

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

NOVEMBER 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 – November 2022	10
Discrimination	10
Further Hate Incidents	11
Community News and Responses	11
Official and Civil Responses	16
Other News	18
The Month's Chronicle	20
Contact and Support	21
References	21
Contributors and Publisher Information	22

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 November, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activities identified one hate incident of an antisemitic nature. This was categorised as a discriminatory incident.

Shortly, the Mi Hazánk Mozgalom (Our Homeland Movement) will initiate a ban on the ritual slaughter of animals, claiming that neither kosher nor halal slaughter is preceded by stunning the animals, which leads to unjustified suffering.

This month, we identified one further hate incident. According to the National Association of Hungarian Journalists, the

Transylvanian speech of a politician of Mi Hazánk Mozgalom that mentioned hanging a local journalist could be followed by physical violence.

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

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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

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

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

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

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

ABOUT THE REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

³ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

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

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

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

METHODOLOGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷ These indicators are described in the Methodology section

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics⁹ :

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS NOVEMBER 2022

In November, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activities identified one hate incident of antisemitic nature, categorised as a discriminatory incident.

DISCRIMINATORY INCIDENTS

Mi Hazánk would prohibit the ritual slaughter of animals

Source: neokohn.hu

7 November 2022 A member of parliament of the Mi Hazánk Mozgalom (Our Homeland Movement) is calling for a ban on the ritual slaughter of animals soon - MTI reported.

István Szabadi argued that neither kosher nor halal slaughter is preceded by stunning the animals, which causes them unnecessary suffering.

The politician said his forthcoming initiative is in line with European legislation and jurisprudence, as similar restrictions are in place in several countries, including Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and Slovenia.

"European court practice also states that a ban on ritual slaughter does not violate the right to freedom of religion", he said.

Károly Csott, chairman of the animal protection cabinet of Mi Hazánk, stressed that their party has been working for the protection of the environment and animals since its foundation, condemning animal cruelty and demanding that those who commit it serve a prison sentence. He said that the slaughter of farm animals must be done in a dignified and humane manner, causing the animal as little pain and suffering as possible.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents no cases this month. This section includes incidents classified as hate-motivated incidents but not included in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature and lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown. It also includes acts that may have had an antisemitic intent and are in some way connected to Hungary, but did not take place in Hungary.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Renewed Neolog Jewish communities in the Transdanubian region

Source: mazsihisz.hu

1 November 2022 To show the chance of renewal in the face of loss – this was the aim of the event at which four renewed Neolog Jewish communities from Transdanubia (Kővágóörs, Siófok, Székesfehérvár and Szombathely) presented themselves in the headquarters of the Israel Cultural Institute (IKI), a meeting jointly organised by IKI and the Tom Lantos Institute.

The event, entitled "Phoenix Communities - Four Renewing Jewish Communities in Transdanubia", focused on what has happened to these rural Jewish communities since the Holocaust and what is happening to them today. What unique and new initiatives are they taking to preserve Jewish tradition, and how do they envision revitalising their community life and local Jewish culture?

Lívía Ledniczky, Programme Director of the Israel Cultural Institute, said at the opening ceremony that they had wanted to enrich the programme with live announcements from Israel via the internet, but this was not possible, so she could only interpret for the audience the message of the descendants of Hungarian Jewish families in Netanya and Haifa who had come from the Transdanubian region.

On behalf of the Tom Lantos Institute, Eszter Susán, Manager of the Jewish Life and Antisemitism Programme, summed up one of the most important points of their mission: to nurture Jewish heritage by focusing on the diverse past, present and future of Jewry, and to contribute to the expression of their identity by engaging different communities. One of the means of combating antisemitism is to enumerate and present to people both the history and current state of local Jewish communities and educate people about these. The past and the present are linked, and the link between the two is nothing other than remembrance", he noted.

Two exhibitions were presented at the event. One of them commemorates the Jewish past of the county seat of Vasi, while the other presents the synagogue of Kővágóörs.

APF: Mi Hazánk attacks rights guaranteed by the Fundamental Law

Source: tev.hu

8 November 2022 In a statement by the Action and Protection Foundation (APF), the Mi Hazánk Mozgalom (Our Homeland Movement) is attacking our Fundamental Law and the National Creed that is part of it.

The Mi Hazánk Mozgalom is a far-right party campaigning to ban kosher slaughter. They fly the flag for animal protection, just as their intellectual predecessors did in 1933, but they are driven solely by antisemitism.

As an anti-European Union political movement, they invoke the European Court of Justice ruling but fail to explore its substance and far-reaching consequences.

The Hungarian and the world press reported two years ago that the European Court of Justice found nothing to object to in the Belgian law banning kosher slaughter. However, it is worth noting that the relevant European Union legislation explicitly authorises the use of special methods of slaughter prescribed by religious rites, including kosher slaughter. Since the issue concerns freedom of religion and the expression of religion and belief through rituals, EU law leaves it to the Member States to decide on any restrictions. The European Court of Justice has essentially stated this, rather than banning kosher slaughter. From now on, it will be the constitutional culture of the member state concerned that will be decisive, reads the document, noted by secretary Kálmán Szalai.

According to the document, under Hungary's Fundamental Law, everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes the right to manifest one's religion through religious acts, ceremonies or other means. And our National Creed states in principle that WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE HUNGARIAN NATION, cherish the diverse religious traditions of our country.

"Accordingly, in our country, which, unlike Belgium, has the utmost respect for religious traditions, the only way to ban the practice of kosher slaughter is to nullify the fundamental provisions of our Constitution quoted above. This, to the great regret of the Mi Hazánk Mozgalom, will not happen", reads the statement.

The latest research results on the Hungarian Holocaust presented at the Halas conference

Source: baon.hu

9 November 2022 The newest research findings on the Hungarian Holocaust were shared at a conference at the Clio Institute, organised to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Hungarian-born historian Randolph L. Braham. One of the speakers at the conference was István Végső, a historian at the Clio Institute who presented the proceedings against the Jewish Council of Kiskunhalas, baon.hu reports.

At the event, held at the Archives of the Capital of Budapest, new research results were presented that analysed antisemitism between the two world wars, as well as the events, politics, memory and social history of the Hungarian Holocaust and its international implications. The two-day programme featured 29 speakers on 10 topics, including a round-table discussion.

Historian István Végső spoke about the proceedings against the president of the Jewish Council of Kiskunhalas, Dr József Práger, and other community leaders, based on the denunciation by Holocaust survivors. According to the Holocaust survivors, members of the local Jewish council were more comfortably housed and had a better chance of survival during the deportation. In the end, the chairman of the Jewish committee and his colleagues were acquitted.

According to István Végső, countless new research opportunities could emerge if the history of the rural Jewish councils were to be systematically researched.

Shlomo Köves: the initiative of Mi Hazánk is exclusionary and antisemitic

Source: neokohn.hu

9 November 2022 The head of the EMIH - Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities (EMIH) also reacted to the Mi Hazánk Mozgalom (Our Homeland Movement) initiative to ban the ritual slaughter of animals in Hungary. In a statement sent to Neokohn, EMIH's chief rabbi, Shlomo Köves, said:

"The initiative of the Our Homeland Movement calling for a ban on ritual slaughter is a direct continuation of the exclusionary and antisemitic views and actions of some of the party's representatives."

According to the rabbi, "In Western Europe, it is primarily the political far left, in Hungary it seems the far right that tends to invoke animal rights in a way that supersedes fundamental human rights, but in the case of kosher slaughter, the accusation of animal cruelty is also unfounded. Several studies confirm that kosher slaughter, carried out according to strict standards, results in the animal's death practically instantaneously, without unnecessary suffering. The initiative of the Our Homeland Movement is an attempt to restrict the free exercise of religion, and the reference to animal rights is merely a pretext for incitement against the Jewish community", says Slomó Köves in a statement.

Righteous Among the Nations title, Medal of Bravery awarded in Budapest

Source: tev.hu

23 November 2022 Sándor Pintér, the interior minister, and Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, Israel's ambassador to Hungary, handed out the Righteous Among the Nations title and the Medal of Bravery at a ceremony in Budapest. The bestowment of the honour of Righteous Among the Nations is a "celebration of life" and "humanity's triumph over evil", Pinter said at the event.

When we "speak of the Holocaust", we remember the millions of Jews, including "hundreds of thousands of our Hungarian compatriots", who served the future of their country with unbroken enthusiasm and without whom the nation would be poorer. "That is why we must remember", said Sándor Pintér.

"It is the duty of all of us" to protect all people persecuted because of their religious affiliation. He added: "In the emergency era, there was no social demand for collective action against exclusion, but today we defend it as a value enshrined in law. But without the actions of brave heroes who risked their own lives to save the lives of others, it would not be natural."

Sándor Pintér stressed his belief that humanity can change because it can learn from past mistakes. "It is, therefore, one of the highest duties of all governments to take the strongest possible action against persecution and attempts on the lives of our fellow human beings due to their different religious beliefs", he added.

He recalled that the government had set itself the objective of combating terrorism and pursuing the consistent and persistent prosecution of racist and hate crimes to take the strongest possible action against exclusionary ideas and protect those who wish to practise their religion freely.

During the Holocaust, there was a social need for joint action against exclusion, but this is now a value enshrined in law, the minister said.

"But without the actions of heroes who risked their lives to save others, this would not be natural", he added.

Hadas-Handelsman said antisemitism was still poisoning Europe and the world today, adding that it was "our duty" to continue fighting against it. The honour was posthumously awarded to Lajos Turóczy and Irén Turóczy Gruber and accepted by their grandchildren.

According to the ambassador, the Talmud teaches that to save one life is to save a whole world. He added: “Lajos Turóczy and Irén Turóczy were willing to risk their own lives during the Holocaust to save Jews from the clutches of Nazi Germany and its collaborators. Through their actions, they contributed to saving our world.”

He recalled that the mass deportation of Jews in Hungary began in May 1944, with 565,000 Hungarian Jews murdered.

“The Holocaust was a world of abandonment and betrayal, of perpetrators, collaborators, but above all of idle bystanders”, he said. “And yet, there were people of non-Jewish origin who did not stand idly by but remained humane and helped save their Jewish compatriots, such as Lajos Turóczy and Irén Turóczy, who were prepared to risk their lives and freedom. The State of Israel and the Jewish people will be forever grateful to those who chose compassion over hatred or indifference”, Hadas-Handelsman said.

The ambassador stressed that the Holocaust did not begin in the death camps but when a brick broke the window of a Jewish shop.

As the eldest grandson of the rescuers, Péter Turóczy said his grandparents had become immortal heroes who did what they did not to be celebrated. Lajos Turóczy and his wife took in Ágnes Friedmann, then six years old, and her mother, Etelka Rapaport; they treated them like family and saved them from certain death. Ágnes' granddaughter, who lives in Caracas, found her mother's rescuers in the summer of 2020 through the internet.

The memory of Colonel Imre Reviczky, who saved lives

Source: vasarnap.hu

29 November 2022 Colonel Imre Reviczky, a posthumous major general who saved lives during the Second World War, was commemorated in Budapest, MTI reported. On the 125th anniversary of his birth, a memorial ceremony took place at his statue in the Fiumei Street cemetery. Tamás Vargha, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, said that Imre Reviczky, the Hungarian officer awarded Righteous Among the Nations after his death, is one of Hungary's greatest heroes, whose name is known and whose memory is kept all over the world.

The state secretary said that the military officer became immortal during the Second World War when he risked his own life to protect thousands of labour service members from inevitable suffering and the hell of deportations. Imre Reviczky was appointed head of the Labour Battalion in 1943. “He immediately stopped the harassment and mistreatment of the conscripts and ordered them to be treated in the same way as other soldiers”, Tamás Vargha recalled.

Even after the German occupation, Imre Reviczky persisted “on the path of justice”, refusing to deport the labour servicemen and send them to the Russian front; he also sent conscripts to rescue more Jews from the ghetto. “In the end, his courage saved thousands, for which Imre Reviczky is remembered with gratitude in Hungary and Israel”, he said, adding that the Israeli state awarded the military officer the posthumous Righteous Among the Nations.

According to Tamás Vargha, “the general set an example of courage, patriotism and love of justice that nothing can ever overshadow and that we can never forget. His example proves that it is possible and necessary to remain a man of honour in the face of the greatest horrors; to remain a man in the face of inhumanity”, he said.

Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, Israel's ambassador to Budapest, said that the brave, honest and selfless Imre Reviczky deserves praise and a glorious memory for all he did in those dark times. He said that thousands of survivors in Romania, Israel and around the world bear testimony to the Colonel's courage and noble spirit. He added that his lifesaving actions would never be forgotten by the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

Major General István Kun Szabó said that during the Second World War, fascist and communist ideologies used the armies for their anti-human aims. There were then, and there would be now, those who sought to limit, not just by words but by actions, the "diabolical plan". Imre Reviczky recognised that the lives of hundreds and thousands of people depended on his decisions. He often defended hundreds more civilians against orders, putting his own life at risk, he noted.

Conference on antisemitism at the Czech Embassy in Budapest

Source: mzv.hu

30 November 2022 The NOA Report Cards

National Conference on Antisemitism was held at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest. The aim of the conference, which was organised by the partner organisations of the NOA (Networks Overcoming Antisemitism) project, was to promote dialogue between policymakers, civil society organisations and Jewish community leaders. The event was hosted by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest, which holds the Presidency of the European Union (EU), and co-organised by the World Jewish Congress (WJC).

The day-long event featured a report on government measures to combat antisemitism and support Jewish life in Hungary as part of the wider Networks Overcoming Antisemitism (NOA) project. The conference discussed the state of antisemitism in our societies, the opportunities to combat antisemitism, positive experiences and remaining challenges.

The panel discussion was moderated by Tibor Bial, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Hungary. The Czech experience was presented by Robert Řehák, Special Representative for Holocaust, Interreligious Dialogue and Religious Freedom of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, while Vince Szalay-Bobrovniczky, Deputy State Secretary for Civil and Social Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office, spoke on behalf of Hungary.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

The MŰOSZ fears an act of assault because of Bartha Barna's talk of hanging Boróka Parászka

Source: 24.hu

4 November 2022 Let's not wait for verbal violence to be followed by physical violence, reads a statement issued by the National Association of Hungarian Journalists on Friday after Bartha Barna, a politician of the Mi Hazánk Mozgalom (Our Homeland Movement), spoke about the hanging of Boróka Parászka, a staff member of Radio Târgu Mures, at a forum in Sfântu Gheorghe.

According to the document quoted by 24.hu, the professional organisation expressed its protest against "hate speech inciting violence", saying it considers any incitement and hate speech intolerable and awaits with great interest the outcome of the investigation announced by the party since the case broke out.

The statement calls on the authorities to prosecute "suspected hate crimes" within their jurisdiction. They stress that in times of crisis, it is common to play the "hate card" and appoint a scapegoat. Public figures report on growing social tensions, financial problems and social crises, and the bearer of bad news can quickly become a target for incitement, which they say is dangerous.

The government is responsible for managing the crisis and the phenomena that accompany it. The authorities must show their ability to act to curb these threats, they say.

The politician from the Mi Hazánk Mozgalom, who was touring Szeklerland, and other panellists spoke at a forum in Sfântu Gheorghe about the "gypsyisation" of the Szekler and Hungarian people. It was also said that even if Ceaușescu had lived twice as long, he could not have done as much damage to the

Szekler people as "RTL Klub and its gang". At this point, the name of the Hungarian journalist from Transylvania came up. Bartha Barna said at this point, "you can watch Parászka Boróka, you can listen to her on Radio Marosvásárhely. Well, (if) Hungarians can't hang people like that, can't eliminate them from among themselves, then no wonder we end up where we are".

The "Our Homeland" politician also said that the destructive programmes of Hungarian Television, "precisely invented by the Jews", had ruined the Szeklers.

Zsolt Semjén: Evidence that the Government ensures the conditions for Jewish life

Source: 24.hu

10 November 2022 Neither he, nor the government, nor the Fidesz-KDNP majority will support the proposal of Mi Hazánk (Our Homeland Movement) to ban ritual slaughter, Zsolt Semjén told Neokohn. The deputy prime minister said he sees no chance of the initiative becoming law.

As for the far-right party citing the example of European countries such as Belgium, Denmark or Switzerland – which have previously banned ritual slaughter – to legitimise its motion, he said:

"The position of other countries is not decisive in such matters because it is a fact that man should not override God's law".

According to Zsolt Semjén, it is also "evidence that the conditions of Jewish life are guaranteed by the Government".

Shlomo Köves, Chief Rabbi of EMIH and Kálmán Szalai, Secretary of the Action and Protection Foundation, also described the initiative of the Our Homeland Movement as antisemitic.

Katalin Novák asks for the forgiveness of the survivors of the Shoah

Source: index.hu

16 November 2022 "We have the survivors of the Shoah with us, which allows us to do what is only right: to ask for their forgiveness again and again", wrote President of the Republic Katalin Novák on her social media page after visiting the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, as previous presidents of the Hungarian Republic have done.

"Yad Vashem helps us remember, so we never forget the darkest period in history. The fight against antisemitism must be fought again and again. Education and the passing on of stories can be the most effective means of doing so. As the mother of three children, I know that this is primarily our responsibility as parents", said Katalin Novák.

According to the photos she included in her post, the exhibition also included a map showing the loss of citizens of Jewish origin in each Central European country as a percentage of the population.

Between 1941 and 1945, more than 400,000 Hungarian Jews were victims of the Holocaust, and 200,000 in what is now Hungary.

OTHER NEWS

Holocaust survivors sent a message to László Kövér about the Horthy statue in Parliament

Source: index.hu

5 November 2022 Dr Lajos Oláh, Member of Parliament for Terézváros and Erzsébetváros, reported on his Facebook page that he had recently received several Holocaust survivors in person, who asked him to convey their message to László Kövér, Speaker of Parliament.

"They asked me to stand by them and speak up for them, as no room in the Hungarian Parliament is private property, and the Horthy statue is a dishonour to Holocaust survivors. I forwarded the survivors' requests to the Speaker of the National Assembly regarding the erection of the Horthy statue. We will continue and will not leave the issue until it is resolved because we do not accept that there should be a statue of Horthy in Parliament. We will do our utmost to ensure that only a monument acceptable to everyone can stand in the Parliament of the Hungarian people", the politician wrote in his post.

The portrait of the "President of the Curia of the Arrow Cross" returned to the Curia of Hungary

Source: hvg.hu

16 November 2022 For a long time, the portrait of Jenő Szemák, the "President of the Curia of the Arrow Cross", was only a blank frame in the corridor of the Curia, but recently the controversial picture was put back on the wall with a special note. The Curia explained this by saying that the past cannot be erased; it must be dealt with, HVG reported. For a long time, the portrait had only a frame with a comment and a sign saying it would not be displayed because of the person's "role in perilous times".

Below the photo, the text currently states: "After the Arrow Cross takeover, Dr Jenő Szemák accepted his unconstitutional appointment without any compelling necessity. He supported the removal of the Curia to Sopron by applying threats."

Jenő Szemák took up his post on 15 November 1944, the same day that his predecessor, Géza Töreky, was taken to Sopronkőhida prison. Before his appointment, he had acted as a criminal judge in political cases, and in the 1930s, he had also tried Szálasi and Rákosi.

Historian Tibor Zinner writes in his work *The Curia President of the Arrow Cross Crusaders* that the content of Szemák's 1944 chair resolution — unlike his predecessors — could be seen as "a kind of oath of allegiance to the new political system". During his brief Curia presidency, he did not pronounce a single sentence.

In 1945, Szemák fled first to Sopron, then to Germany, and finally settled in South Dakota, USA. He was not included on the list of war criminals, but in 1948 the People's Court sentenced him to 15 years in absentia. He died in Austria and was buried in Salzburg in 1971.

In response to a question from HVG, the Curia did not deny that the portrait had been returned to the Hall of Portraits, but in reply to the newspaper, they said that they had decided to do so after lengthy deliberations. However, they did not say why the decision had been taken now and who had ordered it.

The Curia wrote that two criteria had to be met in the case of Szemák: historical authenticity and the assessment of his activities as President. According to HVG, the Curia presumably suggests that the historical facts and the moral judgement of the president must be weighed equally when the portrait is displayed.

After studying the historical and legal documents, the Curia chose to display the portrait, which is smaller than that of the other presidents, back in its frame with a note clarifying Semak's role during the Arrow Cross regime, as quoted above.

"In our view, this solution satisfies the requirements of both points (a) and (b) above. It is also in line with the institutional custom — on the ground-floor corridor, in front of the Assembly Hall of the Curia, the portraits of

all former Curia Presidents are on display, just as on the first-floor corridor of the building, the portraits of all former Crown Prosecutors, including the one in office during the turbulent danger-period of Hungarian history, and the Chief Public Prosecutors of the next dictatorship are on display", they wrote.

They recalled that the current president of the Curia, Zs. András Varga, who also spoke at last year's Conference of National Judges, pointed out that history is made up not only of bright periods.

"We are convinced that the past cannot be erased but must be processed, and therefore Dr Jenő Szemák's portrait cannot be erased from among the Presidents of the Curia. Events and facts, interpreted in their historical context, must be faced", they added.

Israeli activist: Hungary is a lighthouse in the dark

Source: elemi.hu

17 November 2022 Hananya Naftali is an Israeli activist in the fight against antisemitism and terrorism in Israel. Since 2018, he has been a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's online team. He arrived in Budapest as a guest of the Danube Institute and was interviewed by Elemi.hu about relations between Israel and Hungary and the policies of Orbán.

In Israeli domestic politics, Naftali said that it doesn't matter if one is right-wing or left-wing; they are all in the same boat and want the best for the country. "And as an Israeli, you may have a different point of view, but ultimately, we must stand up to right-wing or left-wing radicalism and focus on what's good for the nation."

He believes Hungary is one of the safest countries in the world for Jews because Jews are not attacked here.

"In particular, I have to thank Viktor Orbán, Hungary's prime minister, who has created a zero-tolerance policy against antisemitism. And I think it is very effective. I don't think Hungarians are anti-Jewish; we love each other, and there are more similarities than differences. But yes, I have to say that I didn't feel comfortable wearing a kippah in Western Europe", he said.

Naftali says Hungary and Israel are very similar; they are a family because, in Hungary, you can be whoever you want.

"Every country has problems, but that doesn't determine the future of Hungary or Israel. And no one is stopping anyone from having their thoughts and opinions here. I am Jewish, and when I visit Hungary, I feel at home; I am not afraid to express my Jewishness. I brought a kippah with me, and I am not afraid to wear it. I am not afraid to speak Hebrew on the street. I have seen many religious Jews walking around wearing the kippah. When I was in Berlin, I wore it, and I did get comments about it. No country is perfect. But I have to say that I look on the bright and the positive side of things, and for me, Hungary is a wonderful country."

He described Viktor Orbán as an extraordinary leader who, like Benjamin Netanyahu, loves his country and wants to lead his country without compromise. When you step on the right path, you have to face opposition and hatred, but that only shows you are doing the right thing, he noted.

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.	4th of October	Renewed Neolog Jewish communities in the Transdanubian region	Community News and Responses
2.	13th of October	The MÚOSZ fears an act of assault because of Bartha Barna's talk of hanging Boróka Parászka	Official and Civil Responses
3.	17th of October	Holocaust survivors sent a message to László Kövér about the Horthy statue in Parliament	Other News
4.	19th of October	Mi Hazánk would prohibit the ritual slaughter of animals	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Discriminatory Incidents
5.	20th of October	APF: Mi Hazánk attacks rights guaranteed by the Fundamental Law	Community News and Responses
6.	20th of October	The latest research results on the Hungarian Holocaust presented at the Halas conference	Community News and Responses
7.	22nd of October	Shlomo Köves: the initiative of Mi Hazánk is exclusionary and antisemitic	Community News and Responses
8.	23rd of October	Zsolt Semjén: Evidence that the Government ensures the conditions for Jewish life	Official and Civil Responses
9.	25th of October	The portrait of the "President of the Curia of the Arrow Cross" returned to the Curia of Hungary	Other News
10.	25th of October	Katalin Novák asks for the forgiveness of the survivors of the Shoah	Official and Civil Responses
11.	4th of October	Israeli activist: Hungary is a lighthouse in the dark	Other News
12.	13th of October	Righteous Among the Nations title, Medal of Bravery awarded in Budapest	Community News and Responses
13.	17th of October	The memory of Colonel Imre Reviczky, who saved lives	Community News and Responses
14.	19th of October	Conference on antisemitism at the Czech Embassy in Budapest	Community News and 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
Julianna 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.

2022 Budapest

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

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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

