

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT  
IN HUNGARY

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MAY 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.

This month, our organisation identified six antisemitic hate crimes, categorised as Hate Speech, Damage to Property and Discriminatory Incidents.

In the first case, young individuals glorifying Hitler desecrated the Dohány Street synagogue. Secondly, anti-Zionist flyers were distributed at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest, where Jewish students' posts were blocked in the unofficial Facebook group of the institute. Furthermore, antisemitic graffiti appeared on the wall of the residence of an Israeli student in Budapest. And finally, a Jobbik candidate in Kiskun-

dorozsma was found to have praised Hitler in the past, and an antisemitic comment was published on the Kibic Magazine Facebook page.

In May, we identified one Further Hate Incident, a Swastika-like illustration on the cover of an ethics handbook for teachers.

APF did not initiate any legal proceedings in May, 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

### MAY 2022

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#### DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

*Young people glorifying Hitler desecrated Dohány Street Synagogue*

Source: tev.hu

**3 May 2022** A group of rowdy youths vandalised Dohány Street Synagogue at dawn on Sunday. They shouted Nazi slogans, threw empty beer bottles and even urinated on the synagogue's walls, said Péter Niedermüller, mayor of Erzsébetváros, on his Facebook page.



Source: facebook.com/ÉlhetőErzsébetváros

According to the mayor, there is no excuse for what happened; neither age, nor drunkenness, nor anything can explain this behaviour.

"As the mayor of Erzsébetváros and as a Hungarian citizen, I deeply despise and condemn this behaviour, and I apologise to my fellow Jews that this could have happened. I would like the Jewish residents of Erzsébetváros to know that the Municipality is doing its utmost to make you feel safe, to make you feel that this district is home to all of us, and that we all reject all forms of antisemitism in the strongest possible terms", wrote the Mayor. On Monday evening, Niedermüller lit a candle with Deputy Mayor Balázs Szücs at the place where the young people had desecrated the synagogue building.

The Budapest Police Headquarters (BRKF) has ordered an investigation into the crime of group incitement to riot following a video posted on the internet on Monday.

A member made the video for the Élhető Erzsébetváros Facebook group, which has long documented the behaviour of young people in the party district at night, from the window of his apartment. The footage shows

two drunk teenagers shouting "Sieg Heil"; one of them also made a Nazi salute, while a third one took a photo of them. They then threw rubbish from a bin at the synagogue, and two of them urinated on the building.

The Action and Protection Foundation (APF) wrote to Mayor Péter Niedermüller asking him how the district had been informed of the incident, whether the security or law enforcement forces on duty in the area had noticed the acts of hooliganism, whether they had taken any action, and if they had filed any complaints. APF considers that the incident may have constituted an offence of violence against a member of the community. The Foundation has also offered its assistance in providing legal or victim support in the proceedings.

#### HATE SPEECH

*Anti-Zionist flyers distributed at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest*

Source: tev.hu

**23 May 2022** On the international open day at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest, antisemitic flyers were distributed at the Palestinian student stand. The pamphlets denied the existence of the State of Israel. The two-page leaflet describes Palestinian social customs, traditions, art, culture and the Israeli occupation of Palestine.



Source: tev.hu

The creation of the State of Israel in 1948, the Nakba, or "catastrophe", fundamentally changed Palestinian society. The document says the loss of territory; the establishment of refugee camps; and emigration to the Gulf countries, Europe and the United States have posed a significant challenge to traditional Palestinian values and customs," the document says.

The back of the leaflet also features a map showing Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, with Arabic as its official language and Arab inhabitants. The map identifies the entire territory of the present State of Israel as Palestinian territory, located "between Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean" and of "strategic" importance.

*A Star of David hanging on a gallows appeared on the wall of the residence of an Israeli student studying in Budapest*

Source: tev.hu



Source: tev.hu

**23 May 2022** A heated debate has erupted between Israeli and Palestinian students on the Univet - Confessions Facebook page of students at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest, which is run by students and has no connection to the university. The controversy, which started in March, focused on aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian issue and the war crimes allegedly committed by Israel. The discussion escalated to the point where moderators banned Jewish students' posts.

Following the online debate, APF received a report of antisemitic graffiti drawn on the wall of an Israeli student's residence. Above the graffiti, which depicted a gallows and a Star of David, the words "fucking Jewish Fidesz" were written.

*Jobbik's candidate in Kiskundorozsma praised Hitler in the past*

Source: origo.hu, szegedma.hu

**24 May 2022** In 2014, Zoltán Komjáti, the candidate of the Szeged Movement for the Alliance of Szeged, the president of Jobbik in Szeged, promoted the idea of Hitler's policy of Lebensraum ("living space") on Facebook and also liked a post containing the number 88, Origo writes.

In the neo-Nazi and white supremacist subculture, the symbol represents the 8th letter of the Latin alphabet, the letter H, while 88 marks HH, often used as an abbreviation for the Nazi salutation Heil Hitler.



Source: facebook.com/Zoltán Komjáti

In one of the photos shared on Zoltán Komjáti's social networking site in 2014, a person who looks very much like him is posing with his back to the camera in a T-shirt with the words "LIVING SPACE" written on it. Since this is the only legible text in the picture, it is clear what the person wearing the shirt or posting the photo is referring to and what he is trying to express, Szegedma says.



Source: facebook.com/Zoltán Komjáti

The magazine wanted to know what Komjáti had to say about his behaviour, so after a press conference, he was asked why he liked the symbol of Hitler and why he promoted the idea of a Hitlerian living space.

The politician replied that it was "fake news" and did not want to comment on it.

*Antisemitic comment on the Kibic Magazine Facebook page*

Source: tev.hu

**30 May 2022** Kibic magazine reported that Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Jerusalem should remain a united city, as should the nation. "On Jerusalem Day, we remember the unity not only of our capital but also of our people. On this day, we pledge that Jerusalem will never again be divided, the people of Israel will never again be divided."

The article also received an antisemitic comment: "It might as well, Judapest will then belong to the Christians, and the Jews will have no place there. It has always belonged to the Christians; the Jews were nowhere to be found when BUDA and PEST were created. Right?"

Another commenter answered as follows: "More than a million Jews are living in Hungary, with another half a million having moved there from Israel, in housing estates guarded by armed guards. So does Hungary belong to the Hungarians or the Jews? Does Israel belong to the Jews or the Arabs?"

### DISCRIMINATION

*Jewish students' posts blocked in the unofficial Facebook group of the University of Veterinary Medicine*

Source: tev.hu

**23 May 2022** A heated debate between Israeli and Palestinian students has erupted on Univet - Confessions, a Facebook page run by students at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest; the page has no official connection to the university. The controversy, which started in March, focused on aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian issue and the war crimes allegedly committed by Israel.

The discourse escalated to the point where Israeli students claimed that the administrators of the page had after a while blocked their posts about Israel as inappropriate, while Palestinian students were allowed to continue posting about Israel. One Israeli was heard to have written a private message to the administrators.

"We are good Israelis when we keep quiet. If we ask you to delete content that portrays our country in a negative light, we are counted as black sheep," he wrote. The administrators responded, "Yes, thank you for your comments!"

Some Israeli students have been called "land-grabbers" and "Zionists" in private messages and e-mails because of their opinions posted on the site, simply because they wrote that Jews are dying in the conflict and their own families are in danger from rockets. The one Israeli student said that the Facebook page in question was not set up to express political views, and if users received antisemitic comments, moderators should be obliged to delete them.

The events eventually led to the administrators deleting all content related to Israel and Palestine from the page from 16 May onwards. According to their post, they tried to allow for a "mature, civilised debate", but this failed due to some "black sheep". They say they are neutral on all political issues and work hard to moderate neutrally, but they are human and will no longer tolerate abusive, hateful comments. And in the future, they will ban anyone who "chooses to actively amplify any aggression or extremist views, regardless of the site".

The incident was reported on the APF hotline.

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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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*Swastika-like illustration on the cover of an ethics handbook for teachers*

Source: merce.hu

**23 May 2022** HVG has discovered a photo circulating on Twitter and Hungarian Reddit showing the cover of a teacher's handbook of ethics. On it is the inscription "Learning is an experience!" as well as a drawing of four right-handed people placing their palms on top of each other.

From above, it is strikingly similar to "the swastika, which was important for thousands of years and often even a sacred symbol, but after the rise of Adolf Hitler, it quickly became a symbol of antisemitism and Nazism", writes 24.hu.



Source: bruzsy/twitter

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*Mazsihisz invites the young people who desecrated Dohány Street Synagogue to visit the synagogue*

Source: mazsihisz.hu

**4 May 2022** Conversion is an important principle in Judaism, which requires not only words but also deeds. Therefore, we call on the perpetrators to visit Dohány Street Synagogue and its adjoining ghetto museum to learn about the significance of the building they defiled and to see the crimes associated with a Nazi salute, Mazsihisz wrote.

The invitation came after Budapest police identified the suspects in just two days. The four heavily intoxicated young teenagers, two of whom shouted “Sieg Heil” while a third companion photographed them with his phone, kicked the fence, threw garbage at the building, and then urinated on the synagogue’s walls.

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*The young teenagers who urinated on Dohány Street Synagogue were caught*

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

**4 May 2022** The Criminal Department of the Budapest Police Headquarters initiated proceedings ex officio for the crime of group riot after some young people on 1 May, around 6 a.m. in the Seventh District, shouted in front of Dohány Street Synagogue, imitated a Nazi salute, tossed trash and kicked trash at the building, and urinated on the synagogue's wall, said Soma Csécsi, spokesman of the Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK).

As of 3 May, investigators in the capital have identified the four alleged perpetrators. Residents of Budapest aged 16, 20, 21 and 22 were interrogated as suspects. The young people confessed and regretted their actions, which they blamed on their drunkenness.

*Young people celebrating Hitler's birthday in Szolnok convicted for using a totalitarian symbol*

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

**16 May 2022** The District Court of Szolnok sentenced the young people from Szolnok who celebrated Hitler's birthday last April to a fine and community service. The judgment is not final. The defendants, who admitted the crime, were convicted of using a totalitarian symbol.

To publicly commemorate Adolf Hitler's birthday, two young men in their 20s, with no criminal record and holding extreme nationalist views, placed a banner on the Tiszavirág bridge in Szolnok on 18 April 2021 and then on 20 April 2021 above the entrance to the Pozsonyi Street underpass from the city centre. The banners had a quote from the dictator and a recognisable swastika detail.

The Szolnok District Court sentenced the younger defendant, barely 20, to a fine of HUF 200,000. In contrast, the 24-year-old was sentenced to 300 hours of community service, as he had aggravated his crime by wearing a swastika and skull and SS badges on his clothing on the bus and in a busy supermarket on the second day of hanging their banner.

As the prosecution appealed for an aggravated sentence for both defendants, the case will continue at the Szolnok Court of Appeal.

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## OTHER NEWS

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*Dániel Zsiga-Kárpát is still not taking responsibility for his Nazi arm-waving*

Source: mandiner.hu

**3 May 2022** "Don't joke", Dániel Zsiga-Kárpát replied to the question of whether he regrets the Nazi arm-waving. Dániel Bohár asked the right-wing politician after the inaugural session of the National Assembly whether he regretted showing a Nazi salute in video footage published in March. The journalist indicated that it was no joke, as the events were recorded.

In the context of the arm-waving, many on the left have tried to explain the politician's difficult-to-misinterpret gesture in various ways, Mandiner reports.

His party colleague Koloman Brenner, for example, says he "cannot appreciate" the recording, while Jobbik leader Péter Jakab said he "does not care" about Zsiga-Kárpát's arm-waving. Péter Márki-Zay, a former candidate for prime minister, said that because Zsiga-Kárpát laughed after the arm-waving, he did not mean it in the first place.

*House of Terror Museum research director was a skinhead as a teenager*

Source: i68.hu

**3 May 2022** The "experience of national feeling" led him to join the skinhead movement at the age of 16, said Márton Békés, the research director of the House of Terror Museum, during the Partizán programme. Békés also noted that he was a member of the Savaria Skins in Szombathely, whom he met and joined at Haladás matches, i68 Óra reports.

He left the organisation when its members desecrated the Jewish cemetery in Szombathely but denied taking part in the action. Békés also said that he did not consider Jobbik an extremist party in its initial form but only later distanced himself from them.

*Facebook protests against Gábor Vona's promotion on ATV*

Source: tev.hu

**15 May 2022** "ATV wanted to promote the fallen Nazi Gábor Vona, and people were furious about it. Many people don't want to hear about the megalomaniac who changed his guard vest for a Hugo Boss jacket," writes Nyugati Fény, where several critical comments were posted.

According to the news magazine, the promotional interview with the "fallen Nazi party president, who a few years ago had been using Jewish-gypsy denigrating slogans and dreaming of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard", was shared on ATV's Spirit FM radio and ATV's Facebook page.

According to the newspaper, the case is even more serious because the Faith Congregation behind ATV organised a movement against Gábor Vona's party in 2014 under the name Vote Against Jobbik!

*A man broke into the Óbuda Synagogue because he could not find his girlfriend*

Source: police.hu

**22 May 2022** At dawn on 14 May 2022, a man went to the Óbuda Synagogue to find his girlfriend working in the kitchen because she did not answer his phone calls. The building was locked, so he ripped off the security camera, kicked down the door and went inside.

He later damaged another door, ripped off a handle and forced open the shutters of a container building. Finally, finding no one there, he left. The police were informed in the morning when the staff noticed the vandalism, police.hu reports.

Police officers from the Third District arrested the suspect within three hours. Zsolt T., 39, was questioned on suspicion of criminal damage. The man confessed to his crime and will remain in custody during the proceedings.



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## NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

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*Niedermüller: "Forced Hungarianism" always goes hand in hand with looking at "who is Hungarian and who is Jewish"*

Source: mandiner.hu

**9 May 2022** According to the DK politician, "in the countryside, there are many socio-cultural milieus in which antisemitism has a substantial tradition". The mayor of the Seventh District was a guest on Hírklubb's program Mélyvíz, where he spoke about the antisemitic incident at the Dohány Street Synagogue, Mandiner reports.

In his opinion, it is feared that in the light of the election results, the generally perceived problem will be addressed even further down the line, and the ongoing "nationalist Hungariansim" will only deepen the conflict. The politician mentioned that the far-right Mi Hazánk party has also entered parliament.

He added that although there are many different kinds of people in the countryside, "it is certain that there are some socio-cultural milieus in the countryside where antisemitism has a substantial tradition". These traditions, he says, go back to the pre-World War II era, and "constant, forced Hungarianism" always leads to a "who's Hungarian and who's Jewish".

*Vince Szalay-Bobrovniczky: The Jewish community feels safe in Hungary*

Source: breuerpress.com

**18 May 2022** The Deputy State Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office spoke about the fight against antisemitism and the situation in Hungary and Europe on Heti TV's Pirkadat program. Vince Szalay-Bobrovniczky said he is preparing to attend a European conference in Vienna, where he will discuss the fight against antisemitism. At the event, public officials from the 27 Member States will report on what has been done in the past year on this critical issue.

The Deputy State Secretary gave details of his planned speech, highlighting domestic legislation, the application of the principle of zero tolerance, the ongoing renovation of synagogues and abandoned Jewish cemeteries, and support for Jewish denominations in Hungary.

He said it is likely that other European countries can only produce paper and that the conference will not provide so much concrete information. He said that the Jewish community in Hungary also feels more secure than their European counterparts. We must fight all forms of antisemitism, including the constant criticism of the State of Israel, he added.

Szalay-Bobrovniczky reiterated that the Hungarian government has vetoed in all forums any unfair attempt to condemn Israel and will continue to do so. In his post-election speech, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán also stressed that Hungary is against migration, which is why antisemitism resulting from migration is absent in Hungary, unlike in other European countries.

Vince Szalay-Bobrovniczky also spoke explicitly about the renovation of cemeteries, noting that Hungary is unique in this respect, as a great emphasis is placed on this. In the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the politician mentioned the assistance of Hungary and the Hungarian Jewish denominations to the Jewish community in Ukraine.

He noted that there are already Jewish families who prefer to come to Hungary rather than Poland, for example, to live their Jewish life. All this shows that there is indeed a functioning and secure Jewish life in Hungary.

## 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 May	Young people glorifying Hitler desecrated Dohány Street Synagogue	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property
2.	3rd of May	Dániel Zsigat-Kárpát is still not taking responsibility for his Nazi arm-waving	Other News
3.	3rd of May	House of Terror Museum research director was a skinhead as a teenager	Other News
4.	4th of May	The young teenagers who urinated on Dohány Street Synagogue were caught	Official and Civil Responses
5.	4th of May	Mazsihisz invites to the synagogue the young people who desecrated the Dohány Street synagogue	Community News and Responses
6.	9th of May	Niedermüller: "Forced Hungarianism" always goes hand in hand with looking at "who is Hungarian and who is Jewish"	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
7.	15th of May	Facebook protests against Gábor Vona's promotion on ATV	Other News
8.	16th of May	Young people celebrating Hitler's birthday in Szolnok convicted for using a totalitarian symbol	Official and Civil Responses
9.	18th of May	Vince Szalay-Bobrovniczky: The Jewish community feels safe in Hungary	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
10.	22nd of May	A man broke into the Óbuda Synagogue because he could not find his girlfriend	Other News
11.	23rd of May	Jewish students' posts blocked in the unofficial Facebook group of the University of Veterinary Medicine	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Discrimination
12.	23rd of May	A Star of David hanging on gallows appeared on the wall of the residence of an Israeli student studying in Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
13.	23rd of May	Swastika-like illustration on the cover of an ethics handbook for teachers	Further Hate Incidents
14.	23rd of May	Anti-Zionist flyers distributed at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
15.	24th of May	Jobbik's candidate in Kiskundorozsma praised Hitler in the past	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
16.	30th of May	Antisemitic comment on the Kibic Magazine Facebook page	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

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## CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**13597539-12302010-00057157**

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2022 Budapest

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