

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

MARCH - APRIL 2022



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Action and Protection League	4
About the Report	5
Methodology	7
Antisemitic Hate Incidents – March-April 2022	10
Hate speech	10
Damage to property	11
Further Hate Incidents	13
Community News and Responses	14
Official and Civil Responses	16
Other News	18
The Month's Chronicle	19
Contact and Support	20
References	20
Contributors and Publisher Information	21

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



significant part of combating antisemitism is monitoring of the prevalence of antisemitic incidents. One of the aims of the Action and Protection League (APL) is to heighten the awareness of antisemitism in the society. The primary tool in achieving this is continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes in public life. Neither Jewish communities nor individual Jews can be protected unless there is data on antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes and that these are collected and analysed. The data collected by the Action and Protection League, cooperated with Action and Protection Foundation (APF), are published in monthly reports, and a summary of the findings is published for the individual countries/regions in a yearly report. The monitoring report is carried out by the APF.

The reports deal with two forms of behaviour: antisemitic hate crimes and hate-motivated incidents. Both types of behaviour are referred to as "hate incidents" in the reports. The main difference between an antisemitic hate crime and other hate crimes is that the former possesses an antisemitic motive. Due to differences in legislation and application of legislation in various countries, there are different interpretations of which antisemitic incidents that are violations of criminal law. In addition are some hate-motivated acts, albeit troubling for Jews, not considered criminal if they, e.g., are considered belonging to the realm of freedom of speech. The APL considers it essential to record both types of hate incidents in order to gain a general overview and to make it possible to analyse changes over time.

In order to have the most extensive scope possible, the APL uses a variety of sources simultaneously. The incidents are not only recorded, but the characteristics of the individual incident are also analysed. The data recorded includes the incident's location, the perpetrator (if known), victim, and consequences (if any). In addition, are the various types of incidents differentiated in the reports.

In March and April month, our organization identified six Antisemitic Hate Incidents, categorized as Damage to Property and Hate Speech. Video surfaces showing Dániel Z. Kárpát of Jobbik making a nazi salute; An antisemitic Facebook comment

was reported on the APF hotline; An archival photo has been found of Jobbik vice-president's Nazi arm-waving; Antisemitic slogans appeared on the election posters of opposition coalition candidates, and an unidentified person called Jews "murderous people" in Miskolc. In the field of Damage to property, dozens of graves were vandalised in the Jewish cemetery in Budakeszi.

In these months we identified one Further Hate Incident. The Minister of Human Resources awards an antisemitic public figure.

APF did not initiate any legal proceedings in March or April, nor did we receive any notifications regarding our previous proceedings.

APL faced a technical shutdown in its background system during this period, so data on monitoring activity is limited. That's the reason why this report is about two months.

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

In the last decade there has been a rise in antisemitism in Europe. Surveys by e.g. the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)¹ and the ADL Global 100² show a broad spectrum of antisemitism and how it fluctuates over time.

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

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

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

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

ABOUT THE REPORT

The general opinion on, and treatment of, antisemitism often takes extreme forms. On the one hand, some voices try to belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion, one-off incidents are exaggerated in the public arena to such an extent that they give the impression that they are frequent or a regular part of daily life. Knowledge of the actual situation(s) is an indispensable condition for the treatment of real problems. Monitoring of antisemitic hate crimes and incidents³ is one of the tools used in achieving this objective.

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

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

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

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

suffer. These crimes are often not “only” against property or lead to physical threat of individuals, but it also concerns self-dignity. The offenses indicate that the victim is not an equal member or a member at all of the society. Since hate crimes, in general, target victims due to some unchangeable characteristics (real or imagined), the victim becomes almost defenseless. Victims often fear that they may again be targets of similar incidents or worse atrocities if they identify perpetrators to relevant authorities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents may easily lead to secondary victimization where the victim can be led to believe that it was their fault, e.g., by not being careful enough, etc. This type of criminal act also, as mentioned, has an effect on the group as a whole. The victims of these crimes are often interchangeable, since they are not targeted at individuals and any other member could just as well have been targeted. This means that all members of the targeted group become potential victims and might live in fear of a future when they themselves may be the target of a prejudice-motivated crime. This situation is particularly poignant for groups that have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length why Jews belong among such groups. These crimes undermine the fundamental value that all members of a society are of equal value. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the society as a whole. Not only may it encourage the perpetrators to commit further crimes, but it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society as a whole⁴.

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

³ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

⁴ Levin & McDavitt 1999, 92-93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19-21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17-18; Perry 2001, 10).

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

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

METHODOLOGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷ These indicators are described in the Methodology section

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics⁹ :

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS MARCH-APRIL 2022

HATE SPEECH

Video surfaces showing Dániel Z. Kárpát of Jobbik making a nazi salute

Source: mandiner.hu

13 March 2022 A new video has surfaced that shows Dániel Z. Kárpát, the deputy leader of the opposition Jobbik party, making a quick Nazi salute and then laughing. Mandiner reports, citing an article from Jewish Voice. The politician was contacted by Telex and said he was never a Nazi or an antisemite.



Source: The Jewish Voice

“I have accepted the declaration of the principle of the people’s party, Jobbik, which reflects a Christian social value system and world view, and is the same as mine. The antisemites are in

Fidesz, who call the President of Jobbik (Péter Jakab) Jacob because of his Jewish ancestry.”

"Is this your biggest problem as a Jew?" asked on Facebook

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

17 March 2022 An antisemitic Facebook comment was reported on the APF hotline on 18 March. The author of a post in a closed group was asked why, as a Jew, she is concerned about walking her dog on an open sports field when there is a war on.

"As a Jew, is that your biggest problem?" - was the question. The post's author reported the incident, but Facebook did not find the comment offensive and did not remove the post.

An archival photo has been found of Jobbik vice-president's Nazi arm-waving

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

19 March 2022 An archival photograph published by the American Jewish newspaper The Jewish Voice, shows György Szilágyi,

the party's vice-president and spokesman, waving Sieg Heil with his arm at a football match. In a video, the politician defends the American neo-Nazi group Aryan Army.

The newspaper also found a Duna TV video of Szilágyi explaining that the Aryan Army, whose banner was displayed in the stadium, is "not a Nazi symbol" but "a grouping of white people in prison" and that there is one for black people and that it is just an "advocacy group".



Source: The Jewish Voice

Szilágyi claims that one of the organisation's mottos, "white power", is actually on the emblems of 80 per cent of US basketball teams, just as he says "black power" is on the emblem of black basketball teams.

Szilágyi is the leading politician of the opposition coalition Jobbik, ranking 69th on the national list.

The Jewish Voice recalls that György Szilágyi has previously stated that "we live in a world where Shimon Peres, the head of state of Israel, can declare that he will occupy Hungary". In 2013 Szilágyi proposed banning the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which he called an "anti-Hungarian organization".

Antisemitic slogans appeared on the election posters of opposition coalition candidates

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

21 March 2022 Unknown perpetrators

added antisemitic text to the election poster of Lajos Oláh, the candidate of the DK in Erzsébetváros, located in the area of 61 Andrassy út. The last word of the slogan "Let



Hungary belong to all of us!" was crossed out, correcting the motto to "Hungarians belong to all of us".



Source: tev.hu

In addition to the vulgar slurs, the Democratic Coalition abbreviation and the Star of David also appear on the poster, with an equal sign between them.

According to reports received by APF, the LMP opposition candidate Antal Csárdi, running in Budapest's constituency 1, has also had the Star of David drawn on his Lónyay Street posters.

In addition, the perpetrators painted obscene, antisemitic inscriptions on the posters of András Jámbor, the joint opposition candidate, and the election advertisements of the Our Homeland Movement. Stickers were also displayed in the city, calling for a boycott of Israeli products. The stickers also included the slogan "For a Free Palestine!".

An unidentified person in Miskolc called Jews "murderous people" and child killers

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

28 March 2022 A gross and shocking antisemitic incident was reported to APF on 18 March 2022. In Miskolc, an unknown person has placed hateful photos and inscriptions in public places in the city centre.

The prominent religious leaders and public figures in Hungary and Israel depicted in the pictures are called, among others, "Zion's most evil Jewish Nazi terrorists". The unknown person has also posted other photos and inscriptions, which, according to the APF, are also hateful and likely to disturb public peace.

The person who made the report took a picture of the photographs posted near the Asia Centre and reported to the owner that they were offensive to his Jewishness. In response, he was told that Jews should be ashamed of themselves for taking away his country and his child's future.

"Why doesn't Viktor Orban stand up and tell these Jews, whom I lived with for two years in Brooklyn, why they are exterminating our children? They take the eggs' blood out but drink the children's blood. A twelve-year-old girl has disappeared now. A twelve-year-old girl disappeared in Szombathely the day before; she was sliced up for the opening of a soda factory. Everyone who is Hungarian knows this, the people of Transdanubia. They made the investigators disappear," he said.

According to the unidentified person, Judaism is not a religion, but a mafia. "Kill, crucify, stone, destroy. It is a murderous people. I know who they are. Why are they sneaking around? Why don't they tell us that they are controlling Viktor Orbán?" he said and then declared that Hungary is not the homeland of the Jews. Finally, he referred to the Pact of Rózsadomb, which he said had to do with the extermination of the Hungarian people. He then spoke about a hidden Munkácsy painting depicting the "slashing" of a virgin woman by Jews.

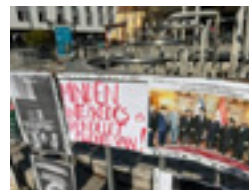
APF filed a report with the Miskolc Local Policing Department and also filed a complaint at the Miskolc Police Station.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

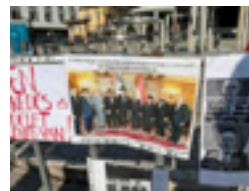
Dozens of graves were vandalised in the Jewish cemetery in Budakeszi

Source: hvg.hu

23 April 2022 "Today or last night, vandals in the Jewish cemetery in Budakeszi kicked up roughly half of the gravestones that had not been stolen, smashed them, knocked them over, and caused terrible damage to the cemetery", reported Tamás Reich to HVG, a local resident who has been engaged in the fate of the cemetery, which has been in bad condition for years.



Source: tev.hu



Source: tev.hu



Source: facebook.com/Sigmond Bertalan

At least 10 to 12 graves have been damaged; the most recent one, erected a few years ago, remains intact. There is no information yet on the perpetrators, but the material damage is considerable. Last week, two drunken youths also caused considerable damage to a funeral home in Budakeszi. No connection between the two vandalisms has been found so far.

The Pest County Police Headquarters told HVG that an investigation had been launched into suspected vandalism. The police collected data at the scene and in the surrounding area, searching for clues and doing everything possible to identify, locate and apprehend the perpetrator or perpetrators.

Bertalan Sigmond, deputy mayor of Budakeszi, wrote that the graves had recently been renovated, so this case is harrowing.

Many of the gravestones in the cemetery, which have been in bad shape for a long time, are missing or damaged. "There have not been many Jews living here since the war; some have moved in recently, but the cemetery has not been in anyone's care", said Tamás Reich.

"Fencing around the cemetery has long been unresolved, as the actual area of the cemetery is unknown. Mazsihisz is trying to find out the exact dimensions based on photographs taken before the Second World War, as there are graves outside the officially registered boundaries. Only then could the cemetery be fenced off", Reich added.



Source: facebook.com/Sigmond Bertalan

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

*Another antisemitic public figure honoured
by Miklós Kásler*

Source: tev.hu

16 March 2022 Tibor Franka, journalist, former mayor, and former politician of Jobbik and MIÉP, received the Táncsics Mihály Award from the Minister of Human Resources in recognition of his "outstanding journalistic activities". It is not the first time that the Minister of Human Resources has handed over high-level state recognition to an antisemitic public figure. In 2019, he awarded the historian Mihály Takaró and the writer Kornél Döbrentei, in 2020 the historian Ernő Raffay, and in 2021 Ágnes Gyárfás an esoteric Hungarian researcher, APF wrote.

His most notorious expressions of exclusion were directed against the Jewish people. In 2001, at a forum in Budakalász, he declared: "The Holy Land is for me a holy land, and for me Israel is not a land given to the Jews by God, but a country born of the United Nations, with unprecedented impudence. (...) In 1990, the Magyar Hírlap, where I was later editor-in-chief, was owned by a gentleman, Maxwell, who, just by looking at him, made your handkerchief crumple up in your pocket. These people have dripping noses, ears lower than their nostrils and

they are snappy. You can really recognise them. When I was in the Holy Land, I knew everything. I guess we Hungarians are not like that."

At a MIÉP forum in 2002, he said that the communist movement was originally an enterprise by "a few Jews determined to do everything" to fill Hungary with "comrades, co-religionists and fellow Jews"; Hungarian history education is too "Holocaust-centred; Hungarian cemeteries will soon be in Israeli hands; Hungary's money is in Brussels, Washington and Tel Aviv; and America and Israel are Hungary's enemies.

In 2003, he said of Imre Kertész's Nobel Prize for Literature that he did not consider Kertész worthy of the award, either as a human being or as an artist, which he said he "only received because that was the world's way of apologising to Jewry." Franka accused Kertész of "inciting hatred against Hungarians", saying that "Hungarian culture, but also European culture, is in the hands and controlled by groups, together with the media, who have less concern than to recognise or honour the values of nations."

And at the Jobbik member's rally in 2009, he said, "we know that half of the Jewish Holocaust is not true, we know that half of the Gypsy Holocaust is not true, but the two can be well connected."

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Shlomo Köves: In our unpredictable world, spiritual security is becoming more valuable

Source: zsidó.com

3 March 2022 Neokohn discussed with Shlomo Köves, chief rabbi of the EMIH-Hungarian Jewish Alliance, about the help of Ukrainian refugees, the antisemitism that is repeatedly appearing in the political discourse as the Hungarian elections approach, the APL's antisemitic prejudice survey and his letter to the German Chancellor.

The rabbi said that after the past few days, two guesthouses had been set up in the past few days to receive refugees and plan for their long-term care. In addition, food aid shipments have been sent to Ungvár and Munkács. Together with Rabbi Avraham Wolf of Odessa, they are helping more than a hundred Jewish children from orphanages stranded in Odessa to leave the city as soon as possible to find safe shelter and food for those who remain.

The EMIH also expressed its support for the Jewish community in Ukraine. Shlomo Köves offered the help of the Hungarian Jewish community to Meir Stambler, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Ukraine. They promised Rabbi Wilhelm Mendel of Ungvár that, if necessary, members of the Transcarpathian community would provide longer-term care in Hungary.

After discussing current affairs, the rabbi said that in an increasingly unpredictable world, finding as many safe points as possible at the level of our personal lives is essential. And unshakable security is only found in the transcendent. The introduction of divine eternal values into our lives is most actual now.

"Let us make a routine of prayer and Torah study, of giving, of helping one another, of actively practising respect for parents, or even the values of loving and educating our children, and let us introduce some regular mitzvah into our lives. If we do this, we will

immediately have a greater sense of security and not experience freedom as insecurity. This is the oldest Jewish recipe for unpredictability. Believe me; it works," he said.

March of the Living in Budapest: "Never again" is a reality not only for Jews but for all people

Source: 24.hu

24 April 2022 The March of the Living commemorated the victims of the Holocaust on Sunday in Budapest. The march started from the "Human Rescuers" memorial to the Alfréd Hajós Swimming Pool on Margaret Island, MTI reported.

Dani Dayan, director of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem, greeted the marchers in a video message. He stressed that four pillars — mourning, knowledge, emotion, and learning — are necessary to ensure that past events are never repeated. He cited the need for an independent Jewish state and the importance of combating antisemitism.

Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, Israel's Ambassador to Hungary, said: "The March of the Living is also an educational program so that young people can learn about the past from the Holocaust survivors who are still alive and hear about what happened. The March's mission is to create a world in which 'never again' is a reality not only for Jews but for all people."

He stressed that there is no place for antisemitism in the 21st century and that the Holocaust is an eternal warning to never allow something like this to happen again.

The choice of the Alfréd Hajós Swimming Pool was symbolic, as Alfréd Hajós, Olympic champion and designer of the pool, was himself a Holocaust survivor. The concept of this year's event was to showcase an outstanding Hungarian athlete and the importance of tolerance, acceptance and respect for one another, including in sports.

The former rabbinical house in Gyula will be transformed into a memorial space

Source: mazihsz.hu

26 April 2022 After renovation, Gyula's former Jewish rabbinical house will be transformed into a memorial. The idea is part of the town's current EU funding application process, said Deputy Mayor Norbert Alt at a press conference on Tuesday.

Before the opening of the two-day conference (entitled "Historians and Local Historians in Search of the Small Towns and Small-Town Jewry That Have Disappeared") the mayor explained that the Jewish cemetery in Gyula was restored in the autumn of 2018 with the help of subsidies; this is a curiosity in Békés County, as most of the Viharsark settlements have no Jewish cemeteries left.

Subsequently, the World War I memorial was also renovated and the tombs were reconstructed. During the work, they found several artefacts, tablecloths and candles.

A volume entitled *A gyulai zsidóság emlékkönyve* (The Memorial Book of the Jews of Gyula), published last autumn, has been compiled from historic photographs never seen before. "They decided to collect and present to the public the spiritual and material heritage of the hundreds of Jews who once lived in Gyula", said Norbert Alt.

He added that this will be the basis for the memorial site, which is still in relatively good condition.

The deputy mayor also noted that the building, which was erected in the early 1920s, is located next to the Gyula synagogue, now home to a music school; the roof structure, which was in the worst condition, was renovated a few years ago. He said they had visited the Museum of the History of Polish Jewry in Warsaw, which also gave them ideas.

Lajos Diósi, president of the Gyula Jewish Foundation, who is a descendant of a surviving Jewish family, said that the Jewish com-

munity in the spa town of Békés has wholly disappeared as of today. Still, the city administration has actively supported the cause to ensure that the town's Jewish material, spiritual, cultural and architectural heritage is not lost.

The conference will feature presentations on the Jewish communities of Gyula, Mezőberény, Békés and Gyomaendrőd. In addition, the speakers will present extracts from the past of Keszthely, Kőszeg, Nógrád County, Tiszafüred, Ipolyság, Újfehértó, Siófok, Szigetvár and Törökszentmiklós.

Among other topics, participants will discuss the dilemmas of compiling a list of victims, the history of the Kner family, Jewish merchants and entrepreneurs, the nationalisation of the Jewish-owned medical and legal practices and pharmacies in Kaposvár, and a women's movement leader from Szeged.

István Balogh, head of the department of the Budapest University of Jewish Studies, said at the press conference that there had not been a conference of this size in Hungary since the 2014 event in Budapest; he also noted that the volume, *The Memorial Book of the Jews of Gyula*, produced by local editors, is unique.

In response to a question from MTI, he said that Jewish communities in different parts of Hungary had various opportunities and different development curves. Learning about regional peculiarities and exchanging experiences can bring new perspectives, including from amateur civil local historians.

Miklós Vas of the Zachor Foundation for Social Memory said that his organisation is the Hungarian partner of the Shoah Foundation, founded by American director Steven Spielberg. The Shoah Foundation has some 55,000 interviews with Jewish survivors, from which it produces educational materials, primarily for secondary schools and secondarily for teacher training. He said that this is a way to make history more tangible for young people, MTI reports.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Shlomo Köves: in recent years, fissures have appeared in the previously solid foundations of German consistency against antisemitism

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

3 March 2022 Action against antisemitism must take priority over political commitments both at home and in Germany, wrote Shlomo Köves in an open letter to Olaf Scholz. The Chief Rabbi of the EMIH asked the German Chancellor about the anti-Jewish statements of Péter Márki-Zay and Márton Gyöngyösi, asking him if they would be conceivable in his country.

"Even if the German government coalition is sometimes critical of the current Hungarian government, this should not be a journey to antisemitism in the ranks of an alliance that wants to form the next Hungarian government after the elections (...) For me, consistency means fighting all forms of antisemitism, not only those from the ranks of our political opponents," the document reads.

Köves appealed to Scholz, as well as to the German public and German Jewry because Germany has previously drawn "red lines" on antisemitism. Now, however, the rabbi believes that the inconsistency of some Hungarian public figures cannot be separated from the duplicity found in Germany.

The inconsistency in German attitudes advancing across Europe is weakening the chances that the fight against antisemitism can become a common cause that transcends temporary political interests, he writes. In what the leading rabbi calls bad news for Germany and Europe as a whole, cracks have appeared in recent years in the previously solid foundations of German consistency against antisemitism.

For decades, Germany has consistently demonstrated its commitment to European Jewish communities, its unstinting support for Israel and its consistent opposition to all forms of antisemitism," he writes.

Shlomo Köves also asked the Chancellor about recent statements made by the opposition prime minister-designate Péter Márki-Zay. He wondered whether it would be conceivable in Germany for the opposition alliance leader to count the number of members of Jewish origin in the current Hungarian governing party or to refer to a Fidesz adviser who died years ago as a "homophobic Jewish adviser in a gay marriage".

The chief rabbi also asks the rhetorical question about Márki-Zay's statement at the Fonyód election forum. As it will be recalled, the opposition candidate for prime minister - speaking alongside the right-wing candidate Ádám Steinmetz - said that their opposition alliance was a "rainbow coalition" in which liberals, communists, conservatives and fascists were represented separately. Márki-Zay added at the event that "as a backbone person, everyone can keep their worldview".

The letter refers to the antisemitism surveys. Köves notes that the situation cannot be judged solely based on research results but must be seen in its current context.

Pest County Police Headquarters investigates for online dissemination of antisemitic views

Source: tev.hu

16 March 2022 According to APF's information, a complaint has been filed at the Investigation Department of the Pest County Police Headquarters for the spreading of antisemitic, anti-Jewish views on a social networking site. The complaint was filed against an unknown person who posted comments on Facebook under a fictitious name.

The complaint was filed at the Dunakeszi Police Headquarters on suspicion of the crime of incitement against a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, but it was transferred to the Pest County Police Headquarters, which is competent to conduct the proceedings, due to lack of jurisdiction.

István Nagy: The Holocaust is a national issue

Source: tev.hu

13 April 2022 The Holocaust is a national issue, as hundreds of thousands of our compatriots were torn from the body of the nation, Minister of Agriculture István Nagy said on Wednesday at a commemoration ceremony held in Budapest on the occasion of the Holocaust Victims' Memorial Day in Hungary, MTI reported.

At the Holocaust Documentation Centre (HDK), István Nagy said that Hungarian society has not yet recovered from the memory of the Holocaust and that hundreds of thousands of "our compatriots loyal to the Hungarian community" were brutally and senselessly enslaved and deprived of their lives in the name of a "degenerate ideology".

He recalled that Hungarian Jews had sacrificed their property and their lives for Hungarian freedom over the centuries, fighting alongside their Hungarian compatriots in the 1848-49 War of Independence and in the First World War.

The minister pointed out that the Holocaust is a mirror where one cannot look "without being troubled". The face that looks back from the mirror "asks us" whether "we are doing everything we can to ensure that the horror never happens again" and whether "we still feel responsible for the crimes of our ancestors", he said.

He added that today Hungary is a safe country where Jews and non-Jews can live in peace. The government condemns hatred, persecution and antisemitic manifestations against the Jewish people. "Our task is to build a Hungary where it will never again be the case that the state fails to protect its

citizens" and where future generations will grow up experiencing confrontation with the past as part of the national memory, István Nagy stressed.

The Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust in Hungary has been celebrated every year since 2001 on 16 April to commemorate the day in 1944 when the ghettoisation of Hungarian Jews began.

Jobbik: Genocide like the Holocaust must never be repeated

Source: alfahir.hu

16 April 2022 The Movement for a Better Hungary (Jobbik) also released a commemorative statement on Hungary's Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust. According to this, the party remembers those Hungarian compatriots murdered in concentration camps as victims of the Holocaust during the Second World War.

"We sympathise with the survivors of the horror and the victims' families, wherever they live in the world. Jobbik is fighting against hatred and propaganda that incites hatred so that such genocide can never be repeated", the document reads.

The ghettoisation of Hungarian Jews began on 16 April 1944.

APF adds that Jobbik has still not accounted for its previous antisemitic statements, and no formal apology has ever been made to the Jewish community. This is still the same Jobbik whose MEP Márton Gyöngyösi previously wanted to list Jewish MEPs; and whose Gergely Kulcsár in 2015 spat on one of the iron shoes on the Danube bank in memory of the victims of the Holocaust; the list of such actions goes on.

OTHER NEWS

In the 1990s, journalist Gábor Bencsik sold Holocaust-denial videos

Source: tev.hu

14 April 2022 Gábor Bencsik, a journalist who works for Magyar Krónika and Magyar Demokrata, sold Holocaust-denial videocassettes, Media1 reports based on contemporary press archives. The journalist, who recently called the political bias of public television untenable, was forced to resign as secretary-general of the National Association of Hungarian Journalists (MÚOSZ) in the summer of 1998.

Following an investigation by the 168 Óra newspaper, the former printed newspaper of MÚOSZ, the Hungarian Press, wrote in its 9th issue in 1998 that the organisation's ethics committee had censured Bencsik. The secretary-general of MÚOSZ resigned after it was revealed that, in parallel with his elected position at the journalistic organisation, he was selling videocassettes in a cellar-based

business that questioned if the Holocaust had taken place in a proven way.

Bencsik is also quoted in the article. He said he sold the cassettes and was unaware that the video maker David Cole, the U.S. reporter for the videos, had posted a statement on the internet earlier in 1998. In the post, he withdrew his views and apologised to anyone he could have offended.

"I didn't know, and I don't think the people around the shop knew, that the person who made the statement had already retracted it, had effectively denied it (...) I accepted that yes, ultimately, people should be able to speak their minds within the boundaries of the law", Bencsik said.

Hundreds of the cassettes may have been sold, thanks partly to their promotion in a right-wing weekly newspaper with the text "The truth has come out. The Auschwitz fraud has been exposed. See and hear for yourself!"

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	3rd of March	Shlomo Köves: in recent years, fissures have appeared in the previously solid foundations of German consistency against antisemitism	Community News and Responses
2.	3rd of March	Shlomo Köves: In our unpredictable world, spiritual security is becoming more valuable	Official and Civil Responses
3.	12th of March	Video surfaces showing Dániel Z. Kárpát of Jobbik making a nazi salute	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
4.	16th of March	Another antisemitic public figure honoured by Miklós Kásler	Further Hate Incidents
5.	16th of March	Pest County Police Headquarters investigates for online dissemination of antisemitic views	Official and Civil Responses
6.	17th of March	"Is this your biggest problem as a Jew?" asked on Facebook	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
7.	19th of March	An archival photo has been found of Jobbik vice-president's Nazi arm-waving	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
8.	21st of March	Antisemitic slogans appeared on the election posters of opposition coalition candidates	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
9.	28th of March	An unidentified person in Miskolc called Jews "murderous people" and child killers	Official and Civil Responses
10.	13th of April	István Nagy: The Holocaust is a national issue	Official and Civil Responses
11.	14th of April	In the 1990s, journalist Gábor Bencsik sold Holocaust-denial videos	Other News
12.	16th of April	Jobbik: Genocide like the Holocaust must never be repeated	Official and Civil Responses
13.	23rd of April	Dozens of graves were vandalised in the Jewish cemetery in Budakeszi	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property
14.	24th of April	March of the Living in Budapest: "Never again" is a reality not only for Jews but for all people	Community News and Responses
15.	26th of April	The former rabbinical house in Gyula will be transformed into a memorial space	Community News and Responses
16.	26th of April	Judit Varga: We deplore what happened in the Jewish cemetery in Budakeszi	Official and Civil Responses

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000

The website of Action and Protection League: www.apleu.org

The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

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

13597539-12302010-00057157

Contact details for Action and Protection League
Address: 1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium
Phone: + 32 2 245 61 05
web: <http://www.apleu.org>
e-mail: office@apleu.org

REFERENCES

Anti-Defamation League (ADL). 2012. *2011 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents*.

Anti-Defamation League (ADL). <https://global100.adl.org>

CEJI. 2012. *Make hate Crimes Visible. Facing Facts! Guidelines for Monitoring of Hate Crimes and Hate Motivated Incidents*. Facing Facts! project.

Chakraborti, Neil and Jon Garland. 2009. *Hate Crime. Impact, Causes and Responses*. London: Sage Publications.

Community Security Trust (CST). 2013. *Antisemitic Incidents Report 2012*.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). *Antisemitism - Overview of data available in the European Union 2008-2018*

Levin, Jack and Jack McDevitt. 1999. "Hate Crimes." In *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict*, edited by Lester Kurtz. San Diego: Academic Press, 89-102.

OSCE/ODIHR. 2009a. *Hate Crime Laws. A Practical Guide*. Warsaw: OSCE/ODIHR.

OSCE/ODIHR. 2009b. *Preventing and responding to hate crimes. A resource guide for NGOs in the OSCE region*. Warsaw: OSCE/ODIHR.

Perry, Barbara. 2001. *In the Name of Hate. Understanding Hate Crimes*. New York: Routledge.

CONTRIBUTORS AND PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Publisher: Action and Protection League of Europe
Kálmán Szalai, Executive Director

The publisher wishes to thank **Dr. András Kovács**, sociologist, Professor at CEU, for all the encouragement and helpful advice.

Editors: **Krisztián Nádasi**, research scholar, head of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Dr. Kristóf Bodó, legal advocate,
Gábor Bodó, research scholar, member of the the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Juliana Görög, translator

The publishers expresses their gratitude for the self-sacrificing work of the volunteers who, under expert guidance, have put their continuous efforts into the preparation of this report over the past months.

Use of the Report or any part thereof requires written permission from the publisher and such use must properly cite this report as a reference.

21

Contributors: **Dániel Bodnár**, philosopher, Chairman of the Action and Protection Foundation Board of Trustees
Andrew Srulewitch, Director, Anti Defamation League

2022 Budapest

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium
<http://www.apleu.org>

