

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT  
IN HUNGARY

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JULY 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 July, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified five antisemitic hate crimes, categorised as Damage to Property, Hate Speech and Threats.

In the first two cases of Damage to Property, a swastika was scratched on the wall of the elevator in an apartment building at Móricz Zsigmond Square and hateful murals were reported in Budapest.

In the first case of Hate Speech, Nazi marches were sung and gas chambers were mentioned at a skinheads festival on the outskirts of Velence. In the second case, inflammatory, antisemitic posters with the Mazsihisz logo appeared in Budapest.

At the Blaha Lujza Square tram stop, a loudspeaker broadcast the following text: If the radical activist Tomcat were prime minister, everything would be full of "Jewish corpses and babies slammed against the wall". This incident was identified as a Threat.

One Further Hate Incident was recorded in July: A toy figure of the Führer was sold in a Hungarian online shop.

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

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## ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

### JULY 2022

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#### THREAT

*If Tomcat were prime minister, everything would be full of "Jewish corpses and babies slammed against the wall"*

Source: telex.hu

**11 July 2022** If Tomcat were prime minister, everything would be full of "Jewish corpses and babies slammed against the wall", a loudspeaker at the Blaha Lujza Square tram stop boomed.

A Telex reader reported hearing strange recordings from a loudspeaker above a billboard at the Blaha Lujza Square tram stop. Telex went to the scene and found that there was indeed a black loudspeaker at the tram stop in the direction of Nyugati Railway Station, blaring out unidentified, mainly Jew-bashing texts at a high volume.

BKV-BKK staff were already on the scene and said that the loudspeaker did not belong to them. The recordings were mostly played when a tram arrived and people were getting off.

According to Telex, two types of text were repeated. The shorter recording was about what would happen if Tomcat, a recently re-activated radical activist, became prime minister, to which the response was that everything would be full of "Jewish corpses and babies slammed against the wall", and "dissidents" would be "impaled by death squads in black". In another recording, someone said that many police and prosecution chiefs are Jews.

The Budapest Police Headquarters have launched an investigation.

#### DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

*Suspicious hate incident murals reported in Budapest*

Source: tev.hu

**5 July 2022** Two announcements were received on the APF hotline at the beginning of July. A swastika was painted on the building of the Bét Menachem Hebrew-Hungarian Bilingual Elementary School, Kindergarten, and Nursery and a Star of David was drawn on the pedestal of the Buda side of the Elizabeth Bridge.



Source: tev.hu

In both cases, the Action and Protection Foundation filed a complaint and notified Budapest Közút Zrt., the company responsible for the administration of the bridge, to remove the hateful paintings. The police investigation will begin with the gathering of the surveillance camera footage.

*Swastika scratched onto the wall of the lift in an apartment building at Móricz Zsigmond Square*

Source: tev.hu

**19 July 2022** The Action and Protection Foundation has received a report that a swastika has been scratched onto the wall of a newly painted elevator in an apartment building in Budapest.

Although there is a camera at the entrance, the residents say it cannot identify the perpetrator, so they have not reported the crime. However, the disgraced graffiti was "smeared", and the complainant said the residents had tried to remove it.



Source: tev.hu

## HATE SPEECH

*Nazi marchers at the border of Velence, police launch investigation*

Source: 24.hu, tev.hu

**5 July 2022** The 8th Rockstrand Festival was held on 1 and 2 July in Velence-Ófalu, in the area of the Drótszamár Camping. The racist and Nazi texts emanating from the festival caused a solemn protest among the locals and tourists, with several of them filing complaints with the local municipality.

The municipality published a post on Facebook about the incident:

"During the music festival last weekend, unacceptable, hateful and anti-community incitement was heard, which was audible in several locations in Velence, up to several kilometres away from the festival. The Municipality of the City of Velence condemns and rejects these expressions in the strongest terms. Any organiser has the right to hold a lawful event in Velence on its property. However, it is right to be outraged when racist, Nazi rhetoric is heard in our city. In our country, hate speech as incitement to hatred against the general public is punishable by the Criminal Code (Penal Code, § 332.b)."

It is also reported that the festival organisers applied in the spring for a noise limit for the entire summer season from the municipality but did not apply for an event permit and did not attach a program to the application.

24.hu contacted the mayor about the event, but Ákos Gerhard refused to comment. The Facebook post received several comments, some of which were answered by the municipality.

"The announcement was NOT about entertainment and NOT about music or Hungarian music, BUT about the unacceptability of Nazi marches being heard loud and clear throughout Velence and hateful statements about certain ethnic groups", they wrote.

On Google Maps, the following review was added to the profile of Campsite Drótszamár:

"We've been coming here for years, but when my 5-year-old and I have to listen to a screaming 'music' (concert) at 6 pm with lyrics like 'get the hell out of here and go to the gas chamber with your grandmother' and that wasn't even the most violent it's a bit of a turn-off. It used to be a family-friendly place, but that's all in the past. Not sure we'll be back."

In an interview at the end of June, Balázs Sziva, the event's organiser, said that "this is a 100% subculture festival. We only invite bands connected to the national rock/skinhead/punk rock lineage. Musically, it's quite diverse because the style of the local skinhead bands nowadays ranges from national rock with Hungarian folk music elements to typical oi! music, to hardcore punk, thrash and death metal."

The frontman of the national rock band Romantikus Erőszak, the singer of Hungarica, the founder of the record label Hadak Útja, a Ferencváros fan, and a member of the Aryan Greens fan group also told ricsandgreen.hu that the message of the bands and the intensity of social criticism in the lyrics vary.

"But I've been censored and excluded enough in my life to make sure that it doesn't happen at our rock festival!" he said. The event's Facebook page is no longer available.

The Fejér county police are investigating the circumstances of the incident.

The event billed as a skinhead festival, featured bands with such prominent names as Fehér Törvény (White Law), Tar Had, Kitörés (Outbreak), Nemzeti Front (National Front), Radical Hungary, RPG, Romer and Oi-KOR, whose lyrics are based on nostalgia for the military and war and the promotion of the skinhead lifestyle. Several acts are on Facebook's banned list as bands associated with hate speech, terrorism, violence and other crimes.

*Inciting, antisemitic posters with the Mazsihisz logo appeared in Budapest*

Source: mazsihisz.hu

**28 July 2022** "There are only two races, Jew and goy", is the slogan on the incitement and antisemitic posters with the logo of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) that have appeared in several places in Budapest.

The Federation indicated that it has nothing to do with the provocative posters. Mazsihisz did not order them, they were not made with the permission of Mazsihisz, and they were not put on the streets by Mazsihisz.

The organisation distances itself entirely from the content and will take legal steps to remove the provocative posters and find their creators.

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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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*Előd Novák: "Enough of endless Holocaust reparations!"*

Source: akibic.hu

**4 July 2022** The MP of Mi Hazánk (Our Homeland) would have taken the increase in compensation for Holocaust survivors out of the budget.

"Incredible, but the Holocaust compensation resulting from the 1947 Paris Peace Accords is still a budget item and included even an increase in the draft law after Mazsihisz launched a support programme for the second generation of Holocaust survivors three years ago", writes Előd Novák in his statement. Kibic Magazine reviewed the document.

The chairman of the far-right party has submitted an amendment to next year's budget bill, proposing not to increase the compensation. His reasoning is: "Enough of endless Holocaust compensations! Since the criminal code's analysis of the Holocaust figures is absurdly prohibited, it is not fair to make it part of the budget law."

His amendment was not discussed, as László Kövér rejected it. The Speaker did the same with another of Novák's motions calling for the withdrawal of Roma-related subsidies.

*A Hungarian online store sells a toy figure depicting the Führer*

Source: tev.hu

**31 July 2022** Our Foundation has received a report that a Hungarian online store is selling a Lego-compatible Führer figure at a discount. Although the toy does not wear a swastika armband, the imperial eagle, iron cross and moustache are reminiscent of the Nazi dictator.

The Führer figure is available for HUF 1,590 instead of HUF 1,990. The Action and Protection Foundation has informed the service provider of the laws related to selling such a product.

In November 2021, Blikk reported that a mini-figure depicting Nazi officers or even Adolf Hitler could be bought for pennies on a Hungarian advertising site. Because of the law, sellers are afraid to advertise what they are selling, but customers know precisely how to find them, the article says.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*András Heisler: The tragedy of the Holocaust shattered the development of the Jewish community*

Source: mazihsz.hu

**5 July 2022** On the 78th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews of Szombathely, Mazsihsz commemorated, on Sunday at Batthyány Square, the innocent Jewish citizens who were deported from the city in July 1944 and died in concentration camps.

Sándor Márkus, honorary president of the Szombathely Jewish Community, called the murder of hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Jews an indescribable and eternal sorrow, which also mutilated the population of Szombathely.

A mourning service followed, led by Chief Rabbi Alfréd Schőner and Chief Cantor László Fekete. The Chief Rabbi repeatedly emphasised the most important of the rules governing Jewish life: to preserve tradition and to remember.

Heisler András Heisler, President of Mazsihsz, recalled that 430,000 people were deported to Auschwitz in six weeks from June 1944, with the active cooperation of the Hungarian authorities.

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*Márton Gyöngyösi elected President of Jobbik*

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

**2 July 2022** Márton Gyöngyösi overwhelmingly defeated his challenger at Jobbik's renewal congress in Budapest. Márton Gyöngyösi received 153 votes, while István Földi only 65, writes Magyar Nemzet.

Earlier, the leaders of The Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities (EMIH) and the Magyarhoni Zsidó Imaegylet (ZSIMA) expressed concern that Gyöngyösi, who had previously called for the listing of Jews, was being considered as a candidate.

In 2012, the Jobbik MP said in the Hungarian Parliament that "it is high time to assess many MPs and government members of Jewish origin who present a national security risk to Hungary. I believe that Hungary is owed such a survey".

The MEP's statement was also defended by the Mayor of Budapest, Gergely Karácsony, who said that the listing of members of parliament of Jewish origin is not Nazism.

*Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna: Márton Gyöngyösi's Jobbik presidency is morally unacceptable*

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

**4 July 2022** Márton Gyöngyösi's infamous scandal involving the listing of Jews was not so long ago, Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna, founder of the Magyarhoni Zsidó Imaegylet (ZSIMA), told Mandiner. According to him, in light of the tragedies of the 20th century, the entire Jewish world immediately took note of Gyöngyösi's outrageous statements.

"When a party today, in a parliament that represents democracy, can elect as its leader a man who only a short time ago wanted to list Jews, barely 70 years after the Holocaust, it is difficult to get a word in edgewise. This should not happen; it is simply morally unacceptable", said the chairman of ZSIMA.

According to Gyöngyösi, today, only media affiliated with the ruling party is dealing with this issue. He promises a pro-European, value-based, self-identical Jobbik that stands up for its principles, stressing that "they want to offer a way out of today's problems by reacting to the problems of the Hungarian people and the issues of national destiny".

Tamás Róna told Mandiner that Gyöngyösi's scandalous statement at the time had opened deep wounds and caused severe pain. The Chief Rabbi added that during this year's election campaign, it was met with great fear and concern that the Left formed a political alliance that had previously been considered unthinkable, that is that they joined forces with an antisemitic party.

According to ZSIMA, Jobbik still carries an antisemitic, racist message and therefore remains unacceptable. We must repeatedly enforce the belief that no one should be excluded from society.

*TEV Secretary General: Jobbik will fulfil its political mission if it announces its dissolution and disbands itself*

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

**4 July 2022** The name of Jobbik is forever associated with racism, anti-Jewish ideology and anti-Gypsyism, which even the apparent moderation of recent years has not been able to change, Kálmán Szalai told Mandiner. The secretary general of the Action and Protection Foundation (APF) said that the party's political alliance with those who were previously the most vocal denouncers and opponents of Jobbik's exclusionary policies was solely for political gain. The voters made their opinion clear: "The parliamentary presence of the actors of these political forces has been reduced to one-third."

Szalai added that the person of Gyöngyösi, whose apology for his statement could only be described as him skirting the issue entirely, foreshadows a return to the dead-end politics of the Jobbik of old. Therefore APF's position has not changed: Jobbik will only fulfil its political mission if it announces its dissolution and dissolves itself!

*Shlomo Köves: We were never among those who believed that Jobbik had changed*

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

**6 July 2022** In a statement to Magyar Nemzet, the Chief Rabbi of EMIH, said that now all parties have the opportunity to rethink their federal policy.

"We were never among those who believed that Jobbik had changed. The name Jobbik itself expresses a continuity with the years of openly racist and antisemitic manifestations in the party's history that discredits the moderate line the party has taken recently. The election of Márton Gyöngyösi as president supports this position. Now all parties have the opportunity to rethink their coalition policy. We trust that the most important players in Hungarian domestic politics will do so and will no longer cooperate with Jobbik", said Shlomo Köves, in connection with the election of Márton Gyöngyösi as Jobbik's president over the weekend, who had previously proposed the listing of Jews.

Magyar Nemzet wrote to the press departments of DK, Párbeszéd and MSZP to find out why they did not protest against Márton Gyöngyösi's presidency. Still, by the time the paper's daily deadline, they had not received a reply from any party.

*Magyar Nemzet: The Left does not comment on the election of Jobbik's Jew-hating president*

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

**6 July 2022** The daily had written to the press departments of DK, Párbeszéd and MSZP to find out why they did not protest against Márton Gyöngyösi's presidency, but by the end of the deadline, they had not received a reply from any of the parties.

*Successful World Jewish Congress Board meeting in Budapest*

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

**7 July 2022** The executive directors of local Jewish organisations from 48 countries gathered at the Rumbach Sebestyén Street Synagogue to discuss the most critical issues facing their communities and the World Jewish Congress (WJC). The Hungarian community was represented by the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz), the Hungarian member organisation of WJC. The meeting was welcomed by Dr Péter Kunos, Executive Director of the Association, Mazsihisz said.

The operational directors, representing the largest Jewish organisations in the member countries, reviewed the organisation's significant challenges, including the impact of Russian aggression against Ukraine, the manifestations of antisemitism and extremism, and how to counter them effectively.

Dr Péter Kunos stressed that the Hungarian Jewish community is safe, the Hungarian government has declared zero tolerance against antisemitism, and a law has been established that sanctions hate speech as well as denial and relativisation of the Holocaust. At the same time, he said it was worrying that a far-right party had entered the Hungarian parliament in this year's elections due to the resurgence of antisemitism.



Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén also spoke at the event, stating that the friendship between Hungary and Israel is a matter of evidence. In this light, Hungary has consistently vetoed statements condemning Israel in the European Union. In his speech, Zsolt Semjén also announced that the government would provide financial support for renovating the Jewish ritual baths in Miskolc.

At the banquet in the Vigadó, András Heisler, President of Mazsihisz and Vice President of WJC, welcomed the guests. He said that five Hungarian Jewish organisations, with the support of WJC, had provided substantial assistance to refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine in recent months.

Péter Sztáray, Minister of State for Security Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said that although there are differences between Hungarian Jewish organisations, the Hungarian government takes a balanced approach to these issues and does not want to resolve disputes on behalf of Jewish organisations. Sztáray said that the focus should be on the Hungarian government's efforts to achieve the most fruitful cooperation with the Hungarian Jewish communities in the future.

Maram Stern, Executive Vice President of the World Jewish Congress, said in his welcoming address that it was a great pleasure to hold the meeting in the beautiful Rumbach Synagogue, which was renovated and opened in the summer of 2021 with the help of the Hungarian government.

*Mazsihisz: The anti-Jewish statements of the new president of Jobbik remain unacceptable*

Source: mandiner.hu

**7 July 2022** "Mazsihisz is not in charge of party elections, but we still consider the anti-Jewish statements made by Márton Gyöngyösi and his colleagues in the past unacceptable", the organisation said in response to Mandiner's inquiry.

Before the parliamentary elections, they made it clear several times that Mazsihisz did not wish to have any relationship with Jobbik, a position they still maintain today.

*BRFK launched an investigation into the Blaha Lujza Square loudspeaker broadcasting Jew-bashing recordings*

Source: telex.hu

**12 July 2022** The Budapest Police Headquarters ordered an investigation against an unknown perpetrator on suspicion of information-system or data corruption. Experts are involved in the proceedings, the BRFK said in response to Telex's inquiry.

The newspaper reported earlier that at a tram stop on Blaha Lujza Square in Budapest, in the direction of Nyugati Railway Station, a black loudspeaker attached to an advertising surface was playing texts, mainly bashing Jews, at a relatively high volume, from a source that has not yet been identified.

*Shlomo Köves: The Jewish community would not be here without Viktor Orbán*

Source: index.hu

**13 July 2022** The Chief Rabbi of EMIH says it is a considerable achievement that Hungary is slowly becoming the only place in Europe where you don't need a daily survival strategy to live as a Jew. "We must appreciate this, and the current government policy and active cooperation with Jewish communities play a big role in this. I think here I must highlight the professional activities of the Action and Protection Foundation, which has been active for almost a decade", Shlomo Köves said in an interview with Index.

"If we look at the extent to which Jews experience antisemitic incidents in Hungary, we can see that the proportions are not comparable because the number here is a thousandth of what it is in France", he said.

Speaking about Viktor Orbán, Köves noted that it is not typical that they are in daily contact. Still, he cannot be dissatisfied with the special attention he enjoys from the prime minister and those around him. According to him, this is only of secondary importance for himself personally, but is of primary importance for the community and the values he represents.

"It is quite certain that without the openness and support of the Prime Minister and the government, there would be far fewer opportunities for the resurgent Hungarian Jewish community in the areas of religious life, education and community life," he said. The rabbi also said that at the beginning of the 2010s, there was a tendency on the part of Fidesz to change the often unreflective, one-sided view of history, the representation of which — still carrying on the traditions of the Kádár regime — was also channelled into the shaping of daily politics by the so-called "progressive intellectuals".

"In a country where a rabbi can receive considerable public attention, also because of the historical role of Judaism, I am obliged to use this as an opportunity to give voice to the deep teachings of the Jewish religion, which are still relevant today, to draw attention to the universal values of the rich Jewish culture", Shlomo Köves noted.

*The police should investigate Nazi salutes at Pride 2021*

Source: hirklikk.hu

**15 July 2022** The Prosecutor's Office has decided to investigate the Nazi salute at Pride 2021. Following a report by the Budapest Pride organisers, the Háttér Society filed a complaint for violence against a community member due to the homophobic chants and Nazi salutes. However, the police, ignoring the allegations, concluded that the counter-protesters had not committed a crime and dismissed the complaint.

This misinterpretation led the Háttér Society to appeal to the Public Prosecutor's Office, which upheld the complaint and confirmed that the police had unlawfully dismissed it. The Office then ordered the police to reinvestigate the case, reports Hirklikk.

Participants in the 2021 Pride parade were met by a group of counter-protesters dressed in black at Fővám tér. They chanted, "Get out, you filthy gays!" Some even waved Nazi flags, as several news portals recorded. The Action and Protection Foundation also reported the incident.

Contrary to popular belief, violence against a member of the community, i.e. a hate crime, does not require the perpetrators to assault the victim physically; it only requires that the act is likely to cause panic or fright in the victims. And the combination of the counter-protesters' appearance, homophobic shouting and Nazi salutes is an excellent way to do this", the paper notes.

*The secretary general of the Action and Protection Foundation proposed Jobbik's dissolution*

Source: magyarhirlap.hu

**22 July 2022** Another Jewish organisation has expressed concerns that Márton Gyöngyösi, Jobbik's MEP, also entered the election for a new president of Jobbik at the party's congress on 2 July. Kálmán Szalai, secretary of the Action and Protection Foundation, told Kossuth Radio on Tuesday that members of the Jewish community are very concerned that such a man could be the leader of a parliamentary party. In his 2012 speech in parliament, Gyöngyösi proposed the listing of members of parliament of Jewish origin, which Szalai said was the most serious antisemitic speech by a Hungarian MP, Magyar Hírlap reports.

"A party born in racism and antisemitism should no longer exist. The best way to fulfil its mission is to dissolve itself", said Kálmán Szalai.

He added that 10 years after his ominous speech, the current Jobbik MEP is returning to the intellectual wellspring from which he made that "glorious" statement as a member of the Hungarian parliament. Moreover, since then, he has not dared to stand up and say that he was wrong, that he had said a bad thing; instead, he has chosen to blur the issue and avoid taking responsibility.

The Action and Protection Foundation's secretary said that Jobbik had joined forces with Ferenc Gyurcsány in vain but that this party was the same party that had once practised Gypsy-bashing and Jew-bashing, created the Hungarian Guard, and marched and threatened people in the streets.

He stressed that before the 2022 elections, there were many parties that had previously distanced themselves from Jobbik but then cooperated with the party for political gain.

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## OTHER NEWS

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*János Volner: Márton Gyöngyösi's "Jew-listing" statement was not an accidental slip of the tongue*  
Source: hirtv.hu, metropol.hu

**6 July 2022** János Volner, Jobbik's MP between 2010 and 2018, also reacted to the newly elected Jobbik president's parliamentary speech 10 years ago calling for the listing of Jews. The politician said on Hír TV that Márton Gyöngyösi's claim that he immediately apologised was in vain, as he had gone on a national tour promoting his antisemitic views on Israel and the Holocaust.

"He made this Jew-listing statement and then went on a tour of the country, where he constantly communicated his antisemitic views, whether on the Holocaust, on Judaism or on Israel's role in world politics", the former party colleague recalled.

He added that it was a specific campaign tour in which he wanted to make such views known to the public in the country. So it is not just that there was an accidental slip of the tongue; he organised a whole campaign tour for this later", Volner recalled.

*Sándor Pörzse called Márton Gyöngyösi's listing of Jews a slip of the tongue*  
Source: hirado.hu

**9 July 2022** Sándor Pörzse, former Jobbik MP, said on the Magyar Hang's program "Kötőtfogás" that the 2012 speech of the current Jobbik leader Márton Gyöngyösi, who noted that members of parliament of Jewish origin should be listed, was a mere slip of the tongue.

Pörzse said that the Jobbik camp, which numbered over 1 million in 2018, might now expect the party to return to its original path. In this context, historian Péter Konok, one of the interviewees on the program, asked Pörzse whether he was thinking of listing Jews.

"I was sitting there: it was a slip of the tongue. It was a pure slip of the tongue. It sounded like we were going to publish the names of parliamentarians with dual citizenship because, specifically in MSZP, there were a lot of Israelis. And he rang the bell, I think it was the chairman, Jakab, rang the bell, and he was baffled ... it was a task that he (Gyöngyösi) didn't come up with, he was just put on it by Jobbik. And then he said Jew instead of Israeli", said Sándor Pörzse regarding what happened in parliament.

*SSzegedMa: Did Zoltán Komjáti not break with extremist Nazi ideology?*  
Source: szegedma.hu

**24 July 2022** Another coincidence strongly resembling a far-right symbol was pointed out by SzegedMa in connection with the Jobbik candidate from Dorozsma. "We have already seen Hitler on Facebook, we have also seen the proclamation of the Lebensraum theory, but now we have found a symbol around Komjáti that strongly resembles a new Nazi ideology", they write.



Forrás: szegedma.hu

The newspaper asks if it is a coincidence that the company under the management of Péter Tóth, where his fellow member of the right-wing party Zoltán Komjáti is the strategic director, has the same initials as those on the gate of the Auschwitz death camp, which Hitler created.

"Is it a coincidence that AMF (Alapos Munka Felsőfokon - 'Thorough Work at the Top') is the same as the ironic Nazi slogan Arbeit Macht Frei (A Munka Felszabadít - 'Work Makes You Free')?" they ask. SzegedMa believes that the company's logo also leaves something to be desired, as it closely resembles the Nazi imperial eagle.

After the article appeared, Péter Tóth threatened to sue the paper.

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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.	2nd of July	Márton Gyöngyösi elected President of Jobbik	Official and Civil Responses
2.	4th of July	Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna: Márton Gyöngyösi's Jobbik presidency is morally unacceptable	Official and Civil Responses
3.	4th of July	TEV Secretary General: Jobbik will fulfil its political mission if it announces its dissolution and disbands itself	Official and Civil Responses
4.	4th of July	Előd Novák: "Enough of endless Holocaust reparations!"	Further Hate Incidents
5.	5th of July	András Heisler: The tragedy of the Holocaust shattered the development of the Jewish community	Community News and Responses
6.	5th of July	Nazi marchers at the border of Velence, police launch investigation	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate speech
7.	5th of July	Suspicious hate incident murals reported in Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to property
8.	6th of July	Magyar Nemzet: The Left does not comment on the election of Jobbik's Jew-hating president	Official and Civil Responses
9.	6th of July	Shlomo Köves: We were never among those who believed that Jobbik had changed	Official and Civil Responses
10.	6th of July	János Volner: Márton Gyöngyösi's "Jew-listing" statement was not an accidental slip of the tongue	Other News
11.	7th of July	Successful World Jewish Congress Board meeting in Budapest	Official and Civil Responses
12.	7th of July	Mazsihisz: The anti-Jewish statements of the new president of Jobbik remain unacceptable	Official and Civil Responses
13.	9th of July	Sándor Pörzse called Márton Gyöngyösi's listing of Jews a slip of the tongue	Other News
14.	11th of July	If Tomcat were prime minister, everything would be full of "Jewish corpses and babies slammed against the wall"	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Threat
15.	12th of July	BRFK launched an investigation into the Blaha Lujza Square loudspeaker broadcasting Jew-bashing recordings	Official and Civil Responses

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	12th of July	Shlomo Köves: The Jewish community would not be here without Viktor Orbán	Official and Civil Responses
17.	12th of July	The police should investigate Nazi salutes at Pride 2021	Official and Civil Responses
18.	19th of July	Swastika scratched onto the wall of the lift in an apartment building at Móricz Zsigmond Square	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property
19.	22nd of July	The secretary general of the Action and Protection Foundation proposed Jobbik's dissolution	Official and Civil Responses
20.	24th of July	SzegedMa: Did Zoltán Komjáti not break with extremist Nazi ideology?	Other News
21.	28th of July	Inciting, antisemitic posters with the Mazsihisz logo appeared in Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate speech
22.	31st of July	A Hungarian online store sells a toy figure depicting the Führer	Further Hate Incidents

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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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