

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT  
IN HUNGARY

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DECEMBER 2022



ACTION AND PROTECTION  
LEAGUE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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 December, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified five hate incidents of antisemitic nature. One was categorised as a Discriminatory Incident and four as Hate Speech.

This month, we identified one Further Hate Incident.

In the first case, a Bolt taxi driver forced his elderly Israeli passengers out of the car in Budapest. This was categorised as a Discriminatory Incident.

The Hate Speech category includes the following cases: "DEATH TO SOROS!" written on the gate of a factory in the 10th district; a TEV informer was called a "gas chamber fugitive" in a private FB message;

a notorious offender placed posters insulting the Jewish community in downtown Miskolc; and carved portraits of Hitler were for sale in Szilvasvárad.

The Further Hate Incidents category included past statements by a Jobbik politician.

Our Foundation did not initiate any new proceedings this month, nor did we receive any notifications of our previous proceedings.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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In the last decade there has been a rise in antisemitism in Europe. Surveys by e.g. the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)<sup>1</sup> and the ADL Global 100<sup>2</sup> show a broad spectrum of antisemitism and how it fluctuates over time.

The character of antisemitic incidents is quite different in the monitored countries concerning content, expressions, and perpetrators. Current antisemitism is mainly connected to Islamism, Far-right groups, and Far-left groups. Islamist expressions are most frequent in countries with large Muslim populations in Western Europe and uncommon in Eastern and Central Europe. Far-left expressions of antisemitism can often be found disguised as Anti-Zionism in Western Europe and is often connected to the conflict in the Middle East.

In East and Central Europe, right-wing expressions of prejudice against Jews frequently have old roots, not only among groups related to Fascism and Nazism, but at times also in populist-nationalist settings. In several countries Jews have found themselves under more threat during the last decade. This does not only include physical attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions but is also visible in the growth of conspiracy theories, online hatred, and political campaigns favouring banning of, e.g., brit milah and kashrut.

Countering antisemitism becomes an increasingly urgent issue for Europe. Action and Protection League of Europe (APL) has been established to explore the causes of modern-day antisemitism and to implement effective defense.

<sup>1</sup> EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: ANTISEMITISM - OVERVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2008-2018  
<sup>2</sup> <https://global100.adl.org>

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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The general opinion on, and treatment of, antisemitism often takes extreme forms. On the one hand, some voices try to belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion, one-off incidents are exaggerated in the public arena to such an extent that they give the impression that they are frequent or a regular part of daily life. Knowledge of the actual situation(s) is an indispensable condition for the treatment of real problems. Monitoring of antisemitic hate crimes and incidents<sup>3</sup> is one of the tools used in achieving this objective.

From 2019 the Action and Protection League has decided to monitor seven European countries. In the first stage, data is collected from seven countries: Austria, Czechia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Sweden, and more countries will be added later. All countries have their own particularities and vast differences when it comes to the monitoring of antisemitism

in some cases, there are several organisations with similar goals as the APL and in other countries, few or no similar activities. In no case will APL try to replace existing organisations, but rather seek cooperation and exchange of data.

Apart from the monthly reports, an annual summary review, including more detailed analyses on the incidents, is published. All reports are published in English, and almost all are published in the local language.

The fight against hate crimes is of utmost importance since it differs from many other forms of criminal conduct. On one level can these crimes and incidents can be considered as messages. They are not only about the victim in question but points to a larger group. Antisemitism and other hate crimes are thus not only attacks against individuals, but the social fabric of the society as a whole. This does not, of course, diminish the distress and psychological trauma which individual victims might

suffer. These crimes are often not “only” against property or lead to physical threat of individuals, but it also concerns self-dignity. The offenses indicate that the victim is not an equal member or a member at all of the society. Since hate crimes, in general, target victims due to some unchangeable characteristics (real or imagined), the victim becomes almost defenseless. Victims often fear that they may again be targets of similar incidents or worse atrocities if they identify perpetrators to relevant authorities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents may easily lead to secondary victimization where the victim can be led to believe that it was their fault, e.g., by not being careful enough, etc. This type of criminal act also, as mentioned, has an effect on the group as a whole. The victims of these crimes are often interchangeable, since they are not targeted at individuals and any other member could just as well have been targeted. This means that all members of the targeted group become potential victims and might live in fear of a future when they themselves may be the target of a prejudice-motivated crime. This situation is particularly poignant for groups that have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length why Jews belong among such groups. These crimes undermine the fundamental value that all members of a society are of equal value. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the society as a whole. Not only may it encourage the perpetrators to commit further crimes, but it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society as a whole<sup>4</sup>.

It is not an exaggeration to state that fewer hate crimes are reported and documented than are committed. The discrepancy between committed crimes and reported crimes vary significantly between different countries is not necessarily connected to the number of Jews. A contributing factor

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

<sup>4</sup> Levin & 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.

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## METHODOLOGY

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

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people<sup>6</sup>
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a specific group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

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

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

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

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

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

When identifying hate incidents, various indicators are recorded during the monitoring period<sup>7</sup> and are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by antisemitism.

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

<sup>5</sup> The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see 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.

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

<sup>7</sup> These indicators are described in the Methodology section

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics<sup>9</sup> :

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

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

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

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

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



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

Based on the *Facing Facts! Guidelines*, seven types of incidents are differentiated as follows<sup>10</sup>:

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

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

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

# ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

## DECEMBER 2022

In December, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified five hate incidents of antisemitic nature, categorised as Hate Speech and Discriminatory Incidents.

### HATE SPEECH

*"DEATH TO SOROS!" written on the gate of a factory in the 10th district*  
Source: tev.hu



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Source: tev.hu

**6 December 2022** A notice has been received on the hotline of the Action and Protection Foundation that the following inscription was painted on the gate of a factory located opposite the Basa Street stop of the 99 bus in District 10: "DEATH TO SOROS!"

The graffiti, clearly visible from the bus, was reported to the District 10 Municipality by the complainant.

The Action and Protection Foundation is contacting the operator of the site and will take all measures to have the shameful text removed as soon as possible.

*A TEV informer was called a "gas chamber fugitive" in a private FB message*  
Source: tev.hu

**16 December 2022** "You rat bastard! You bark with your rotten lousy kind, you gas chamber fugitive! Do you have any idea where you come from? Which soldier fucked your mother in the ghetto?! You can't bark in this country, you're nothing! Unfortunately, Uncle Adolf couldn't finish wiping your kind off the face of the earth! You're the best example of why he didn't want you to become a rat like you!" a person wrote on Messenger to the individual who reported the incident on the APF hotline.

Péter

Bővel parkány! A rohadós tejtől felpuffasztogatott te utoklennék szőkevény! Van fogalmad egyáltalán, hogy kikről beszéltem? Melyik katonára gondolsz? Talán a német árulókat a gettóban?! Ebben az országban te nem vagy semmi! Segítség! Szegény Adolf bácsi nem tudta befejezni a feladatát, mert te vagy a legjobb példa arra, hogy ne maradjon befejezve egy olyan rohadós parkány sem mint te vagy!

Source: tev.hu

APF is filing a harassment complaint with the police.

*Posters insulting the Jewish community appeared in downtown Miskolc*  
Source: tev.hu

**27 December 2022** Our Foundation has received a report that a woman placed posters insulting the Jewish community on a hanukiah in the centre of Miskolc. The city administration and the police took measures to investigate the offence of insulting a religious symbol.

The offender, also placed hateful photos and inscriptions in the city centre in March this year. She called the Israeli and national religious leaders and public figures in the photos "Zion's most evil Jewish Nazi terrorists", among other things.

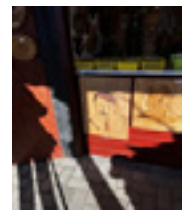


Source: tev.hu

*Carved Hitler portrait for sale in Szilvásvár*  
Source: szombat.org

**30 December 2022** A writer from Szombat.hu was travelling to Szilvásvár, where he noticed that a carved portrait of Adolf Hitler was for sale at a souvenir shop on Szalajka Road, between the riding stadium and the departure station of the Forest Railway, next to the playground. Its price was HUF 42,000.

The woman selling the portrait said her father made the carving because it was what he had in mind and had nothing to do with Hitler's activities. She said it was "perfectly fine". She noted that the Hitler portrait is not a "symbol", so she can sell it.



Source: szombat.org

## DISCRIMINATORY INCIDENTS

*A Bolt taxi driver forced his elderly Israeli passengers out of the car in Budapest*

Source: 24.hu

**12 December 2022** A reader of 24.hu shared an outrageous incident in which he and two Israeli citizens, an 86-year-old father and his 50-year-old daughter, were the victims. The people concerned had ordered a Bolt taxi at 2-6 Madách Imre út in the 7th district of Budapest at around 14:00 on 2 October. The vehicle arrived on time, and the passengers got into the car, but the taxi driver asked the passengers, who spoke Hebrew to each other, to get out of the vehicle.

According to the report, the two Israelis looked at each other in confusion, and the Hungarian passenger initially thought he could not hear well. Then he asked the driver what the problem was.

"I'm not taking you anywhere", the Bolt driver said, adding that he owed no explanation. He later remarked, "Because I am not in the mood". He then drove the car for a few metres, then pulled over to the sidewalk and again ordered the passengers to get out, who, having no choice, complied. As the taxi had driven about a block away, they were charged a fare of 510 forints.

"My Israeli passengers were the an 86-year-old father and his 50-year-old daughter, a retired architect and an interior designer. There was no way we gave the impression that we were thugs who had to be ordered out of the car before we left", recalled the third occupant of the taxi, who reported the incident to Bolt.

The company initially responded that they were distancing themselves from the incident and had launched an investigation into the matter. They later announced that they had investigated the incident and taken the necessary measures but could not share further details due to the Data Protection Act.

The 24.hu reader called the response nonsense, as he had provided Bolt with the driver's details, as well as the exact time and place, and was not interested in further personal information.

"As a stakeholder, I am interested in the procedure, the result of a fair investigation and, above all, its outcome. I feel that I was only given a bunch of nice-sounding slogans that stressed how much they distance themselves from racism and antisemitic expressions and then simply shrugged off with a vague sentence, some unintelligible nonsense. As if I have nothing to do with what happened to me. I will never know what they did or if they did anything at all", said the reader.

24.hu also contacted Bolt about the matter. The news portal wanted to know whether the allegedly antisemitic or xenophobic driver could continue transporting passengers under the Bolt name. Still, they essentially got the same answer as their reader. The company also felt it necessary to say that the drivers are not employed by Bolt but are independent partners who use their platform to provide their services.

The Action and Protection Foundation has not experienced such a severe antisemitic incident in years. We have contacted the victims and will provide them with all legal assistance. We have every reason to believe that the Hungarian authorities will investigate the incident swiftly and vigorously in the spirit of the current zero-tolerance policy on antisemitism.

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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents one case this month. This section includes incidents classified as motivated by hate 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. It also includes acts that may have an antisemitic intent but did not take place in Hungary, and yet, the person involved is connected to the country.

*Jew-basher supports candidate in Pesterzsébet by-election*

Source: mandiner.hu

**1 December 2022** The candidate of the opposition coalition in the Pesterzsébet by-election will be Tamás Jurák; he is supported by Tamás Juhák, who was elected to Jobbik in 2019 on a compensation list. Juhák's past is full of interesting facts: besides having scolded the MSZP and the entire opposition, he is also a Jew-basher, Mandiner reports.

Tamás Juhák greeted his acquaintances with a selective antisemitic statement, congratulating them on their birthdays and name days. On one occasion, he wrote, "Happy birthday, dear friend of Jewish origin!" While on another occasion, he said, "Happy name day, Jew!"

Mandiner notes that Tamás Juhák supported the openly antisemitic László Bíró in the Borsod by-election last year; Bíró ran as an opposition candidate for Jobbik.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*Salesian monk Mihály Kiss posthumously awarded Righteous Among the Nations*

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

**12 December 2022** A posthumous Righteous Among the Nations medal has been awarded to Salesian monk Mihály Kiss, who hid Jewish youth in the order's house in Old Buda during the Holocaust. The award was presented by Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén and Israel's Ambassador to Budapest, Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, to the Salesian provincial head, János Andrásfalvy, on Thursday in Budapest.

Zsolt Semjén also said that the memory of the Holocaust was not simply a reminder of the most senseless and terrible act in the history of the 20th century and humanity but a point of reference that still defines the identity of the people of Europe today.

It taught us that a man can become anything he wants and that "we can decide for ourselves whether we are saints or villains". He added that the Hungarian government has shown unwavering commitment to Jewish communities in recent years. During a tense situation in the Middle East and with the security challenges facing European Jewry, it has done its utmost to protect Jewish communities and combat antisemitism. The government has sent a clear signal that it stands by Israel in the international political arena, he said, adding that relations between the two countries have developed steadily in recent years.

Yakov Hadas-Handelsman explained that the Righteous Among the Nations medal is the highest expression of gratitude from the Jewish people and the State of Israel for the humanity and courage of non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews.

"Mihály Kiss truly deserves recognition for his extraordinary courage in helping Jewish children, hiding them from their persecutors in the chapel of the Salesians' monastery in Old Buda, and risking his own life in the process", said the ambassador.

He noted that the fact that Mihály Kiss was a priest makes his actions all the more significant, given the inter-religious relations at the time.

János Andrásfalvy remembered that Mihály Kiss, as the head of the Óbuda monastery, had admitted several people of Jewish origin to the monastery in October 1944, during the Arrow Cross reign of a few weeks, saving their lives. On their way to the brick factory collection point, several of them "jumped" into the chapel, which was always open. The Arrow Cross, realising that the Salesians were harbouring Jewish youths, raided the convent, dragged off the children they found there and shot them into the Danube. Mihály Kiss and his companions were repeatedly beaten and tortured by the Arrow Cross, which probably contributed to the monk's early death. János Andrásfalvy also said that Mihály Kiss is the third Hungarian Salesian monk to receive the Righteous Among the Nations award.

*Delegation of the Action and Protection League met with European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement*

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

**14 December 2022** A delegation of the Action and Protection League (APL), Europe's leading organisation for combating antisemitism, met with Olivér Várhelyi, Hungarian EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, to discuss cooperation opportunities.

Secretary General of the Action and Protection League Kálmán Szalai and Foreign Affairs Director Tamir Wertzberger met with Olivier Várhelyi to discuss cooperation opportunities and exact projects between APL and the EU Commissioner.

The meeting was of crucial importance, during which the APL delegation presented the organisation's textbook review project, which involved experts from Hungarian Jewish communities and examined the inclusion of Jewish religion, culture, ancient and modern Israel, and the Holocaust in textbooks. The project then made recommendations to editors and publishers of changes they consider necessary.

The Hungarian Ministry of Education was the first in Europe to make this initiative. Recommendations have already been taken into account when publishing new textbooks. During the meeting, it was also mentioned that in Hungary, the national curriculum is re-evaluated every five years, the second cycle of which is currently underway.

Based on the experience of the project in Hungary, the APL delegation suggested that the European Commissioner extend the national curriculum review program to Ukraine, Turkey and Serbia, to examine how Judaism is presented in textbooks in those countries.

Mr Várhelyi expressed openness to the programme and APL's recommendation of its extension. The two parties also discussed further possibilities for cooperation, such as the extension of APL's research on antisemitism bias to countries neighbouring the European Union.

Identifying possible ways of collaboration will soon follow the fruitful discussion.

*Hungarian Jewish rescuers honoured in Israel*

Source: magyarhirlap.hu

**14 December 2022** At a ceremony held Tuesday evening in northern Israel's Kibbutz Hazorea, 209 members of underground Zionist youth movements in Hungary during World War II and, in the case of posthumous honours, their family members were honoured.

Four elderly surviving Jewish rescuers were also present at the event, at which one of them, Sara Epstein, gave a speech, but the vast majority of the recipients are no longer alive, MTI reports.

Some 580 people have been honoured, including 127 immigrants to Israel from Hungary. Of the more than 200 Hungarian Jews newly honoured, 81 settled in Kibbutz settlements after the war.

Levente Benkő, Hungary's Ambassador to Tel Aviv, said at the event that the example of the honoured Jews highlights the heroism of those who risked their lives to save others during this dark historical period.

"I stand here today as an ambassador of Hungary, which failed to protect its Jewish compatriots in 1944, and this fills me with deep pain and regret. On the other hand, I stand here as a proud representative of a country that is one of the strongest supporters of Israel on the international stage today", said Benkő.

*Exhibition in memory of the victims of the Holocaust at the Opera House*

Source: kultura.hu

**14 December 2022** The permanent exhibition "Broken, Abandoned, Died..." has opened in the basement of the Hungarian State Opera House, commemorating 83 artists and staff members of the institution who were dismissed and persecuted during the Holocaust because of their origins.

The exhibition was the brainchild of director Sylvie Gábor and based on her primary research for her doctoral dissertation. It examined the lives of the members dismissed between July 1939 and April 1944, the period between the introduction of the Second Jewish Law and the German occupation of Hungary. The research was made extremely difficult by the lack of documentation of the events: there are no survivors, and in the decades following World War II,

the traumas remained largely silenced and undiscovered, and records and memoirs of the period were few. However, the work of Márton Karczag, the director of the Opera's memorial and the curator of the exhibition, is a unique achievement because the exhibit is the first in Hungarian theatre history to examine the events of the Holocaust in the life of a company, writes [kultura.hu](http://kultura.hu).

The exhibition explores the careers of 83 former colleagues — 14 soloists, 5 conductors and répétiteurs, 27 chorus members, 18 musicians, 7 ballet dancers, 4 administrative employees, and 8 technical workers — divided into three groups, taking into account their work in the opera house. More than half of them, 45, were taken back by the Opera House after the Second World War,

10 did not survive the ordeal, and 18 did not return to the company. Some continued their careers abroad, others stopped their careers, and no information is available on eight former staff members after 1945.

The site of the exhibition, a horseshoe-shaped basement corridor running under the opera boxes, is also symbolic, as hundreds of former opera house staff and their families gathered here during Budapest's siege. The most notable guest was Zoltán Kodály, whose wife Emma Sándor, a composer and translator, was forced into hiding. Among the persecuted, opera singers Dóra Bársony, Árpád Palotay, Béla Venczell and presumably Lili Egry, as well as ballet dancer Nelly Kleir, found refuge here.

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## OTHER NEWS

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*The St John of Capistrano awards were handed over in front of a Horthy painting*

Source: nepszava.hu

**16 December 2022** The Catholic Bishop of the Camp Bishopric, Tibor Berta, presented the St John of Capistrano Awards, established by the Camp Bishopric in 2014, in front of a painting of Miklós Horthy. The award ceremony was held in early December in a room of the Reformed Church of Homecoming in Szabadság Square, Népszava reports.

Loránt Hegedűs is the congregation's pastor, and a bust of Miklós Horthy can be seen at the entrance to the church. In addition to the statue, a painting of the former governor, which was placed in the room where the event was held, also serves to cultivate the Horthy cult.

Asked by Népszava if he did not find it disturbing that a painting of Miklós Horthy was the background of the ceremony, Bishop Tibor Berta said that this situation was accepted. "Even if I go to a restaurant or a guest house, I cannot take down a picture I don't like from the wall", he said. However, he repeatedly said that it was "unfortunate" that the circumstances of the award ceremony had turned out this way and that the Horthy painting was visible in the event's coverage.

Tibor Berta explained that the Catholic General Bishopric is next to the Reformed parish on Szabadság Square. The bishop said they have been on good terms with the Reformed parish of Budapest-Szabadság Square, led by Loránt Hegedűs, for decades, and in the spirit of ecumenism, they strive to support and help each other in everyday life.

"Thus, when we have a large event that we cannot hold at the diocese because of lack of suitable space, we can use the premises of the Reformed congregation. This is what happened at the recent awards ceremony. In the same room, there are paintings of several other historical figures: the poet Bálint Balassi, the Transylvanian prince Gábor Bethlen, the prince of Transylvania and Hungary István Bocskai, the prince of Transylvania and Hungary Lajos Kossuth, the governor-president of Hungary, the prince-general Ferenc Rákóczi, the prince-general of Transylvania, and the portrait of the Kuruc warlord Imre Thököly."

The bishop stressed that he had no sympathy for Miklós Horthy or the repressive system that was in place at the time. That is why there is no painting or other image of the former governor in the Catholic General Bishopric. Tibor Berta said that during his 28 years of service as a military chaplain, he had sought to keep in mind the teaching of the Catholic Church, which condemns and rejects any persecution, discrimination or any form of antisemitic manifestations of people based on race, colour, social status or religion.

Tibor Berta also pointed out that he had known the former Camp Rabbi Róbert Frölich since 1994 and had an excellent and friendly relationship with him, as well as with the current leading Chief Rabbis of the Camp Rabbinate.



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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	1st of December	Jew-basher supports candidate in Pesterzsébet by-election	Further Hate Incidents
2.	2nd of December	A Bolt taxi driver forced his elderly Israeli passengers out of the car in Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Discriminatory Incidents
3.	6th of December	"DEATH TO SOROSI" written on the gate of a factory in the 10th district	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
4.	8th of December	Salesian monk Mihály Kiss posthumously awarded Righteous Among the Nations	Community News and Responses
5.	14th of December	Exhibition in memory of the victims of the Holocaust at the Opera House	Community News and Responses
6.	14th of December	Delegation of the Action and Protection League met with European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement	Community News and Responses
7.	14th of December	Hungarian Jewish rescuers honoured in Israel	Community News and Responses
8.	16th of December	The St John of Capistrano awards were handed over in front of a Horthy painting	Other News
9.	16th of December	A TEV informer was called a "gas chamber fugitive" in a private FB message	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
10.	27th of December	Posters insulting the Jewish community appeared in downtown Miskolc	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
11.	30th of December	Carved Hitler portrait for sale in Szilvásvárad	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

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## CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection League is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread antisemitic manifestations.

The Action and Protection Foundation is the partner of the Action and Protection League in Hungary.

In case anyone faces insults or antisemitic abuse due to a supposed or real Jewish background, do not remain silent, let us know, so that we can forward the case through the appropriate channels to the official organs required to take measures!

Notifications of such incidents are received by the Foundation through any of the following means:

**HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000**

The website of Action and Protection League: [www.apleu.org](http://www.apleu.org)

The Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany](https://www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany)

Action and Protection League's undertaking can only be successful if great numbers share in our commitment to prepare the grounds for the right to fair process for all those who have suffered offenses. In aid of this cause please support the work of the Foundation with your contribution! Donations can be made to the Foundation on the following bank account:

**13597539-12302010-00057157**

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2022 Budapest

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