

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

APRIL 2023



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

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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 April, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified one hate incident of antisemitic nature. This was categorised as Hate Speech.

This month, we have identified two further hate incident.

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

APRIL 2023

In April, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified one hate incident of antisemitic nature, categorised as Hate Speech.

HATE SPEECH

The US Ambassador to Budapest hosted the Jobbik leader, who had previously wanted to list Jews, at a Seder evening dinner

Source: magyarnemzet.hu; neokohn.hu

7 April 2023 The US Ambassador David Pressman held a seder during Passover, where Márton Gyöngyösi was the only party politician among the guests. At the head of the table, next to the diplomat, was the chairman of Jobbik - Conservatives, who was sitting in a kippah and had been involved in antisemitic and racist scandals in the past. Among others, Gyöngyösi had dinner with András Heisler, the president of the Mazsi-hisz, and Ervin Nagy, a well-known actor of the SZFE and other left-wing protests, reports Magyar Nemzet.

Pressman wrote on his social networking site that "we were able to reflect on the meaning of freedom together with Hungarians from different perspectives and disciplines, from different backgrounds".

According to Magyar Nemzet, the US Embassy in Budapest had no relationship with Jobbik, but this has now changed.

Márton Gyöngyösi, who sits at the seder table of the US ambassador to Budapest, became notorious for his 2012 Jew-listing speech in the National Assembly. However, he made even more extreme claims at the 2013 anti-Zionist protest of Jobbik, Neokohn reports.

Gyöngyösi first caused international fury with his speech in parliament in 2012:

"It is high time to assess many MPs and government members of Jewish origin who present a national security risk to Hungary. I believe that they owe Hungary such a survey".

But this was not the only antisemitic outburst from the Jobbik leader. According to contemporary news reports, on 4 May 2013, Jobbik held a demonstration in Budapest's Vértanúk Square under increased police presence in "memory of the victims of Bolshevism and Zionism", in connection with the World Jewish Congress, which was held in the Hungarian capital at the time.

The demonstration was attended by many militiamen of the banned Hungarian Guard, who paraded in formation. At the protest, which was banned by the police but later allowed by a court decision, Márton Gyöngyösi, who was nominated as the candidate for the foreign minister of the far-right party, said the following in his speech:

"That is why the Holocaust must be remembered more and more often, that is why in our small country the Wallenberg Memorial Year is replaced by the Holocaust Memorial Year without a gap, that is why we need a defying the laws of nature, that seem to be miraculously multiplying with time, that is why we must provide ever more significant compensation for Holocaust survivors, why we must now sedate our kindergartens with the booklet Esther in Israel and our primary schools with the story of Dani Rosenberg".

The Jobbik chairman ascribed a dark role to "the Jews in the service of world Zionism" and, in this context, accused the State of Israel of genocide beyond Nazi Germany.

"The reason anyone who criticises the policies of the State of Israel and the rise of Zionism should be branded as antisemitic is to obscure and divert attention from the crimes of Zionism. The dark role played by the Jews of the world in the service of Zionism in the running of the Communist dictatorships, and here we need only think of the list of the People's Commissars of the Rat Revolution, the ÁVH and the people who ran the Rákosi-Kádár regime. And on the other hand, the terrible outrage perpetrated by the Zionist Jewish state of Israel, now in its 65th year since its creation."

"How the State of Israel, in defiance of the written and unwritten rules of international law, is driving the indigenous Palestinian people from their land is genocide on a scale that even the chief ideologists of Nazi Germany would have admired. [Erdogan] knows that the only effective counter to the evil Zionist push is a show of force.

Not like our leaders, with János Áder and Viktor Orbán in the lead. Who thinks that humiliating, cowering and belly-flopping before the leaders of Zionism will appease the people of revenge and the Zionist road roller will cool down?

My dear friends, never before has a people and a nation been so humiliated by its leaders as by the members of the present cabal, which proclaims itself a government of national affairs, differing only in rhetoric from its openly internationalist and Zionist social-liberal predecessors."

Gyöngyösi then blamed the government's decision to declare 2014 the Holocaust Memorial Year, and he also failed to mention the role he believes Slomó Köves played.

"Does János Lázár think that by proclaiming the Holocaust Memorial Year and, in the words of Orwellian logic, making the command to remember and the prohibition to forget a legal obligation, making the Holocaust part of our national identity and dividing his nation into two parts, victims and perpetrators, he can score points with his master, the Zionist background power? Does Tibor Navracsics think that if Slomó Köves, in his office as State Secretary, pens the passages of the new Criminal Code that sanction hate speech?

Here's national sovereignty for you. Will this appease Zionism's hatred of Hungary? My dear friends, does Mr Orbán think that by inviting the World Jewish Congress here, he is appeasing the Zionists, who, according to their leader Ronald S. Lauder, are meeting here because Hungary is the most antisemitic country in the world. Do they want to send a signal to the world?

The last few months' events have blatantly demonstrated that our country is a Zionist domain, a Zionist colony, where we, the natives, are destined to be nothing more than extras.'

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

The section titled Further Hate Incidents contains two cases this month. This section includes incidents classified as hate-motivated but not included in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature and lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown. It also includes acts that may have an antisemitic intent but did not take place on the country's territory - but the person is connected to the country.

"Vote No to Jewish School" - announced a poster at the Herman Ottó Elementary School in District XIII

Source: telex.hu

14 April 2023 According to a Telex report, the possibility of a school in the Újlipótváros being maintained by the Jewish community has sparked serious anger. The Jewish Community of Budapest (BZSH) would take over the Herman Ottó Elementary School maintenance rights in District XIII from the Central Pest School District Centre. Several parents were outraged, and one of the students put up a poster on the school wall with the slogan "Vote No to Jewish School". The principal said there were no antisemitic voices in the institution, but one parent said discrimination had increased. The BZSH promises that Herman Otto will remain a secular school with more money and vital language teaching.



Forrás: telex.hu

BZSH wrote in a letter to parents that, contrary to all prior rumours, they aim not to make money but to build community. "Practising Judaism, being religious, is not compulsory; it is only an option. Anyone can go to any religious school, but they can also choose to go to a moral school, and we will have Christmas and Santa Claus, but we will also add Jewish holidays."

In another letter, they wrote: "The BZSH representation is shocked that they had to face hateful and antisemitic reactions before they knew their intentions".

Péter Jakab could not be Jobbik's candidate because of his Jewish origin

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

25 April 2023 Péter Jakab was not allowed by Jobbik to be a candidate in the 2014 elections because of his Jewish origin, the politician admitted in an interview with Hír TV.

According to Péter Jakab, who has already quit the party, the decision was explained by the fact that a similar case of Csanád Szegedi could not happen again. As is known, the Jobbik politician and MEP also revealed that he originated from a Jewish background, leading to a conflict in the party, so he left the party later.

According to information from Hír TV, Márton Gyöngyösi, the current chairman of Jobbik, was also aware of the incident. According to his statement, he has already apologised and changed his mind, distancing himself from his earlier opinion.

Márton Gyöngyösi has no strong principles, so he is a man with a strong compulsion to conform, who lists Jews to satisfy far-right voters, goes to Crimea to legitimise a referendum to please Putin, and puts a kippah on his head to meet American expectations. So which Márton Gyöngyösi is the real one, I suspect, is all of them and none of them, so he could even be one of Viktor Orbán's ambassadors," said Péter Jakab, President of the People's Party of Hungary Movement.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Jewish leaders strongly criticised the Jobbik - Conservatives chairman's attendance at the Seder dinner

Source: index.hu, magyarnemzet.hu, mandiner.hu, tev.hu

11 April 2023 Leaders of Hungarian Jewish communities have also reacted to the invitation of Márton Gyöngyösi, notorious for his antisemitic statements, to attend the Pesach dinner hosted by the US Ambassador in Budapest. Below is a summary of these statements:

Slomó Köves, head of the United Hungarian Jewish Community, told Index that Márton Gyöngyösi at the Pesach seder table is like a paedophile guest of honour at a conference on kindergarten education or the leader of the "Ku Klux Klan turned people's party" at a Martin Luther Day celebration. He is incomprehensible, and his admission is disrespectful and impolite.

"Make no mistake! In 2012, I assumed that Csanád Szegedi, the Jewish-born vice-president of Jobbik, should be allowed to repent. The precondition for this is to leave a notoriously racist party, and make amends for his missteps, i.e. to use his public profile to draw attention to the dangers of his former racist ideology. Use the example of his personal history to take a public stand against his former principles and racism," the Chief Rabbi said.

This is not the case with Márton Gyöngyösi. He is the chairman of a party that for many years was a symbol of recent Hungarian racism, and it was under the colours of this party he brought open antisemitic rhetoric back to the House. Köves recalled that Márton Gyöngyösi, even after Jobbik became a People's Party, ran candidates in the parliamentary elections who spoke of "lice and Judaea". At the same time, his fellow president celebrated his wedding with a gesture that seemed to be a "salvationist" one.

Shlomo Köves explained that, according to Jewish tradition, the conversion consists of three steps. "Our sages teach that if one of the three is missing, it is as if the unclean person is immersed in the ritual bath of purity while holding a slippery slope in his hands." Thus, he says, it is highly doubtful that the politician has taken even one of the three steps above sincerely but that the particular crawler is firmly attached to him.

Tamás Róna, president of Zsima, believes that the fact that the president of the Mazsihisz and Gyöngyösi attended such an event together "fundamentally upsets the real, believing Jewish community in Hungary".

The Chief Rabbi put it this way to Mandiner:

"Wounds are being torn open that should not be, and deep pain is being felt by those who lived through the tragedy of the Holocaust; it is a profound sadness for those who have suffered the tragedy of the Holocaust, for family members, for all Hungarian Jews and for our fellow countrymen of good feeling who condemn antisemitism. This is happening on the night of the seder, on Passover, the holiday of going from slavery to freedom, and we should be going out of Egypt, not back. It is not an exaggeration to say that sitting at the table as a Jewish leader with a politician who has evoked the worst days of the Second World War and has not even apologised to the Jewish people since is a crime, the worst of all."

Márton Gyöngyösi's person is particularly undesirable in Jewish circles, and the Mazsihisz declared eight years ago that it does not wish to engage in dialogue with the Jobbik, a decision that is still valid today, said András Heisler, who also attended the dinner.

András Heisler told Mazsihisz.hu that an invitation from the US ambassador is an honour, and he felt obliged to accept it. He added, however, that he did not know in advance who would be present at the dinner, as it is not appropriate for a guest to ask the inviter for a guest list, and in diplomatic life, inviters are usually sensitive. As he said, he only noticed on the spot that, according to the seating order, Márton Gyöngyösi, the chairman of Jobbik, was seated opposite him.

According to the President of the Mazsihisz, he was surprised by Gyöngyösi's presence, but he did not want to cause a scandal by getting up at the beginning of the evening and leaving the inviting party, because the President of the Mazsihisz cannot insult the US Ambassador. He considers it not without fault that he had not been informed beforehand of Gyöngyösi's participation.

At the end of the event, however, András Heisler went to Gyöngyösi and told him that although Jobbik had been asking for a personal meeting for weeks, he had not responded to these requests and asked Gyöngyösi not to expect a reply from him afterwards either.

According to Kálmán Szalai, secretary of the Action and Protection Foundation (TEV), there is a tendency behind Márton Gyöngyösi's dinner invitation, and the politician's whitewashing is part of a political conspiracy.

"There are certainly those who, in preparation for the replacement of the current government, would like to see a friendly right-wing-conservative formation that could be an alternative to Fidesz and a home for those who do not vote for left-wing parties. The party that has just changed its name to Jobbik-Conservatives (!) might seem suitable for this purpose, but Gyöngyösi's person is a serious problem. The Jew-lister politician, previously denounced for denying the Holocaust, will

be difficult to promote as a credible, Western conservative. It is difficult, but not impossible, the masterminds of the master plan may think: a few photos of Gyöngyösi in a teddy bear outfit at a seder, an appearance at an antisemitism conference and Gyöngyösi will become a leader in the fight against antisemitism", Szalai writes on the TEV website.

He says there will be a terrible by-product of this conspiracy. A consequence that may be minor from the perspective of the global culture war but is painfully carnal for members of the Jewish community. For the fight against antisemitism is eroded to the extreme by such conspiracies. It must have been immensely embarrassing and humiliating for the President of the Mazsihisz and the representatives of other Jewish organisations to be confronted at the seder table by an unacceptable member.

"I wouldn't have been in the shoes of András Heisler, who had to play the role of antisemitic whitewash on one of the most intimate holidays of the Jewish religion and hardly of his own volition. On this year's Passover, a political action doomed to failure instrumentalised Judaism, the seder night and Heisler András humiliatingly. At the same time, the fight against antisemitism was also given a big slap in the face," the article says.

Péter Weisz, head of the Barankovics Foundation's Israelite Workshop, accuses the ambassador of saying that if he was looking for people with different views to listen to all ideas, then where was the neologue Hungarian rabbinate, the civic-minded Jews, where was the Orthodox community, the EMIH, where were the Jewish representatives of the various parties, from the left-wing Jews to the civic-minded politicians?

"It seems that consciously only a certain circle was invited to the event," Weisz replied to Mandiner's inquiry.

According to him, the event was a political provocation against the Hungarian government. Hungarian Jewry was used as a tool, even deliberately trapped and held hostage to the cause. "I regret that representatives of Hungarian Jewry participated in the event, but I do not blame them. I sincerely believe that Hungarian Jewry, whatever its commitment, has one thing to be thankful for: the government does not need to protect synagogues with tanks! In Germany, France, and Europe's big cities, the annual number of atrocities is around 2.5-3000. Hungary has no atrocities, thanks to the government's zero tolerance and the fact that it treats Hungarians equally, regardless of religious denomination."

Péter Weisz thus calls on everyone to never use Hungarian Jewry for political purposes, especially against a civil government that protects Jews and Jewish religious values. "No one should lure Jews into a trap," he stressed.

Heisler turned his back on his people on the biggest Jewish holiday and played parol with an obsessed fascist, the president of the Jewish community, János Turai, told Mandiner. The head of the Jewish Community of Vaci described the behaviour of US Ambassador Pressmann as openly provocative. On Gyöngyösi, he said, "The Jobbik chairman is a figure on a leash, seeking political laurels, and it has become a favorite to him that the US ambassador has 'embraced' him. There is no excuse for denying the Holocaust; statements like Gyöngyösi's cannot go unheard."

Turai said: He condemns András Heisler as a Jewish leader for either knowing about Gyöngyösi's invitation or, if he did not know, not leaving the embassy immediately when confronted with it. Heisler has defied us, the whole of Jewry, and therefore he is not worthy of leading the Hungarian neo-Jewish community," the Jewish community's president, a Holocaust survivor, stressed.

András Heisler: Antisemitism is still present in Hungary

Source: hirklikk.hu

15 April 2023 Hirklikk asked András Heisler, president of the Mazsihisz, about the March of Life and the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust victims in Hungary. He said the march "aims to make Hungarian society remember the darkest time in history. He said that some people are affected, and others are left with nothing. And although there are no physical atrocities today, he is very concerned that extremist manifestations are becoming more frequent and intense in public life.

András Heisler does not believe that the March for Life aims to take a stand against antisemitism, but this programme must also have an impact against antisemitism. The President of Mazsihisz thinks that people today feed on various sources and impressions, some of which have an effect and some of which are lost. He added that although there are no physical atrocities against Jews and Jewish institutions in Hungary today, if there are any, they are only occasional, which is undoubtedly good. However, Mazsihisz still feels that antisemitism is very powerful in Hungary.

The president finds it immensely worrying that extremist manifestations and extremist recruits appear increasingly and more intensively in public life. The fact that Márton Gyöngyösi, President of the Jobbik-Conservatives, now a "European conservative", attended the festive dinner of the US Ambassador to Budapest, David Pressman, on the occasion of Pesach, is his opinion that we must pay attention to the changes.

March of Life: We must also stand up against today's hate-mongers

Source: szombat.org

16 April 2023 Speakers at this year's March for Life in Budapest stressed the importance of remembrance, the responsibility of our contemporaries and the role of education.

In his welcome speech, Gábor Gordon, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the March of Life Foundation, said that this year's walk commemorates the victims of forced-labour service. There is little mention of the labour servicemen in the commemorations, even though more than 100,000 Jewish and non-Jewish people were conscripted and forced into labour camps from 1939 onwards.

Of these, 60,000 did not survive because of inhuman treatment and conditions," he said.

The march's guest of honour, Katharina von Schnurbein, the European Commission's coordinator for the fight against antisemitism and support for Jewish life, said: "The victims must be remembered so that what happened to them can never happen to anyone again.

She added that the righteous people who helped the victims must also be remembered. Their courage and the fact that they spoke out when everyone else was silent can be an example today. He drew attention to rising antisemitism, noting that while Jewish life in Budapest is vibrant, the community diverse and active, eight out of ten Hungarian Jews consider antisemitism a problem.

He added that the European Commission had launched an EU strategy to combat antisemitism and support Jewish life in October 2021, which includes nearly 100 initiatives aimed at raising public understanding of the roots and dangers of antisemitism. They also want to provide practical ways of remembering.

The most crucial aim of the strategy is to enable European Jews to live their lives by their religious and cultural traditions without fear.

He welcomed that the Hungarian government is also preparing its national strategy. "We are counting on the commitment of all member states, civil society and Jewish communities", including the Hungarian one, "to move forward towards an EU free of antisemitism ", he added.

David Pressman, US Ambassador to Budapest, stressed that the fact that Europe's largest synagogue is a short walk from the actual march site and Europe's fourth largest synagogue is in Szeged is proof of the importance of the Jewish community in Hungary's past and present.

He stressed that when we gather to retell the story of the Holocaust, we rightly praise the liberators, marvelling at the survivors' endurance and humanity and the incalculable loss of the millions who perished. At the same time, we must tell the stories of people who knew what was happening but did not act. We also need to tell the stories of the people whose trivial, routine daily actions enabled the Nazis to kill more than six million Jews and countless homosexuals, Roma and others. The Holocaust could not have happened without the abject hatred of the executioners who managed the gas chambers and the watchtowers and the complicit passivity of the people.

He stressed that part of the March for Life is about remembrance and education, but the walk is also an opportunity to recommit, to gather the strength to engage those with whom we disagree. To stand up against those who target the vulnerable, driven by opportunistic hatred and who use us all to divide, marginalise and dehumanise.

Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, Israel's Ambassador in Budapest, stressed that education has a crucial role to play in eradicating antisemitism and in making young people aware of the crimes committed during the Holocaust.

"Antisemitism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination continue to pollute our world," he said. It is, therefore, essential to "hear first-hand the stories of survivors and, more importantly, to keep these stories alive for future generations". Survivors are the only living link to the past, and soon there will be no direct evidence of what happened," he said.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Tamás Deutsch called Márton Gyöngyösi's invitation to the Seder evening a provocation

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

7 April 2023 Tamás Deutsch, Fidesz MEP, told Magyar Nemzet that David Pressman is legitimising antisemitic statements by inviting Márton Gyöngyösi, the president of Jobbik - Conservatives, to the seder evening held at the US Embassy. The most outrageous antisemitic statement in the more than 30 years since the regime change is linked to Márton Gyöngyösi, the politician added.

A more true antisemitic statement than the one made by Márton Gyöngyösi - listing people of Jewish origin and analysing national security risks - can only be found in the darkest periods of the 20th century. It is a provocation to all well-meaning Hungarians and the Jewish community in Hungary to invite such a man to the American Ambassador's dinner on the occasion of the most significant Jewish holiday - said the politician from the governing party.

He stressed that with this step, the US ambassador legitimises antisemitic statements. Deutsch said it doesn't matter what someone has done in the past because if they express opinions critical of the government, the US ambassador likes it.

The most shocking part of it all, he said, was that the president of the Mazsihis, who also attended the dinner, helped make it all happen.

The politician said what has happened is in stark contrast to the intentions of the 150,000-strong Hungarian Jewish community.

The municipality of District V removed the Star of David painted on the lamppost with exemplary rapidity

Source: tev.hu

14 April 2023 The City Management Ltd. of Belváros - Lipótváros took fast and efficient action to remove the Star of David painted on the lamppost at March 15 Square.

"By your report and request, and also out of deep conviction, the contamination was removed from the surface by the staff of the Belváros - Lipótváros Városüzemeltető Ltd at 20:50 yesterday," the V. District Municipality informed the Tett és Védelem Alapítvány (TEV).

In early April, TEV received a report that a Star of David had been painted on a lamp post on March 15 Square in Budapest. Our Foundation subsequently informed the municipality of the 5th district about the vandalism and requested the symbol's removal.

Bence Rétvári: It is crucial for Hungarian Jews to feel safe every day

Source: hirado.hu

16 April 2023 It is essential for us in Hungary that Hungarian Jews can feel safe every day, today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, the Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior stressed at the Holocaust Memorial Day of the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust in Budapest, at the Holocaust Memorial Centre on Páva Street.

Bence Rétvári said: it is a suffocating feeling and incomprehensible to human beings how a historical era, an ideology can seek to kill hundreds of thousands, millions of people, to execute them, to drag them en masse to death camps.

He said that by hearing the personal stories of the survivors, one could feel the victims' fear, pain, vulnerability, and grief of their relatives. The government politician said that no part of history can be deleted, and no one should seek to erase any part of it.

Those who cannot visit the graves of their deceased relatives must also be able to remember. The wounds of the Holocaust have not healed and will never heal," he said.

"The protection of human life is our duty at all times," the politician stressed. He added that the relativisation of the Holocaust is an insult to all human beings, which is why it is shocking for many people when a leading Hungarian politician today is a man who believes that we should look at the number of people of Jewish origin in the Parliament and the government because he believes that they pose a national security risk, just as he believes that every single citizen of Israel poses a national security risk. "These words are unacceptable, not only for Jews," he said.

According to Bence Rétvári, we must do our utmost daily to ensure all our fellow Jews in Hungary feel safe. Referring to a survey by The Jewish Policy Research, the State Secretary said that Hungary is the safest European state for Jews after Italy, followed by Denmark.

Warning of current antisemitism, anti-Jewish and anti-Israel phenomena, he said that, unfortunately, a new wave of antisemitism has emerged in Europe with the rise of illegal immigration. He cited the examples of five anti-Jewish crimes per day in Germany, according to German authorities, the vandalism of a Holocaust memorial in the Netherlands and the repeated shooting at synagogues in France.

Recalling the historical events of the time and stressing the importance of remembrance, Andor Grósz, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Holocaust Documentation Centre and Memorial Collection Public Foundation, said it was important for young people to learn about the history of the Holocaust.

"The Shoah becomes an integral part of social memory when we as adults see it commemorated at memorial sites, at synagogues that are still in operation, at our churches

that have been converted into houses of culture, libraries or furniture warehouses, at memorial plaques and stumbling stones," he said.

In his speech, Andor Grósz praised the government's zero-tolerance policy against antisemitism but warned of the many insidious forms of antisemitism that try to influence public thinking under the radar.

He described attempts to whitewash the perpetrators of the Holocaust as a hazardous form of it. The Nazis played a decisive role in the deportations, but antisemitism did not arrive in Hungary with the German occupation, he said. Therefore, he said, all people of good conscience should protest against naming streets after them or erecting statues after them.

In her speech, in which she recalled how she lost family members during the Holocaust, Holocaust survivor Katalin Sommer said: "When I survived, I could not even comprehend what I had endured. He added that his parents did not tell him about those terrible times, so it was left to us, as children, to tell the story in person.

Likud: The Gyöngyösi seder can be interpreted as a tactic of left-wing liberal-globalist forces

Source: mandiner.hu

17 April 2023 The international relations coordinator of the Israeli governing party has reacted to the invitation of US Ambassador David Pressman to seder Márton Gyöngyösi, the chairman of Jobbik, Mandiner reports.

Tamir Wertzberger told the Tűzfalcsoport that, in his opinion, inviting Gyöngyösi to the event was a wrong move in several ways. He recalled that Gyöngyösi had made antisemitic and anti-Israel statements more than once. In his view, the fact that such a figure was invited to the most essential Jewish celebration by the ambassador of Israel's biggest ally, who is himself a Jew, de facto clarifies and legitimises Márton Gyöngyösi's problematic and dangerous views.

Although Pressman has previously said that he invited the current president of Jobbik because of his previous statements, Wertzberger believes that this is nothing more than a clear sign of the political tactics of the left-wing liberal-globalist forces.

The Likud politician noted that it is impossible to separate the tolerance and acceptance of Márton Gyöngyösi and his party from the fact that they are now political allies of the centre-left, anti-Obán bloc. He said neither the party nor its chairman had shown genuine and sincere action to prove they had left the wrong path.

Tamir Wertzberger described Márton Gyöngyösi and Jobbik as hypocrites, saying they significantly harmed Jews and the fight against antisemitism.

Csaba Latorcai: The Holocaust is one of the greatest tragedies in the history of Hungarian society

Source: hirado.hu

18 April 2023 The Holocaust is one of the greatest tragedies for Hungarian Jewry and the entire Hungarian society, Csaba Latorcai stressed in the former Nazi German death camp in Auschwitz. The Parliamentary State Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office arrived at the Auschwitz memorial site for the March of Life international commemoration. The Hungarian delegation led by him, including young people from Hungarian educational institutions, held a special commemoration in the morning in front of building 18 of Auschwitz I, where an exhibition dedicated to the Hungarian victims is on display.

This year's Auschwitz commemoration is being held at a time when the world is "again showing its peaceful face", Latorcai stated in his speech. He added: "In addition to the war in Ukraine raging in our immediate neighbourhood, we are also witnessing the growing alarming proportions of religious intolerance in Western Europe in the name of the culture of abolition."

As examples of restrictions on exercising Jewish religious freedom, he mentioned the regulation of kosher ritual slaughter and that in some large Western European cities, Jews are called upon to limit the wearing of the kippah for security reasons.

Antisemitism is also present in the world of the 21st century, which can only be countered with joint force, he emphasised. He added that antisemitic statements are not something that "could be remedied simply by participating in a Seder evening"; such a "symbolic participation does not absolve anyone from the responsibility they have to bear due to antisemitic thinking", one of the Hungarian opposition members believed to have indicated anonymously for the participation of the president of the party at the seder dinner held at the American embassy in Budapest.

The State Secretary called the Holocaust one of the greatest tragedies for the Jewish people and the entire Hungarian society. He emphasised: we must keep the memory of the Holocaust alive so that future generations "knowing the past cannot commit the same atrocities that once happened".

OTHER NEWS

Márton Gyöngyösi would like to make up for his previous antisemitic statements

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

12 April 2023 The Jobbik - Conservatives chairman thanked US Ambassador David Pressman on his Facebook page for inviting him to his Seder evening. At the same time, Márton Gyöngyösi said he did not intend to offend anyone.

"I again thank the US Ambassador for inviting me to the ceremony. Thank you also to the Hungarian and non-Hungarian, Jewish and non-Jewish people who sat at the table with me through this event. Talking about basic human values and desires, such as freedom, was good. I learned a lot there," wrote Gyöngyösi.

According to the party leader, a highlight of the evening for him was when a member of the group approached him and said, "There was a famous Jewish rabbi in the third century, Shimon ben Lakish, who taught that when one turns away from one's past and does good deeds, it is such a powerful act that one's sins become merits. I knew what he meant. I knew that he was addressing me. I simply replied, "I would like to do so much for the peace and tranquillity of the Hungarian Jewry and our country that it may forget the wrong sentences I had thoughtlessly uttered earlier." I had no intention at that time to insult people, especially our non-Jewish compatriots. I dissociate myself from the statements I made then, and I apologise for them now," Gyöngyösi tried to explain.

Foreign far-left attackers beat a young man because of wearing a Lonsdale pullover

Source: mandiner.hu

12 April 2023 By his admission, German far-left antifascists beat up a young man in downtown Budapest because he was wearing a Lonsdale sweatshirt. The clothing brand has become popular among far-right skinheads because the NSDA acronym in the middle of the brand name strongly resembles the name of the Nazi party, the NSDAP. Lonsdale responded by refusing to sell its products to retailers who were openly neo-Nazi or who catered to neo-Nazis. So today, few people would associate Lonsdale clothes with skinheads.

The victim told Mandiner what happened:

Gábor was at a party at Instant, waiting for his girlfriend in front of the bathroom, when a group of people suddenly surrounded him. One of them asked, in English, "Is this a Lonsdale sweater?" and "Are you Hungarian?" and started poking his chest, then shoving him and shouting at him that it meant NSDAP. The young man said he was not a Nazi; leave him alone; he did not react physically to the insults. The security guards then advised the group to leave the club. Gábor guessed the bullies to be Dutch or German based on their English accents.

At dawn on Sunday, when the nightclub closed, Gábor and his company headed for Blaha Lujza Square. Suddenly, out of nowhere, the group appeared again. They didn't even ask any questions; they just shouted, "I'm a disgusting Nazi, my girlfriend is ugly and all that, and they came at me", said Gábor, who suffered severe injuries that took eight days to heal, including a fractured cheek and a bleeding eye.

Gábor called 112 himself, and the police arrived before the ambulance. The young man did not want to press charges, but the police launched an ex officio investigation.

The police station of the VII district is investigating unknown perpetrators due to grievous bodily injury.

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.	7th of April	The US Ambassador to Budapest hosted the Jobbik leader, who had previously wanted to list Jews, at a Seder evening dinner	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
2.	7th of April	Tamás Deutsch called Márton Gyöngyösi's invitation to the Seder evening a provocation	Official and Civil Responses
3.	11th of April	Jewish leaders strongly criticised the Jobbik - Conservatives chairman's attendance at the Seder dinner	Community News and Responses
4.	12th of April	Márton Gyöngyösi would like to make up for his previous antisemitic statements	Other News
5.	12th of April	Foreign far-left attackers beat a young man because of wearing a Lonsdale pullover	Other News
6.	14th of April	"Vote No to Jewish School" - announced a poster at the Herman Ottó Elementary School in District XIII	Further Hate Incidents
7.	14th of April	The municipality of District V removed the Star of David painted on the lamppost with exemplary rapidity	Official and Civil Responses
8.	15th of April	András Heisler: Antisemitism is still present in Hungary	Community News and Responses
9.	16th of April	March of Life: We must also stand up against today's hate-mongers	Community News and Responses
10.	16th of April	Bence Rétvári: It is crucial for Hungarian Jews to feel safe every day	Official and Civil Responses
11.	17th of April	Likud: The Gyöngyösi seder can be interpreted as a tactic of left-wing liberal-globalist forces	Official and Civil Responses
12.	18th of April	Csaba Latorcai: The Holocaust is one of the greatest tragedies in the history of Hungarian society	Official and Civil Responses
13.	25th of April	Péter Jakab could not be Jobbik's candidate because of his Jewish origin	Further Hate Incidents

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:

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