

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

AUGUST 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.

In August, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activities identified six hate incidents of an antisemitic nature, categorised as Hate Speech, Damage to Property, and Threat.

In the first two cases, categorised as Hate Speech, Szeged football fans chanted about Jewish crime, and the Our Homeland party unveiled a statue of Horthy in the office of the Vice-President of the Parliament.

Three cases were registered under the category of Damage to Property: a swastika was painted on the wall of the Frankel synagogue; an antisemitic scandal took place at the Sziget music festival when a Spanish rap group bragged about defacing the Israeli flag; and antisemitic slogans were painted on the election campaign posters of the opposition candidate in District III.

And finally, a threatening letter was left in the lift of Frankel synagogue. This case has been registered as a Threat.

One further hate incident was recorded in August: one of the participants of MondoCon Budapest was dressed as a Nazi.

Our Foundation did not initiate any new 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.

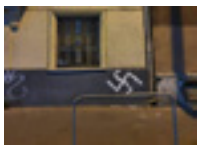
ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS AUGUST 2022

Action and Protection Foundation identified six Antisemitic hate incidents over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of August. Three cases were classified as Damage to property, and there was one case in the field of Threat. There were two more cases categorized as Hate speech.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Swastika painted on the wall of the Frankel synagogue

Source: telex.hu



Source: telex.hu

11 August 2022 A swastika was painted on the wall of the Frankel synagogue on Árpád fejedelem Street during Friday night prayers. The synagogue's security service filed a complaint with the police.

Antisemitic scandal at the Sziget Festival: a Spanish rap group bragged about defacing the Israeli flag

Source: tev.hu

15 August 2022 Members of the Barcelona rap group Tribade, who performed at the Sziget Festival in Budapest on Sunday night, posted a video on Instagram of them sneaking into a tent where Israelis were sleeping and vandalising the Israeli flag at the entrance. The footage was shared on social media among their stories.

The recording shows the band members drawing genitalia on an Israeli flag alongside the slogans "Israel does not exist" and "Fuck you", with pro-Palestinian rap music playing in the background, and the video captions "Free Palestine", "Israel is a fascist state" and "You are not on your territory".

"This is a very serious incident that exhausts the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) new definition of antisemitism," the Action and Protection League, the European network of the Action and Protection Foundation (APF), told the largest Israeli news site mako.co.il.

"We intend to use all means at our disposal (...) in Hungary to ensure that the criminals are apprehended and held accountable for their actions."

The Action and Protection Foundation has filed a complaint for the crime of incitement against the community (§ 332 of the Criminal Code) for the act of incitement of hatred against Jews.

Tribade is a trio of rappers known for their political lyrics, MC Bittah, Masiva Lulla and DJ Big Mark. According to their self-definition, they want to convey the voice of the "real working class" in Barcelona and "fight against insecurity in a society full of male privilege." In addition, "through their poetry, they amplify realities that are usually silenced, such as local and neighbourhood struggles, LGBT, anti-fascist activism, etc."

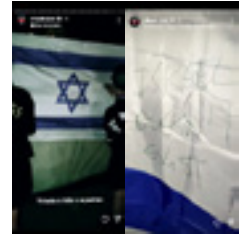
The Sziget organisers strongly condemned the hateful act. In their Instagram story, they wrote that "Sziget, which started almost 30 years ago, sought to create a place where all nations could come together in love and peace, and that goal remains unchanged. Tribade's action goes against the values of Sziget based on inclusiveness and respect, and the band will not be invited back to the festival in the future", the statement read.

In recent years, the APF has repeatedly pointed out that there can be a close link between words, acts of hatred, and physical atrocities in Hungary.

Antisemitic slogans painted on the election posters of the opposition candidate in District III

Source: nyugatifeny.hu

31 August 2022 Since the beginning of the campaign period for the midterm elections, which will take place in District III on 4 September, the posters of the opposition candidate Zsuzsa Kapeller have been vandalised several times.



Source: tev.hu



Source: Facebook/kappellerzsuzsa

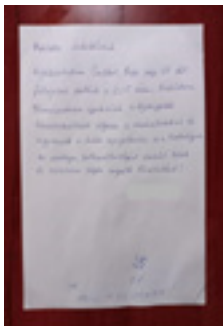
The election advertisements have been decorated with a Star of David and the words "rat Jew".

The incident was caught on CCTV, so the police were able to identify the perpetrator, Zsuzsa Kapeller told Nyugati Fény.

THREAT

"Death to the Jews!" message left in the lift leading to the Frankel synagogue's particular room

Source: tev.hu



Source: tev.hu

11 August 2022 A threatening letter was left on the lift's wall leading to the Frankel synagogue's particular room. A notice was posted on the residents' information board about the renovation of the flat with the words "Death to Jews!".

A swastika and the abbreviation SS accompanied the message. The initials AH also appear on the card, presumably about Adolf Hitler. The synagogue security service has filed a complaint with the police.

HATE SPEECH

"Jewish crime, yes there is Jewish crime" - chanted the Szeged football team's ultras in front of the MTK stadium

Source: 444.hu

3 August 2022 "Jewish crime? Yes, it does exist a Jewish crime" was the chant Szeged fans shouted at MTK fans after MTK's 2-1 win against Szeged-Csanád Grosics Akadémia at home in the opening round of the NB2 football season.

The Szeged fans, meanwhile, chanted "honk, honk, honk, gay MTK" during the game. According to several spectators, some of the Szeged fans showed arm gestures while shouting "Endurance", a greeting of Arrow Cross party members, 444.hu reports.

The scenes after the match were posted on Facebook by well-known MTK supporter Rabbi Zoltán Radnóti. The footage was taken by the 12-year-old daughter of the rabbi, who was attending an MTK match for the first time in her life. Radnóti wrote in a comment under the post that "the police stood 5 meters away and did not get between the MTK supporters and the Szeged "fans" who were leaving for home".

MTK Budapest Labdarúgó Zrt. filed a criminal complaint against an unknown perpetrator.

Our Homeland unveiled a statue of Horthy in Dóra Dúró's parliamentary office

Source: hvg.hu

30 August 2022 "Terrorist Nelson Mandela nation-saving Horthy" this was one way Our Homeland (Mi Hazánk) justified why a statue of Miklós Horthy was erected in the National Assembly on the 30th of August, hvg.hu reports. August 30th is an important date in national radical circles because it was the day of the Second Vienna Award in 1940, when Transylvania, which had been separated from Hungary by the Treaty of Trianon, was given back to Hungary.

At a press conference held in the office of Our Homeland vice-president, Dóra Dúró, before the inauguration, the other vice-president, Előd Novák, praised Horthy's "impressive economic achievements" and the "cultural effervescence" of the era. According to Our Homeland, Horthy can be criticised, but his achievements cannot be denied.



Source: hvg

In addition to the erection of the statue, Our Homeland also proposed a resolution to commemorate "Homecoming Day". The proposal would make the 30th of August, the anniversary of the Second Vienna Award, a day of remembrance.

The press conference was initially held in the Parliament's blue lounge but was forbidden by the President and was held in the Parliament's press room. The office of László

Kövér did not ban the statue itself but said that it was up to the Vice-President to decide how to arrange his office.

In the opinion of TEV, unveiling a statue does not necessarily have to be antisemitic in itself - even if it is about Miklós Horthy. But a Deputy Speaker of Parliament unveiling a statue of Horthy as a member of the Our Homeland party goes beyond provocation and has antisemitic connotations.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents two cases this month. This section includes incidents classified as hate motivated incidents but not included in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature and lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

One of the participants of MondoCon Budapest dressed as a Nazi

Source: index.hu, neokohn.hu

1 August 2022 The MondoCon anime-manga-themed event in Budapest, in the BOK Hall, has ended in scandal.



According to Index, interest in the event was much higher than expected this year, and even those with valid tickets were not allowed to attend, resulting in chaos.

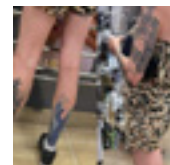
Neokohn reports that one participant dressed in a Nazi costume with a swastika armband. A foreign participant shared a picture of him in the meeting:

The person who took the photo called the organisers to account for what happened and said that the costume was not only in bad taste but also against the law.

Woman with Nazi tattoos caused consternation in Csepel

Source: tev.hu

23 August 2022 A woman who entered a shop in Csepel with her young child had a White Power slogan proclaiming White supremacy and several swastikas tattooed on her arms and legs.



No clothing covered the body parts in question, and the staff and customers watched in dismay as the woman, wearing Nazi symbols and seen for the first time in the store, shopped with the utmost calm. The incident was reported to the APF hotline.

Source: tev.hu

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Shlomo Köves: Jews are attacked in Brussels, not in Hungary

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

8 August 2022 Shlomo Köves reacted in The Jerusalem Post to an earlier opinion piece by Ira Forman, in which the former US special envoy on antisemitism questioned a study by the European Jewish Federation that Hungary is one of the safest places for the Jewish community and accused Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and his government of covert antisemitism.

EMIH's chief rabbi pointed out that the author was not only a senior official in the US government between 2013 and 2017 but also headed a political lobbying organisation linked to the Democratic Party. He recalled that this was a difficult period for European Jewry, with the killing of three people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in 2014, the killing of four people in a Jewish shop in Paris in 2015, the murder of Sarah Halimi, a Jew of Jewish descent, also in France in 2017, and many more.

What did Forman do as Special Envoy after these attacks? - asks Shlomo Köves in the English-language Israeli daily. Not much, he answers. On Holocaust Remembrance Day 2016, then US President Barack Obama highlighted as a significant achievement in the fight against antisemitism the prevention of the erection of a statue of Bálint Hóman, "one of the third-ranking politicians of the 1930s", in Székesfehérvár.

Why didn't Obama have anything to say about Belgium, where hundreds of antisemitic crimes are committed yearly and where Islamist terror had claimed four innocent lives in a Jewish museum just one year earlier? The rabbi answers that antisemitism has become a political tool.

"For the Obama administration, known for its sceptical attitude towards Hungary, it was important to use their political pressure against a small Hungarian town's municipality to stop a relatively unknown Hungarian

Nazi from getting a statue, and seemingly less important to ensure the safety of Belgian Jews," he concludes.

Shlomo Köves also defends the criticised study in the article. As he writes, the extensive public opinion poll made an exciting discovery: in countries where fewer people hold antisemitic views, there are more antisemitic hate crimes.

While in France, for example, 15 per cent shared antisemitic thoughts, and in 2020, there were 339 such crimes; in Germany, these figures were 17 per cent and 1,909 crimes. In contrast, while 42 per cent in Hungary held antisemitic views, only 30 hate crimes against Jews were recorded.

The synagogue in Kőszeg opened after two years

Source: zsido.com

30 August 2022 After two years of reconstruction, the synagogue in Kőszeg is now open, reports the Jewish Heritage Europe portal. The state-owned synagogue will be a cultural centre but can also be used for ceremonies.

The opening of the first exhibition in memory of Philip Schey was already held over the weekend. The 19th-century Jewish businessman and philanthropist, a prominent supporter of the poor in Kőszeg, was the first Jew in Hungary to receive the title of nobility from the Emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1859. Schey financed the construction of the synagogue complex between 1856 and 1859.

Of the 109 Jews living in Kőszeg in 1941, only seven are believed to have survived the Holocaust, and these left the town in the years following the Second World War. The synagogue stood empty and deteriorating for decades, despite sporadic attempts to restore it. It was state-owned from 1944 until 1996 when it was bought by a private investor who wanted to turn it into an Irish pub.

Fortunately, this project failed, and the synagogue was auctioned off again in 2004, but no renovation work was ever done.

The building was returned to state ownership in 2016, and almost 650 million HUF was earmarked for its renovation. This included the complete restoration of the façade and the restoration of the artistic frescoes and other decorative elements in the interior. The rabbinate and other buildings of the complex and the park have also been restored.

The Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association asks László Kövér to remove the statue of Miklós Horthy from the office of the Vice President of the National Assembly

Source: akibic.hu

31 August 2022 The Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association (Mazsike) calls on President Kövér László to take action on the Horthy statue in Dóra Dúró's office.

"The community of the Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association is deeply shocked and outraged that a statue of Miklós Horthy could be erected in the building of the National Assembly", the organisation said in a statement.

According to the communiqué, "the erection of this statue is a symbol that every decent and well-meaning Hungarian citizen rejects. It also conflicts with the zero-tolerance proclaimed by the government and with our principles enshrined in the Fundamental Law. It insults the memory of all victims."

"The position of the Speaker is unacceptable to us because it is not about a private suite but the symbol of Hungarian statehood, the Parliament building. We are incomprehensible that democratically elected, sworn, fair-minded representatives, regardless of party affiliation, did not prevent this openly neo-Nazi act, which brought shame to Hungary", they wrote.

According to Mazsike, the erection of the statue reinforces exclusionary thinking and fuels conflict with neighbouring countries and allies. It endangers the security and is deeply objectionable based on the principles of peaceful coexistence.

They, therefore, demand "that this international disgrace, the statue of Horthy in the office of the Vice-President of the National Assembly, be removed immediately by the Speaker of the National Assembly!"

The Mazsike also spoke out against the installation of the statue.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Yoram Hazony: Viktor Orbán is not antisemitic

Source: baon.hu

11 August 2022 "Yoram Hazony, the world-renowned Israeli philosopher, has visited our country several times and has personally met with the Hungarian Prime Minister at the Carmelite Monastery. Since then, he has regularly cited Viktor Orbán as a positive example in his speeches," said Balázs Orbán, the Prime Minister's Political Director, drawing attention to the thinker and his opinion of the Hungarian Prime Minister.

Balázs Orbán pointed out that Yoram Hazony had once again stood up for the Hungarian Prime Minister on his social media page and said he was reacting to what he called "grotesque" accusations: Viktor Orbán is not an antisemite!

The political director wrote on Facebook that the Israeli philosopher said Hungary is unique in that it is governed by a national, conservative government that sees Christianity as the dominant culture while simultaneously providing significant support to the Jewish community, for example.

The Mayor of the II District condemned the desecration of the Frankel synagogue

Source: tev.hu

15 August 2022 Whoever attacks the synagogue attacks all of us, wrote Gergely Órsi, mayor of the 2nd district, in a Facebook post after unknown persons painted a swastika on the wall of the synagogue on Frankel Leó Street on the evening of 12 August; earlier, the SS emblem and the initials of Adolf Hitler were also scrawled in the building's lift.

"Buda is proud to be home to one of the largest, thriving Jewish communities in Central Europe, who live here in peace and security.

Those who attack the synagogue attack us all. Such people, who preach ideas that are the trash heap of history, have no place among us," the post reads.

The head of the 2nd district added that this is the second incidence of hate speech in the area in a short time.

"When we spotted an anti-gay graffiti in nearby Zsigmond Square, we removed it within half an hour and filed a complaint. We will now also immediately remove the swastika."

Police arrested the man who painted a swastika on the wall of the Frankel synagogue

Source: tev.hu

16 August 2022 BRFK police officers interrogated the man who painted a swastika on the Frankel Leo Street Synagogue. In the ongoing procedure, the investigators identified the suspected perpetrator, a 48-year-old man from Budapest who was arrested by the police of the 2nd district on 16 August 2022, police.hu reports.

The man confessed to the crime and is defending himself.

The Hungarian government condemns the antisemitic attack on the Frankel Leó Street Synagogue

Source: origo.hu

16 August 2022 "We condemn the antisemitic attack on the Frankel Leó út Synagogue!" - wrote Judit Varga on her Facebook page. The Minister of Justice stated that the Hungarian government had declared zero tolerance against all forms of antisemitism, and we will take action against the perpetrators with all the means of the law, so that Hungary can continue to be a thriving centre of Jewish communities and Jewish culture, providing a safe home for all people regardless of religion.

Two million HUF fine for Szeged football club

Source: szegedma.hu

16 August 2022 Szeged-Csanád GA has been heavily fined for what happened after the MTK match. The official site of the club says that according to witnesses, Szeged football fans chanted hateful language, which was the basis for the decision of the Hungarian Football Association. After the match was over, the antisemitic, hateful speech was uttered by Szeged supporters leaving the stadium in its immediate vicinity.

According to the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, Szeged will be ordered to pay a fine of HUF 2 million in connection with the MTK Budapest-Szeged Merkantil Bank Liga match played on 1 August.

Szeged-Csanád GA distances itself from the incident and takes note of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. They are also considering filing a criminal complaint against the fans on suspicion of committing a crime of incitement against the community.

DK: A Nazi is a Nazi

Source: index.hu

30 August 2022 The MPs of the Our Homeland party will erect a statue of Horthy on Tuesday in the Parliament on the occasion of the anniversary of the Second Vienna Decision, the Democratic Coalition (DK) said in a statement.

In the communique, parliamentary group spokesperson Olga Kálmán called the Our Homeland Movement a Nazi group. The DK's position is that anyone who thinks like a Nazi, argues like a Nazi and pays homage to and commemorates a pro-Nazi head of state is a Nazi himself. There is nothing to sugar-coat or explain.

The politician stressed that "everyone can worship whatever ideology he wants in his private home. [But] no room in the Hungarian Parliament is private. If the President of the Parliament tolerates this Nazi provocation, then he, among his many other sins, will now bear the mud stain of Nazi filth. Nazis have no place in Parliament. In any office."

Israel's Embassy in Hungary also protests against the statue of Horthy unveiled in the Parliament

Source: akibic.hu

31 August 2022 The Embassy of Israel in Hungary has posted a statement on Facebook protesting the inauguration of the Horthy statue in the office of the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

They wrote: "It is hard to imagine that in modern Hungary, in the heart of Europe, there are still political circles that are busy glorifying a person who is responsible for the inhuman suffering and death of hundreds of thousands of Hungarian citizens, including the majority of the Jewish community. Antisemitism and antisemitic ideas have NO place; they cannot be tolerated."

OTHER NEWS

Szeged sports clubs ban antisemitic fans from their stands for good

Source: m4sport.hu, nso.hu, tev.hu

5 August 2022 All sports clubs in Szeged have banned fans who chanted antisemitic slogans during Monday's NB2 opening round match. In addition to the directly affected SZCSGA, the handball team Pick Szeged, the basketball team Naturex SZTE Szedeák, the Szeged Water Polo Association and the Zengő-Alöld Szegedi Teke Egylet announced this in a joint statement sent to Nemzeti Sport.

The home team won the MTK- Szeged match, while MTK filed a police report against a group of Szeged fans for antisemitic behaviour.

The document says that sport plays a special role in the life of Szeged and that they are proud of the community they are building together and of the fact that they are fighting for each other week after week.

"We are proud of Szeged, of being Hungarian, of our successes, of our struggles. And we are proud of our values. Our community is built on helping each other, joint efforts and acceptance, and there is no room for exclusion or racism. Together, we condemn and oppose the slightest form or manifestation of it."

The associations will assist the authorities in detecting and preventing similar incidents.

"To protect our community, we will act in the strongest possible terms against any form of exclusion, racism or stigmatisation, and our sanctions will be coordinated," they wrote.

The Ultras Szeged supporters' group specifically stressed the importance of sportsmanship and distanced themselves on Facebook from the behaviour of "a few fans known to the public".

"Our fan group condemns any manifestation of antisemitism and racism and distances itself from the events outside the stadium after Monday's match against MTK. Out of the camp of nearly 200 people, a few 'supporters' we know from sight behaved in a reprehensible manner. As in the past, we are and will continue to be supporters of sportsmanship," the post said.

The Szeged-Csanád Grosics Academy (SZCSGA) also reacted in a statement after MTK filed a police report against Szeged for the antisemitic behaviour of some of its fans following the two teams' match on Monday night, M4Sport.hu reported.

A summary of the incident on the club's website states that after Monday's meeting, a group of Szeged-Csanád Grosics Akadémia fans left the Hidegkuti Nándor Stadium and its surroundings chanting hateful slogans.

In a statement, Szeged said that they condemn the behaviour of the supporters involved and that sanctions will be imposed:

"Our club condemns all manifestations of antisemitism and racism and distances itself from the events outside the stadium after Monday's match against MTK. We will give all the support to the authorities for the procedure related to the report filed in the case. After its conclusion, we will impose sanctions against the affected fans within our competence."

Beatrix Siklósi, notorious for her antisemitic remarks, was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit

Source: szombat.hu

20 August 2022 Gergely Gulyás, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary to Beatrix Siklósi, journalist and channel director of Kossuth Rádió on the occasion of the State Foundation Day.

Beatrix Siklósi's appointment as head of Kossuth Radio was protested by 21 Jewish organisations in January 2020, who signed an open letter calling for her dismissal by MTVA CEO Dániel Papp. The open letter was sent by 1,700 people to the email addresses of the CEO and Siklósi and was eventually signed by 3,500, the Szombat magazine recalls.

The open letter reflects that Siklósi shared the following sentences, among others, on his social media page:

"Some good news for the evening: there is still money not only for the gipsies but also for the holo (Holocaust) brainwashing of our children."

"Israel is coming!!! Protect the Hungarian homeland!!!"

"More than a thousand Orthodox Jews from all over the world have arrived in the village of Birch... and they are here to stay..."

Siklósi had earlier posted articles from the far-right Kuruc.info on his social media page, where he also commemorated Miklós Horthy's birthday.

In 2018, the Action and Protection Foundation (APF) wrote to the members of the Media Council to review Siklósi's appointment to his new position because of his extremist statements and activities that had previously come to light. The APF said at the time that Beatrix Siklósi's appointment was a disgrace to the functioning of the public service media, which symbolises national unity, and that it was damaging the institution's reputation and hampering the fulfilment of its mission.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	1st of August	One of the participants of MondoCon Budapest dressed as a Nazi	Further Hate Incidents
2.	3rd of August	"Jewish crime, yes there is Jewish crime" - chanted the Szeged football team's ultras in front of the MTK stadium	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate speech
3.	3th of August	Szeged sports clubs ban antisemitic fans from their stands for good	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Threat
4.	8th of August	Shlomo Köves: Jews are attacked in Brussels, not in Hungary	Community News and Responses
5.	11th of August	Swastika painted on the wall of the Frankel synagogue	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to property
6.	11th of August	"Death to the Jews!" message left in the lift leading to the Frankel synagogue's particular room	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Threat
7.	11th of August	Yoram Hazony: Viktor Orbán is not antisemitic	Official and Civil Responses
8.	15th of August	Antisemitic scandal at the Sziget Festival: a Spanish rap group bragged about defacing the Israeli flag	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to property
9.	15th of August	The Mayor of the II District condemned the desecration of the Frankel synagogue	Official and Civil Responses
10.	16th of August	Police arrested the man who painted a swastika on the wall of the Frankel synagogue	Official and Civil Responses
11.	16th of August	The Hungarian government condemns the antisemitic attack on the Frankel Leó Street Synagogue	Official and Civil Responses
12.	16th of August	Two million HUF fine for Szeged football club	Official and Civil Responses
13.	20th of August	Beatrix Siklósi, notorious for her antisemitic remarks, was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit	Other News
14.	23rd of August	Woman with Nazi tattoos caused consternation in Csepel	Further Hate Incidents
15.	30th of August	DK: A Nazi is a Nazi	Official and Civil Responses

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	30th of August	Our Homeland unveiled a statue of Horthy in Dóra Dúró's parliamentary office	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate speech
17.	30th of August	The synagogue in Kőszeg opened after two years	Community News and Responses
18.	31st of August	Antisemitic slogans painted on the election posters of the opposition candidate in District III	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property
19.	31st of August	The Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association asks László Kövér to remove the statue of Miklós Horthy from the office of the Vice President of the National Assembly	Community News and Responses
20.	31st of August	Israel's Embassy in Hungary also protests against the statue of Horthy unveiled in the Parliament	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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2022 Budapest

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