

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

JANUARY 2022

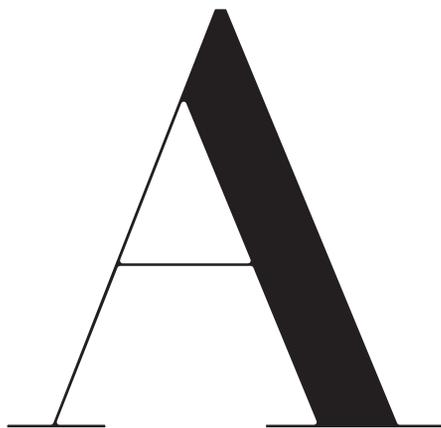


ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Action and Protection League	4
About the Report	5
Methodology	7
Antisemitic Hate Incidents – January 2022	10
Damage to property	10
Threat	10
Hate speech	10
Further Hate Incidents	12
Community News and Responses	13
Official and Civil Responses	15
The Month's Chronicle	19
Contact and Support	21
References	21
Contributors and Publisher Information	22

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.

Based on its sources, our Foundation found seven antisemitic Hate Incidents throughout its monitoring activities in January. We have also identified two Further Hate Incidents.

Unknown people drew a swastika on the wall of a K&H Bank in Budapest, and a Jewish community leader and journalist were threatened via a letter and comments on social media. Furthermore, new antise-

mitic statements by Fidesz politicians have come to light, and a demonstrator at an anti-vaccination protest spoke about the fourth Jewish law. Furthermore, the candidate for prime minister of the opposition coalition said in a statement that he knew "Fidesz Jews."

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 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

JANUARY 2022

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Unknown people drew a swastika on the wall of the K&H Bank at Oktogon Square

Source: tev.hu



Source: tev.hu

5 January 2022 The APF hotline has received a report that on 5 January 2021, unknown perpetrators drew a swastika on the wall of the K&H Bank at Oktogon Square. Our Foundation informed the financial institution about the vandalism and requested the removal of the illegal totalitarian symbol.

THREAT

Opposition commenters called the journalist who described Péter Márki-Zay as an antisemitic politician a "Jewish worm"

Source: mandiner.hu

7 January 2022 Opposition activists posted László Bernát Veszprémy's address and electronic contact details and also harassed the Holocaust researcher and journalist with antisemitic messages. The reason for the threats was that on 23 December 2021, the former deputy editor-in-chief of the Jewish-Hungarian news portal Neokohn.hu published an article in the blog section of the Times of Israel entitled "Should A Homophobic And Antisemitic Politician Defeat Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán."

In the article, Veszprémy listed how many antisemitic politicians have been photographed and worked with Péter Márki-Zay, Hungary's joint opposition leader for the 2022 election. He believed that Márki-Zay, who calls Fidesz politicians gay, is homophobic. The author was reported to the Times of Israel editorial office, and his article was deleted.

Afterwards, commenters on Hungarian social media wrote, "Let's kick him from all sides", and "If you want to beat him up, here

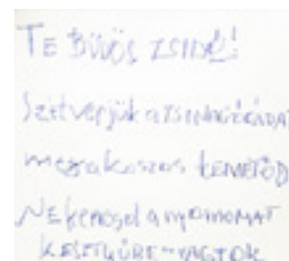
are his details (...) let's smash his face!" In an e-mail, they wrote to him, "What do you think you are, you stinking little Fidesz Jew worm? Do you think you can get away with attacking the opposition? You're finished in April!" "YOU ARE FINISHED!!!! YOU STINKING JEW, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ABOUT THE NOISE OF MÁRKI? WE WILL CUT YOUR THROAT!!!! WE KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE!!!!"

The president of the Jewish Community of Vác threatened with the destruction of his synagogue

Source: tev.hu

24 January 2022 The leader of the Jewish Community of Vác, Turai János, was called a "stinking Jew" after he protested against the antisemitic manifestations of Zsolt Fehér and Bence Tótvárdi-Nagy, representatives of local authorities. The anonymous letter addressed to the community leader said, "You stinking Jew! We will smash your synagogue and your dirty cemetery". The community filed a police report against an unknown perpetrator because of the threat.

In defence of human dignity, a joint candle-lighting ceremony was organised for 26 January 2022 in front of the synagogue in Vác. The event's motto was, "The fascists have not disappeared; they have been reborn".



Source: VácOnline.hu

HATE SPEECH

The president of Jobbik in Keszthely called Gyula Horn a "Jewish murderer" in 2014

Source: drót.info

10 January 2022 In a 2014 Facebook post, János Herold marked the names of Gyula Horn and government politicians with stars of David. The chairman of Jobbik

in Keszthely called the now-deceased, former socialist head of government a "Jewish murderer", criticized Fidesz for his state funeral, and called Tom Lantos a "Jewish fraud", drót.info revealed. In another post, the politician called Fidesz "Zsidesz" and claimed that "the leaders of Fidesz have always been Jewish". The posts are still available for viewing.

Jobbik's regional director wrote about "Jewish cultures" in 2012

Source: wire.info

13 January 2022 Attila Kesztyűs, the regional director of Jobbik Somogy County and the 2018 campaign manager of the Jobbik MP Ádám Steinmetz, wrote in a Facebook post in May 2012 that Jews are doing the "dirty job" of exterminating Hungarians with the Gypsies. Furthermore, Jewish businessmen, who are turning into "vultures, characterless and "money-sniffing", are secretly conspiring to steal Hungary, according to drót.info. The article contains all antisemitic topos except blood libel.

The text, entitled "The shiny button", says that Hungarians were "enslaved" after the Jewish takeover and urges its readers not to work for Jewish companies. The irony is that the politician is also currently the campaign manager for Ádám Steinmetz, who is campaigning against "inflammatory hate speech".

An anti-vaccination demonstrator spoke about the fourth Jewish law

Source: azonnali.hu

16 January 2022 A demonstrator held up a poster with the inscription "The 4th Jewish Law" at the anti-vaccination demonstration organised by Our Homeland Movement, azonnali.hu reported. According to the author, the demonstrators, who mentioned Jewish law, a global world conspiracy, and Hungary's destruction, were a minority at the event.

Nazi manifestation of the right-wing municipal representative of Vác has come to light

Source: vaconline.hu

19 January 2022 Bence Tótváradi-Nagy, a member of the municipal council of Vác, mocked the University of Jewish Studies in Hungary. In a Facebook post in 2011, he questioned the existence of the Jewish University and wrote that he even spat on his keyboard because he typed the name of a Jewish organisation on it. After visiting the website of the Jewish university, he also wiped his laptop, indicating that he considered the Jewish content to be infectious, VácOnline.hu reports.

In addition to this, Tótváradi-Nagy also recommended a website listing public figures of Jewish origin.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

Péter Márki-Zay keeps track of the "Fidesz Jews"

Source: mandiner.hu

9 January 2022 In a video message on Sunday, the opposition coalition's candidate for prime minister assured the Roma and the Jews of his support against Fidesz's hate campaigns.

The politician says the accusation that he is an antisemite is outrageous. Yet he described Arthur Finkelstein as an "antisemitic, Jewish, homophobic, gay", and said that Orbán's communication strategy was to accuse his opponent of things that were only true of him. He added that the campaign adviser was an unscrupulous man because, being Jewish, he supported antisemitic campaigns and was in a gay marriage but managed homophobic campaigns.

Márki-Zay also said that what he criticises in Fidesz politicians is theft, dishonesty and treason, not because they are gay or Jewish. "Because there are some Jews in Fidesz, although very few. But I appreciate those in such a party, in Zsolt Bayer's party, who admits to being of Jewish origin. There are not many of them. I know of one in particular, and I hold him in very high esteem", he said.

The right-wing Vác municipal councillor liked his colleague's assault helmet photo with a Hitler picture

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

13 January 2022 Tótvárdi-Nagy Bence, a local government representative of Jobbik Vác, used a Nazi picture in a public Facebook comment. In the original post, his colleague, Fehér Zsolt Fehér published a photo of a WWII assault helmet on his head, and Tótvárdi-Nagy posted a smiling Hitler photo as a comment, which had the caption: "Wow, you little naughty", Magyar Nemzet wrote.

Tótvárdi apologised at the 19 January board meeting for "the various childhood posts, which are unacceptable for today's minds". In his Facebook post, he wrote that he was 13 when Facebook became popular and that he had countless silly, thoughtless comments and likes as a child. Now, as an adult, he's very sorry for these, but he can't do anything about it. He asked everyone not to be judged by his silly posts as a child but by his work as an adult.

The Jewish Community of Vác protested against the events. "The spirit of the municipality of Vác is no longer worthy of the Raoul Wallenberg Prize, which all municipalities have earned after the change of regime. The glorification of the memory of the fascist, murderous dictator who set the world on fire is not a new phenomenon among some members of the current Vác municipality", said Jewish community leader János Turai.

Due to antisemitic and racist manifestations, deputies were called upon to resign by the local organisation of Fidesz and KDNP, but they did not leave their posts.



Forrás: Vác.Online.hu

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Jewish organisations commemorate the liberation of the Budapest ghetto

Source: hirado.hu

17 January 2022 EMIH, the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities, held a commemoration of the liberation of the Budapest ghetto at the Holocaust memorial, the Shoes on the Danube Bank. In his speech, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Köves recalled the story of a Jewish boy from the Treblinka death camp who shouted from the cattle car, asking desperately what he had done wrong. He didn't know that he wasn't being murdered for anything he had done but because of his origins. He stressed that the anniversary commemorates the hundreds of thousands of Hungarian victims who died during the Holocaust for who they were, not for what they did.

"It is important to remember them and to turn remembrance into action: According to Jewish teaching, the best way to combat senseless, baseless hatred is through unconditional acceptance and love", said Shlomo Köves.

Baruch Oberlander, the leader of the Budapest Orthodox Rabbinate and Chabad of Hungary, recalled how his father – who survived the Holocaust in Budapest by hiding with false papers – was once forced to watch a group of Jewish children, women and men being shot into the Danube. Although he escaped, he carried this horrific memory with him for the rest of his life. "There is no place for hatred in our hearts; we must not hate another person, no matter what they are, even if we do not agree with them", emphasised Baruch Oberlander.

We must not give in to the temptation to forget because "remembering together ensures the future of all of us", said András Heisler, President of the Mazsihisz,

at Monday's commemoration. Heisler said that Holocaust survivors "are slowly leaving us, and we are left alone with the duty and the curse of remembrance".

It is the responsibility of the descendants of the survivors not to allow themselves to be forgotten. Because in doing so, they deny their parents and grandparents all the suffering they went through, from humiliation to the robbery and extermination of their families, said the president of Mazsihisz, whose 96-year-old uncle, who lives in Israel, escaped twice from the Arrow Cross.

The Jewish Community of Vác protested with candle-lighting against the threat to its president

Source: hirado.hu

26 January 2022 In defence of human dignity, the Jewish Community of Vác, the Duna-Ipoly-Galga Jewish Education and Research Center, and the Hungarian-Israeli Friendship Circle of Vác held a joint candle lighting on Wednesday in the garden in front of the local synagogue "because of the antisemitic and racist posts of left-wing local representatives of Vác and the threat to the president of the Jewish Community of Vác".

At a candle-lighting ceremony on Wednesday evening, János Turai, president of the Jewish Community of Vác, responded to a question by the public media that Péter Márki-Zay, the prime ministerial candidate of the united opposition, had recently said that "there are some Jews in Fidesz, although very few", by saying that "we are Hungarians, and that is our common factor".

"I don't consider someone who says such things to be a fair person", János Turai said, adding that "an apology would be appropriate, but it won't be made in any event".

Gergely Gulyás on the Holocaust Memorial Day: 'Murderers Must Be Named'

Source: tev.hu

27 January 2022 Gergely Gulyás, the prime minister's chief of staff, attended a commemoration of the Holocaust on Thursday, and said "we must not only not forget who the murderers were but we must also name them". The people "persecuted, tortured and killed because they were Jews belonged to us, they were part of the Hungarian nation", Gulyás said, marking the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, MTI relates.

There is no such thing as collective guilt because "if everybody is guilty, in fact, nobody is", Gulyás said, but added that "the state does bear responsibility".

Ever since 1989, Hungarian governments have clearly stated their position that during the Holocaust, the Hungarian state "was not able to, and in many cases, would not" protect its citizens, while the Hungarian authorities participated in the deportation of several hundred thousand Hungarian Jews, Gulyás said. He said that the heroes must also not be forgotten, people who did not look away and took risks or even sacrificed their lives while protecting Jews.

Hungary is currently one of the safest places in Europe for the Jewish community, he said. The government makes clear its stand against all forms of antisemitism, including on international platforms, and considers remembrance and the protection of the freedom of thought important, he said.

Gulyás warned about the dangers of the current era, saying that giving up on Europe's Judeo-Christian roots and culture "poses a danger to us all". Migration, unless in combination with integration into society, threatens the Jewish community the most, he said.

The Old Synagogue in Sopron will be rehabilitated

Source: cyberpress.hu

28 January 2022 The renovation of the building of the Old Synagogue on Új Street in Sopron has begun, and the preparation for the complete reconstruction of the Papréti Synagogue is underway, announced Dr Ciprián Farkas, Mayor of Sopron; Attila Barcza, MP of Sopron and its region; András Heisler, President of MAZSIHISZ; and András Büchler, President of the Jewish Community of Sopron.

At the press conference, it was revealed that the Sopron municipality is contributing HUF 20 million for the works. At the same time, HUF 30 million has been earmarked for plans for the complete renovation of the Papréti Synagogue.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Kálmán Szalai: Péter Márki-Zay's statement can be compared to Márton Gyöngyösi's Jewish list speech

Source: tev.hu

11 January 2022 "It is not the first time that the opposition's candidate for prime minister has used the terms Jewish, gay, homophobic, racist and other words mixed up and taken out of context. There seems to be a complete confusion in his mind about the meaning of these expressions", Kálmán Szalai told Hír TV in connection with Péter Márki-Zay's statement on Sunday that "there are some Jews in Fidesz, although very few".

According to the secretary of the APF, when the opposition coalition's candidate for head of government keeps count of who is Jewish and who is not among the ruling party, he inevitably returns to the tools of his political friends. He said Márki-Zay's statement parallels an earlier comment by his political ally Márton Gyöngyösi of Jobbik, who wanted to list politicians of Jewish origin.

Kálmán Szalai added that they would stand by Bernát László Veszprémy and, if necessary, offer him support for the attacks he is undergoing because of his article on Péter Márki-Zay's antisemitic statements.

Opposition commemorations on Holocaust Memorial Day

Source: szombat.org

28 January 2022 On Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January, several Hungarian opposition parties and party leaders commemorated the innocent victims of the Holocaust. The Szombat journal compiled press releases and statements issued on the occasion.

Péter Márki-Zay, the opposition coalition's candidate for prime minister, quoted the words of Elie Wiesel, Hungarian-born Nobel Prize-winning writer and Holocaust survivor, on his official Facebook page.

According to DK, we must never forget the suffering of the innocents because only then can we learn from past horrors. MSZP stressed that the darkest period of history must not be allowed to repeat itself, and therefore we must also strengthen our sense of responsibility towards each other.

LMP stressed the importance of remembering the victims of the Holocaust. On the one hand, this is what respect demands, and on the other hand, it is essential to remind ourselves from time to time of where hatred and the negative stigmatisation of others can very easily lead. Human life is unique and unrepeatably, so there is nothing more despicable than the industrial, deliberate and planned extermination of others.

According to Dialogue for Hungary, what is needed is not empty praise but a vivid remembrance even if it is embarrassing, even if it is painful, even if we would rather not think about it.

István Hollik: The left-wing has not clarified its relationship with antisemitism

Source: mno.hu

11 January 2022 It is not strange for Péter Márki-Zay to insult others, but, sadly, he is now doing this to a journalist, István Hollik told Magyar Nemzet about the attacks on the Holocaust researcher László Bernát Veszprémy. According to the Fidesz communications director, the situation is very simple, as several examples have already proven that the left has not clarified its relationship with antisemitism.

In 2012, Márton Gyöngyösi, a member of the European Parliament for Jobbik, now in an alliance with the left, said that the number of Jewish members of the Hungarian Parliament and government should be listed; years later, Gergely Karácsony said that listing Jews is not Nazism. And now Péter Márki-Zay says that "there are some Jews in Fidesz, although very

few". Hollik said it was then doubtful whether the political left was committed to fighting antisemitism.

The newspaper finds it remarkable that the left-wing press is profoundly silent on the latest events, with only Hvg.hu publishing an article on the subject after two days.

Gergely Gulyás: Nothing new in the statement bordering on antisemitism

Source: hirado.hu

11 January 2022 The Minister of the Prime Minister's Office was also asked about Márki-Zay Péter's statements bordering on antisemitism at a Government Info session. The politician told Mr: This is indeed news, but there is no reason to be surprised because, in the current situation, the Hungarian left has joined forces with MPs who a few years ago wanted to list Jews. This is how the current left-wing coalition came into being, and unfortunately, antisemitism is part of the coalition.

He told a Magyar Hírlap correspondent that he disagreed that antisemitism could increase in popularity. "In European cultural circles, we don't say things that Péter Márki-Zay allows himself to say. We do not know what his motivation is", he added.

Mazsök president asks Péter Márki-Zay not to use Jews for his underlying political goals

Source: pestisracok.hu

11 January 2022 György Szabó, president of the Hungarian Jewish Heritage Public Foundation (Mazsök), wrote in an open letter to Márki-Zay Péter that his references to Judaism are becoming more and more blatant.

"I am already anticipating his announcement next Sunday, which would be a continuation of his statement this week, about closing the House of Terror and restoring its original function. After all, counting the Jews of Fidesz is not enough for you. In any case, I warn you, do not forget to leave me off the list, both as a Fidesz member and as a Jew," he said.

When you referred to Mr Finkelstein as an antisemitic Jew, did you remember one of your main allies, the leader of the Nazi party in sheep's clothing, Jobbik? - asked Szabó, who said Márki-Zay should first put his own house in order. He added that it is unacceptable that the left's candidate for prime minister wants to list the Jewish representatives of the largest governing party in front of the country and the world. This sounds familiar from the 1930s and 1940s, and such a tone has no place in Hungarian public life.

"I ask you not to use the Jews to achieve your base political goals. For, as this letter shows, Jewish society is colourful, whether politically or in any other respect", the Mazsök chairman stressed.

Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna and Péter Breuer, the owner-director of Heti TV, also spoke out about Péter Márki-Zay's statement

Source: metropol.hu

13 January 2022 As a rabbi, I think they should stop this before it is too late, Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna said to Metropol. According to the Jewish Prayer Association of Magyarhon (ZSIMA) president, the opposition's candidate for prime minister has made a more than misleading, fundamentally hazardous statement. "I ask you to leave Jewry alone once and for all because it is causing more and more harm", he said.

Péter Breuer, owner-director of Heti TV, said: "Péter Márki-Zay should disappear from public life. In an interview with Magyar Nemzet, he recalls that the mayor of Hódmezővásárhely has been in politics with Jobbik politicians who used to talk about the need to list Jewish members of parliament and government, and now he has admitted that he has a list of Fidesz members of Jewish origin. Breuer says that the left's candidate for prime minister is incompetent, and supporting Péter Márki-Zay tends to reflect poorly on the parties behind him.

Péter Weisz: The destructive ideologies of the 20th century are revealed in the statements of the politicians of the mixed coalition

Source: mandiner.hu

14 January 2022 The destructive ideologies of a terrible era, the 20th century, can be seen in the unacceptable statements of the politicians of the mixed coalition, such as that of Márki-Zay Péter, the president of the Israelite Workshop of the Barankovics István Foundation told Mandiner. According to Péter Weisz, such thinking is reminiscent of total dictatorships, just like the former statements of some politicians of Jobbik, which is a member of the opposition coalition. But a political party can only bring about real change if it accepts its past, because the future can only be built on the past. In the case of Jobbik, however, this past is downright unacceptable, and the party, therefore, remains unacceptable to it.

"We should not identify with a formation that has tried to get ahead using hate speech against Jews and Gypsies, exclusion and listing," he said. He added that the civic side [i. e. the current government], on the other hand, has declared zero tolerance for antisemitism, so the only chance for Hungarian Jewry is if the current course can continue to govern.

Weisz pointed out that in Fidesz, philosemitism is not a political slogan but a moral sentiment and a genuine consideration, as shown, for example, by the fact that Viktor Orbán finds common ground not only with the former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is on the same political spectrum as him, but also with the current Israeli prime minister. He said that religious

Jews are fundamentally conservative and value fundamental human values, and he, therefore, urges everyone to choose a policy that allows for the peaceful observance of the High Holidays, builds synagogues, and rejects extremism. Hungary belongs to the Hungarians, whether they are Christians or Jews.

Israeli Ambassador: Leave the Jews out of the campaign!

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

20 January 2022 "I would like to state that Israel does not interfere in the Hungarian elections. We do not want to participate in the elections in any way. Moreover, we expect Israel and the Jewish community to be left out of the campaign", Israeli Ambassador Yacov Hadas-Handelsman told Magyar Nemzet. He added that Jews are Hungarian citizens just like anyone else, and some of them are politicians.

According to the diplomat, antisemitism is a disease that threatens Jews and everyone. Antisemitism begins with Jews, but it does not end with them. If they were eliminated, others would be targeted. Today the Jews; tomorrow, the Christians; and the day after tomorrow, those with blue eyes. That is why it is essential for the Hungarian government to promote zero tolerance of antisemitism.

"And that's not just what I'm saying, but NGOs, many of which are not exactly friendly with the Hungarian government. However, their statistics also confirm that the number of antisemitic incidents in Hungary ranks it at a record low [for such incidents], both in Europe and worldwide", he emphasized.

Judit Varga: Hungarian-Israeli relations are close

Source: magyarhirlap.hu

20 January 2022 Judit Varga, Minister of Justice, received Yacov Hadas-Handelsman, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Hungary. In her Facebook post, the minister said that the relationship between the two countries is characterised by mutual respect and appreciation and that Hungarian-Israeli relations remain close.

At the meeting, the life of Jewish communities in Hungary was also discussed. Varga stressed that "the Hungarian government has declared zero tolerance against antisemitism, so it is no coincidence that our country is now one of the safest places for Jewish communities in Europe. Budapest is now home to a thriving Jewish culture, but with the support of the government, our synagogues in the countryside and beyond have also been renewed".

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.	5th of January	Unknown people drew a swastika on the wall of the K&H Bank in Oktogon Square	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property
2.	7th of January	Opposition commenters called the journalist who described Péter Márki-Zay as an antisemitic politician a "Jewish worm"	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Threat
3.	9th of January	Péter Márki-Zay keeps track of the "Fidesz Jews"	Further Hate Incidents
4.	10th of January	The president of Jobbik in Keszthely called Gyula Horn a "Jewish murderer" in 2014	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
5.	11th of January	Kálmán Szalai: Péter Márki-Zay's statement can be compared to Márton Gyöngyösi's Jewish list speech	Official and Civil Responses
6.	11th of January	István Hollik: The left-wing has not clarified its relationship with antisemitism	Official and Civil Responses
7.	11th of January	Gergely Gulyás: Nothing new in the statement bordering on antisemitism	Official and Civil Responses
8.	11th of January	Mazsök president asks Péter Márki-Zay not to use the Jews for his underlying political goals	Official and Civil Responses
9.	13th of January	The right-wing Vác municipal councillor liked his colleague's assault helmet photo with a Hitler picture	Further Hate Incidents
10.	13th of January	Jobbik's regional director wrote about "Jewish vultures" in 2012	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
11.	13th of January	Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna and Péter Breuer, the owner-director of Heti TV, also spoke out about Péter Márki-Zay's statement	Official and Civil Responses
12.	14th of January	Péter Weisz: The destructive ideologies of the 20th century are revealed in the statements of the politicians of the mixed coalition	Official and Civil Responses
13.	16th of January	An anti-vaccination demonstrator spoke about the fourth Jewish law	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
14.	17th of January	Jewish organisations commemorate the liberation of the Budapest ghetto	Community News and Responses
15.	19th of January	Nazi manifestation of the right-wing municipal representative of Vác has come to light	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	20th of January	Judit Varga: Hungarian-Israeli relations are close	Official and Civil Responses
17.	24th of January	The president of the Jewish Community of Vác threatened with the destruction of his synagogue	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Threat
18.	26th of January	The Jewish Community of Vác protested with candle-lighting against the threat to its president	Community News and Responses
19.	27th of January	Gergely Gulyás on the Holocaust Memorial Day: 'Murderers Must Be Named'	Community News and Responses
20.	28th of January	The Old Synagogue in Sopron will be rehabilitated	Community News and Responses
21.	28th of January	Opposition commemorations on Holocaust Memorial Day	Official 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

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