is simplified into good-versus-evil, hero/antihero roles. He added that it is thought-provoking how the country got to the point where the far right can appeal to the largest crowds on this day.

He said the "left was so idiotic as to let this whole thing go", while Hungarian neo-Nazis hijacked it and renamed the day of outrage as a day of honour.

According to Ungváry, until 1990, the Hungarian population was unable to mourn the civilian and military deaths of the siege of Budapest. But even after 1990, there was a great deal of silence on the subject, and the Hungarian remembrance policy did not do very well in this context. It is no coincidence that the national-socialist narrative has made its way into this void. The result is that dozens of neo-Nazi organisations can mobilise thousands of people and organise programs for them on this occasion.

According to the historian, the event is only formally apolitical because it is based on the perceptions of the people of the time who identified with national socialism. According to this view, the German and Hungarian soldiers who broke out were heroes, and therefore those who fought against them were antiheroes. This implies that the German ideology, Nazism, is good, worthy of emulation and exemplary. Because of this attitude, the event cannot be called a traditionalist event.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

András Heisler: Antisemitism has always been a disease of society

Source: breuerpress.com

10 February 2022 There is a very acute public policy situation because of the elections, which also affects the Jewish community, András Heisler told Kossuth Radio's "Hear Israel" programme, where among other things, the conclusions of the conference on combatting antisemitism in Malmo were discussed.

The president of Mazsihisz said that physically, Jews are the safest in Hungary, but it is also a fact that antisemitism is present in society. Several studies were published before the election campaign, showing worrying phenomena. Heisler said that there are countries such as Poland, where the Jewish minority is negligible, but that despite this, antisemitism is a phenomenon that is present in public life. This shows that Jews are not needed for this phenomenon, and antisemitism has always been a disease of society. All public actors have a role and responsibility in the fight against antisemitism, including all historical and other religious congregations.

András Heisler noted that there is still much work to be done for the zero-tolerance policy proclaimed by the prime minister to take hold. It can still be said that Jews live in Hungary in a very safe environment, but that, despite this, antisemitic phenomena are worrying, even if they are at a verbal level. If there is verbal abuse against a minority, anything can happen.

The president of Mazsihisz started his speech by highlighting positive phenomena in all national and international forums. For example, the Hungarian government stands up for Israel on many occasions so that Jews in Hungary can feel physically safe. He also mentioned the support for the renovation of synagogues and institutions and the government's support for second-generation

Holocaust survivors. He stressed as well that the Hungarian government considers kosher slaughter and circumcision a part of religious freedom.

In addition to this, the Jewish community must understand and appreciate the negative phenomena present in Hungary.

Hungarian Jewish Prayer Association: Hungarian Jewry knows where hate speech leads

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

17 February 2022 The growing antisemitism in Western Europe emerges from the words of Péter Márki-Zay, Róna Tamás told the Magyar Nemzet.

According to the president of the Hungarian Jewish Prayer Association, the incident is unprecedented in Hungarian democracy. Tamás Róna took a well-known proverb from the Book of Daniel "You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting" in answer to Péter Márki-Zay's fascist and communist statement.

Márki-Zay said in Fonyód on 12 February that "what Viktor Orbán embodies in one person, this so-called rainbow coalition of liberals, communists, conservatives and fascists, we represent separately in the alliance." When asked how this was to be understood, Márki-Zay clarified on his Facebook page, "...I was talking about the pro-Fidesz Labour Party and the pro-Fidesz Our Homeland when I was talking about fascists and communists."

Tamás Róna sharply attacked Márki-Zay for these words. He added that no one in 32 years of Hungarian democracy has ever said what Márki-Zay-Péter is saying now. His speech makes him aware of the antisemitism flaring up in Western Europe, which is trying to destroy synagogues, take the lives of Jewish people, and keep those who live there in fear.

Such a dangerous statement arouses anger and hatred. We must state that fascist and communist crimes are never forgotten, and such a statement shows that they cannot be overlooked. For Christians and Jews, the common Scriptures form a close moral community that strengthens our nation. Such speech attacks this fabric and incites antisemitism, Tamás Róna underlined.

Jews in Hungary know from bitter experiences where hate speech leads. Therefore, we refuse to allow ethnic groups and social classes to be negatively qualified and incite people against each other. No purpose or reason can justify a political force that wishes to govern democratically and its leader to join forces with groups that spread antisemitic, racist views, the statement of the organisation led by Tamás Róna stressed.

APL meeting with the Knesset in Israel
Source: tev.hu

22 February 2022 On Sunday, 20 February, a delegation of APL went to Israel to attend meetings of great importance. The board was headed by General Secretary Mr Kálmán Szalai and International Relations Director Mr Tamir Wertzberger.

On Monday afternoon, our delegation arrived in the Israeli Knesset and had a follow-up meeting with the leader of the Knesset Lobby against Antisemitism and BDS, MK Amichai Shikli (Yamina). The meeting was short and was mainly for making an introduction. MK Shikli was very impressed by the speech of Rabbi Shlomo Köves and is looking forward to a collaboration with APL. The parties agreed that APL will be the bridge between the Knesset Lobby against Antisemitism and BDS and Europe, and the discussions will continue.

Before they left the Knesset, our delegation had the great honour of meeting with the former Prime Minister of Israel and the head of the Opposition, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr Netanyahu welcomed our representatives in his office at the Knesset. Our representatives briefly introduced our organisation, telling Mr Netanyahu that Action and Protection League was founded by Rabbi Shlomo Köves in Hungary and has become a pan-European organisation. They gave Mr Netanyahu a copy of APL's new Antisemitism Prejudice Survey during the meeting. Mr Netanyahu was truly impressed by the work and activity of our organisation and showed great interest and appreciation.

OTHER NEWS

The Our Homeland Movement commemorated Miklós Horthy with a torchlight parade

Source: 24.hu

6 February 2022 A torchlight memorial ceremony was held in Budapest on Sunday afternoon with the participation of supporters of the Mi Hazánk Mozgalom (Our Homeland Movement) in memory of former Governor Miklós Horthy, who died 65 years ago. About a thousand people attended the event. The event was billed as the "Rally of National Unity", and several radical right-wing organisations were represented: The Horthy Miklós Society, the Trianon Society, the World Federation of the 1956 Order of Vitéz, the Hungarian Justice and Life Party, The Independent Smallholders, Agrarian Workers and Civic Party, the Army of Outlaws, the Motorcyclists of Our Fatherland, the Hungarian Self-Defence Movement, The Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement, the Youth of Our Homeland, Identitesz and the World Federation of Hungarians.

The participants gathered at Gellért Square and marched from there to Vértanúk Square. The speech was given by Mr Novák Előd and Mr Toroczka László, a candidate for the position of prime minister position, also spoke.

Mayor Gergely Karácsony wrote on his Facebook page that Budapest does not want hatred:

"Today, on the occasion of the upcoming anniversary of the death of Miklós Horthy, far-right organisations and pseudo-opposition parties organised a demonstration of force in our capital, accompanied by a march, creating fear among a part of the population. Under Miklós Horthy's rule, an authoritarian regime began to be built, which led to the abolition of parliamentarianism, abject poverty, discrimination, the destruction of war and the deaths of hundreds of thousands

of our fellow citizens. I find it unacceptable that Miklós Horthy's legacy, which is still disputed, is being used by political forces to incite hatred, thus disturbing the peace of Budapest. I thank the courageous stand of those who continue to speak out against hate speech today."

Our Homeland does not hold its election meeting in the synagogue of Zalaegerszeg

Source: mandiner.hu, varosikurir.hu

18 February 2022 Instead of the former synagogue in Zalaegerszeg, Our Homeland will hold its election event at another location. The party changed the venue after a protest against the radical right-wing organisation's plans to hold its election event in the synagogue building in Zalaegerszeg.

The synagogue is a place of special significance for Jewry in Zalaegerszeg. It commemorates the once-thriving Jewish community of Zalaegerszeg, whose members were deported to death camps in 1944, Mandiner reports.

"We protest against holding an event in a place of importance for Hungarian Jewry by a movement whose members openly incite against minorities in their public speeches and internet posts. Such an event is unworthy of the history of this place and desecrates the memory of our martyrs", reads a statement of Mazsihisz.

They recall that although they do not wish to comment on party political issues, they consider the planned event of Mi Hazánk in the synagogue as a provocation that they must oppose.

"We call on the owner of the building, the Municipality of Zalaegerszeg, to revoke its earlier decision to rent the venue and not to allow the Mi Hazánk Movement to hold an election event in the building, which was once a synagogue", they wrote.

Our Homeland threatens legal action for not being able to hold an election forum in the Zalaegerszeg synagogue

Source: akibic.hu

20 February 2022 According to the extremist party's candidate for Zalaegerszeg, it is "largely thanks to the Jews" that they cannot hold a campaign event in the building of the city's former synagogue, Kibic Magazine reports.

László Toroczkai, president of the far-right Our Homeland Movement, was due to hold a public forum with the party's local candidate, Ferenc Kiss, in Zalaegerszeg on Saturday evening in the former synagogue building, which is now the Municipal Concert and Exhibition Hall. In response to this, there was a protest against the openly anti-minority party holding a campaign event in the former synagogue.

The municipality of Zalaegerszeg declared, that the political forum would be held in another location, "bearing in mind the historical values of the city, the spiritual heritage of our former fellow citizens, the former function of the building and the sensitivity of the people concerned".

The director of the Keresztury Dezső Municipal Cultural Centre, Gergő Flaisz, also wrote that the original decision to rent the building was taken because Our Homeland is a registered political party. Almost all political parties have held events in the building in recent years, and, according to the director, Our Homeland also applied to rent the synagogue based on this.

Our Homeland resented the decision. Before the public forum, supporters of the party gathered in front of the building, where Ferenc Kiss said that "many young people do not even know what members of the ... denomination are talking about". According to the candidate, the fact that they cannot

hold a forum in the synagogue is "largely due to the Jewish community". Toroczkai complained that they were banned from the building "which was once supposedly a synagogue".

The party president had earlier told Telex that the Zalaegerszeg City Council had initially raised no objections, but at the first "snap of the fingers of Mazsihisz, they revoked the lease contract concluded earlier, for which we will take the appropriate legal action".

The Jobbik politician who made Nazi salute invited a Holocaust exhibition to Ózd

Source: i68.hu

23 February 2022 Péter Barnabás Farkas had to resign from his position as deputy mayor of Ózd earlier because the press had published some footage of him performing Nazi arm salutes at a Holocaust museum in Poland. After his resignation, the politician accepted an invitation from Mazsihisz to visit the Holocaust Documentation Centre on Páva Street. We reported on the case in our previous report.

According to Azonnali, it was here that he met a staff member and was invited to the travelling exhibition of the Holocaust Memorial Centre at the Ózd Museum, of which Farkas is currently the director. Although the museum's website does not quote him, he greeted the young people who attended.

The report on the exhibition's opening also points out that another unique feature of the exhibit, entitled Holocaust and Art, is that this is the first time that its pieces have been brought to a rural town. All of the works selected date from the period between 1939 and 1945, from 20 artists, almost half of whom lost their lives in those years, i68 Óra reports.

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 February	The Our Homeland Movement commemorated Miklós Horthy with a torchlight parade	Other News
2.	10th of February	András Heisler: antisemitism has always been a disease of society	Official and Civil Responses
3.	12th of February	Neo-Nazi commemoration and antifascist demonstration in Buda Castle	Further Hate Incidents
4.	13th of February	Antisemitic obscenities scrawled on the poster of opposition candidate András Jámbor	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
5.	17th of February	Hungarian Jewish Prayer Association: Hungarian Jewry knows where hate speech leads	Official and Civil Responses
6.	18th of February	Our Homeland does not hold its election meeting in the synagogue of Zalaegerszeg	Other News
7.	20th of February	Our Homeland threatens legal action for not being able to hold an election forum in the Zalaegerszeg synagogue	Other News
8.	22nd of February	APL meeting with the Knesset in Israel	Official and Civil Responses
9.	23rd of February	The Jobbik politician who made Nazi salute invited a Holocaust exhibition to Ózd	Other News

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:

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