

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

MAY 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 May, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified two hate incidents of antisemitic nature. These were categorised as Hate Speech.

This month, we have identified one Further Hate Incident.

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

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.

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 to the under-reporting is that victims rarely report them to the police or relevant

³ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

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

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

MAY 2023

In May, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified two hate incidents of antisemitic nature, categorised as Hate Speech.

HATE SPEECH

Neo-Nazi martial arts gala held in Csókakő instead of Budapest

Source: 444.hu, blikk.hu, tev.hu

6 May 2023 Supposedly due to leaked news and police pressure, the owner of the Budapest venue of the European Fight Night neo-Nazi martial arts gala has decided against hosting the event, so the organisers moved the event to Csókakő, Fejér county, 80 kilometres away from Budapest, writes 444.hu, based on a photo published by Michael Colborne, a Bellingcat journalist.

According to Blikk, the martial arts gala, involving organisations from 12 countries, will include concerts and far-right fashion brands. The event's main aim is to build contacts between different far-right groups. As many European countries ban similar rallies, participants are not allowed to take photos or videos, although advertising and the event's location are not public.

The police said before the event that "the militant, neo-Nazi, martial arts event, presented as a sporting event, is, in fact, a far-right meeting, with hundreds of radical sympathisers from European countries expected to attend". Based on previous such events, the police also said that Nazi ideology, open antisemitism and racism would most likely be present around the actual venue and outside of the event as well.

The organisers of the European Fight Night include the Hungarian Legion Hungária, the German Battle of the Niebelung and Pride France.

The mayor of Csókakő has also personally asked the organisers not to hold the event in the municipality.

"I would like to inform the public that neither I nor the municipality I represent has knowingly accepted the neo-Nazi event called European Fight Night. Neither I nor our community sympathises with antisemitic, neo-Nazi ideas. I completely distance myself from these ideas. The Municipality of Csókakő has no contract or agreement with this organisation. We did not organise the event; if we had known the true nature (of the event), we would not have rented out the space", wrote György Fűrész on Facebook.

The mayor stressed that the event had not been knowingly hosted and that after the police informed him about the meeting, he tried to prevent it.

According to the head of the municipality, the operator of the sports ground had verbally agreed with a private person who wanted to organise a martial arts event in the municipality. As this was neither in conflict with the location nor with the organisation's activities, and as he was a supporter of all sporting activities, he and the operator permitted the sporting event, in good faith, to take place on the evening of 5 May.

Mr Fűrész claims that he was unaware of the scandals and that there was no indication of what kind of event would be held at the ground. The police informed him at 9 am on Saturday morning that the event, billed as a sporting event, was a neo-Nazi meeting. The mayor then tried to prevent the event without much success:

"I asked the organisers not to hold the event because of its neo-Nazi nature. They protested against my statement, as they did not consider themselves neo-Nazi, declared their activities as those of conservative and militant organisations, and indicated that the agreed sporting event was taking place on the sports field; they further said that no banned authoritarian symbols or political activities were taking place at the event and that the organisation I mentioned was not the organiser and contractor, but the private person who indicated that they would

fully comply with the law", he wrote in the post. He also noted that the police deployed a significant force, conducted several official checks and found everything in order.

Under pressure from the mayor, the event ended at 9 pm on Saturday instead of 9 am on Sunday, and the participants left the town. No illegal events nor illegal political activities took place at the event.

A photo shows Kristóf Trombitás, a right-wing publicist, waving his arm in a Nazi salute
Source: media1.hu

11 May 2023 Kristóf Trombitás, a pro-Fidesz media worker, publicist at PestiSrácok, and supporter of the pro-government Megafon Centre, can be seen performing a Nazi salute in a photo published by Balázs Gulyás in his press start-up Gulyásagyú Média, according to software that also works with artificial intelligence. Gulyás, who also works for Media 1, says he received the photo from a reader.

The journalist contacted the person himself, as well as the Megafon Centre and the Centre for Fundamental Rights for a reaction to the photo, but no one wanted to comment.



Source: gulyasagyumedia.hu

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

The section titled Further Hate Incidents contains no case 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 did not take place in Hungary but may have an antisemitic intent and were perpetrated by someone connected to the country.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

The Jewish cemetery in Veszprém has been transformed into a memorial park

Source: szombat.org

18 May 2023 The reconstruction of the Jewish cemetery on Szél Street shows that in Veszprém, people do not forget their predecessors and still count on the values and traditions they represented, said the Minister of Regional Development at the inauguration of a former Jewish cemetery in Veszprém, which was turned into a memorial park with a budget of more than HUF 60 million.

Tibor Navracsecs said that with the investment, Veszprém is paying off an old debt, bringing a piece of the past back to the present to pass it on to the future. The minister stressed that this is not the first investment in Veszprém to preserve the traces of a Jewish community that was tragically destroyed.

Over the past ten years, the city has taken many steps to make the history of the Jews of Veszprém known to posterity, he said, mentioning as an example the promenade named after Ármin Hoffer, the memorial erected at the gate of the former Jewish school, and the commemoration of the Jews deported from Veszprém every June.

Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, Israel's Ambassador to Hungary, recalled that before the outbreak of the Second World War, many Jews lived in Veszprém – doctors, teachers, artists, and entrepreneurs. Some 880 Jews from the town were taken to the death camps, with only a few surviving. In his speech, the ambassador called the memorial park a symbol of hope, unity, and renewal, serving as a bridge between generations.

Gyula Porga (Fidesz-KDNP), Mayor of Veszprém, said that the city had become Europe's cultural capital not only because of the work of the previous years but also because of all the activities that had been carried out in the city since its foundation in which the Jewish community had played an essential and decisive role. Veszprém was already one of the most important intellectual centres in the Transdanubian region from the period of civilization onwards, and the Jewish community continuously fueled this development, he said.

The mayor said it was symbolic that the abandoned, despoiled, and desecrated Jewish cemetery had been transformed into a memorial site for the European Capital of Culture program.

The reconstructed cemetery was inaugurated by Tamás Verő, the community's chief rabbi, and Gergely Nógrádi, the main cantor.

Tamás Suchman, Socialist politician and winner of the Award for the Jewish People of Hungary, has died

Source: index.hu

21 May 2023 One of the founders of the MSZP and a former member of parliament has died at the age of 69. From 1990, he was a representative and councillor of the Marcali municipal government. Between 1990 and 2010, he was a Member of Parliament.

In 1990, at a meeting with Prime Minister József Antall, he proposed that Hungary negotiate with Germany on compensation for Hungarian Jews.

In 1993, he and András Schiffer submitted a draft declaration condemning xenophobia, racism, and antisemitism. Later, in a separate motion, Suchman amended the law on national and ethnic minorities, proposing the classification of Hebrew as a language used by minorities and state-subsidised teaching of Hebrew.

In September 1996, Tamás Suchman took over the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism in the Horn government. In 2007, he was elected chairman of the Balaton Development Council and lobbied for implementing the abandoned Balatonring.

In 2011, he received the Award for the Jewish People of Hungary for his life's work.

Holocaust victims remembered in Ajka

Source: ajkaiszo.hu

22 May 2023 Every year, on the occasion of the Holocaust victims' memorial day in Ajka, the Hit Gyülekezete (Faith Church) commemorates the victims of the Holocaust who were deported from the town on 23 May 1944. At this year's event, the historian Dr Árpád Kulcsár gave a lecture entitled "Why is Philo-Semitism Timely?" The commemoration was also attended by Deputy Mayor Dr József Horváth and Member of Parliament Péter Pákai.

The deputy mayor stressed that in the darkest era of humanity, because of hatred and racism, 6 million people in Europe, nearly 600,000 in Hungary, and 49 people in Ajka had perished in Nazi gas chambers. We must remember that antisemitism continues to exist after all these decades. Still, it is also a sign of progress that philo-Semitism, the like-mindedness and good co-existence of non-Jews and Jews worldwide, is gaining strength", he said.

Árpád Kulcsár built his lecture around key components of loving Judaism and said that he considers philo-Semitism important in order to influence the way Hungarians see Judaism.

Hungarians have much to thank the Jews for since Christianity also has Jewish roots. Jesus Christ was born into a Jewish family in what is now Israel, and the apostles were all Jews. In the first part of the lecture, he argued at length why we should be grateful to Judaism, including Hungarian Jewry.

Thanks to creative thinking and diligence, Jewish inventors, doctors, and scientists have left their mark in many fields. Among them were Mór Fischer, a Herend porcelain manufacturer; Mór Ullmann, a banker; József Tyroler, a copper and steel engraver; Gedeon Richter, the founder of the modern Hungarian pharmaceutical industry; and Manfréd Weiss, founder of Manfréd Steel and Metal Works.

The historian used several examples of how antisemitic people somehow still feel perfectly entitled to use many modern objects invented by Jews. These include the ballpoint pen, invented by the Jewish József László Biró, and the krypton lamp, patented by Imre Bródy, also a Jew.

Árpád Kulcsár emphasised the close connection between Jews and the Hungarian people and that Jews had contributed to developing many areas of Hungarian culture and society. It is essential to recognise and acknowledge these achievements, he said.

Baja's Holocaust victims remembered

Source: baon.hu

27 May 2023 The Holocaust Memorial Day was held on 28 May at the Ady Endre Municipal Library in Baja. After the German occupation, the number of Jews gathered in the city reached 10,000, and they were deported in several rounds, library director László Zalavári told baon.hu.

First, on 18 April, the intellectuals of the Baja congregation, about 150 people, were taken away. Almost none of them returned.

The most considerable lot was at the end of May, when the names of Jews were compiled in the then County Hall, in the building of the present Bányai Júlia Vocational Training School, and a large number of freight wagons were waiting for them at the railway station. Thousands of people were taken to Auschwitz on Pentecost Sunday, which is why the victims of the Holocaust deported from Baja are commemorated every year on the last Sunday in May, László Zalavári explained. However, Jews were also taken from Baja in June.

Those taken included Jews who had achieved some merit in the First World War, as well as one family for whom the hospital director had spoken out to prevent them from being taken away.

Gergely Gulyás: Árpád Weisz's lifework is a unique heritage, his fate an eternal warning

Source: mazzihisz.hu

31 May 2023 Árpád Weisz's lifework is a unique heritage, his fate an eternal warning, Gergely Gulyás, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, said at the unveiling of the statue of the former national football player and successful coach in Budapest. Eli Cohen, Foreign Minister of the State of Israel, and leaders of the Jewish community in Hungary attended the event.

"The life of Árpád Weisz is a testimony and a reminder of the beauty of the greatest sport, football, and the horror of the Nazi genocide of the 20th century", said the minister, who recalled Weisz's career as a sportsman and coach, including his Italian championship titles as coach of Internazionale and Bologna.

"With all that he has achieved in sport, he would deserve a statue even if his fate were not tragic. The same is true in reverse because the murder of millions of people can never be forgotten", he stressed.

"Since what happened is incomprehensible in its entirety, it is only through understanding the individual human fate that we can understand and feel the horror of the mass murder of the Holocaust", the minister said, referring to the execution of Weisz and his family in Auschwitz.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen thanked the Hungarian government for supporting Israel and said Weisz was a legendary coach whose legacy continues to inspire coaches and players today.

"We must learn from the past and do everything we can to ensure that such destruction never happens again", he said, adding that this is the first statue of Árpád Weisz. He said it also serves as a kind of memorial to Weisz and his family and the six million Jewish victims.

"It is important to raise awareness that every word has a consequence, and it is also important that football stadiums remain safe because this is also Weisz's legacy", he said.

Sándor Csányi, president of the Hungarian Football Association (MLSZ), said that Árpád Weisz was the most successful Hungarian coach in Italy between the two world wars. He recalled that he discovered the two-time world champion Giuseppe Meazza, and his tragic life made him a symbol of the fight against racism in Italy.

"His example and his life story are the best proof of the tragic impact that the historical storms, repressive dictatorships and antisemitism of the 20th century can have on even the most skilled professionals," said the MLSZ President, referring to the "Hate is not cool" program launched by the association and stressing the principle of zero tolerance towards all discriminatory manifestations.

Giuseppe Saputo, president of Bologna football club, recalled that Weisz had reached the peak of his career as a coach with them, winning two Italian championships.

"For more than 60 years, we did not know exactly what happened to him, and today it is our responsibility to make sure that incidents like his never happen again", he said.

The half-figure sculpture in front of the Eiffel Workshop House in District X, by the Munkácsy Mihály Prize-winning sculptor Lajos Bíró, depicts Árpád Weisz holding a football.

The work was unveiled by Gergely Gulyás, Eli Cohen, Sándor Csányi, and Giuseppe Saputo.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Bence Rétvári: The Government is doing everything to ensure the safety of the Jewish community

Source: webradio.hu

18 May 2023 The government wants to do its utmost for the safety of the Jewish community and considers it essential that all Jewish people feel safe in Hungary, said Bence Rétvári, Minister of State of the Ministry of the Interior and Member of Parliament for the region, in Vác.

At the commemoration ceremony held in the local synagogue on the occasion of the 79th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews of Vác and the Danube Bend, Bence Rétvári said that every year they gather to remember those who were deported from Vác and the surrounding localities, those who never returned home. He said that the distant numbers become close tragedies when life stories are told at a local commemoration like this.

Rétvári said we should also remember those who tried to save people during that period, such as Margit Slachta and Sara Salkaházi, who are role models for us because they risked their lives in a much more difficult situation than today.

He stressed that despite the fact that there may have been Nazi and Soviet occupations in Hungary, the Hungarians did not become Nazis or Communists but preserved their fundamental Christian values. He said it is also vital permanently to preserve these values because Christian values gave strength to those who saved people even in the most terrible times.

The state secretary stressed that every such occasion is a call to take care of our fellow human beings at all times because human life is the most critical value. In a part of Europe where illegal immigration has dramatically increased, a new wave of antisemitism has emerged. Europe must be kept at peace so that all Jews can feel safe.

Rétvári said that it was important that all Jewish people in Hungary felt safe and that antisemitism must always be combated.

Israel expects zero tolerance of antisemitism to continue after György Budaházy's presidential pardon

Source: szabadeuropa.hu

22 May 2023 In an interview with Szabad Európa Hungary, Israel's ambassador to Hungary said that the Hungarian government had zero tolerance for any antisemitic manifestations, which the Jewish State appreciated. He further stated that he expects this government's policy to continue. His remarks followed the pardon granted by President Katalin Novák to György Budaházy, an antisemitic political activist from the far-right who was convicted of terrorism.

Yakov Hadasz-Handelsman added that the 75th anniversary of establishing the Israeli dream was recently celebrated. The guest of honour at the Budapest reception was Justice Minister Judit Varga, who confirmed in her speech that Hungary's policy of zero tolerance would continue.

The diplomat also commented on the disagreements between Jewish denominations in Hungary, calling them regrettable.

"Whenever I see Jewish organisations bickering with each other, I always think: eighty years ago, it made no difference to the Nazis or anyone else who was trying to invade our lives whether someone was Orthodox, neo-orthodox, followed one or the other orientation, it didn't even matter if a Jew had converted to Christianity. To them, they were just Jews in unity, and together they were herded onto the wagons that took them all to the same place. My only advice whenever I see Jews fighting each other: never forget this one thing", he said.

Péter Szijjártó: Cooperation between Hungary and Israel reaches historic high

Source: hirado.hu

31 May 2023 Political and economic relations between Hungary and Israel are stronger than ever, and the parties are also discussing the possibilities of energy cooperation, Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said in Budapest on Wednesday.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the minister said at a press conference with his Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen that cooperation between the two countries has always been characterised by mutual respect and that Hungary has always supported the right of the Jewish state to self-defence and guaranteeing its security.

"We condemn all the terror threats and terrorist attacks that Israel has faced in the recent past, and we equally condemn the practice in international political organisations of adopting statements of condemnation against Israel based on a one-sided, biased and unfair attitude", he said.

"Unfortunately, this is not a distant phenomenon; the anti-Israel political position is also present in many cases in the Western half of Europe. That is why we have had to veto common European positions that were biased, unfair, unbalanced and unjust towards Israel several times in the past", he said.

Szijjártó said the government would continue pushing for a balanced and fair approach, including within the UN. He noted that the security of the Middle East is closely linked to the safety of Europe, and therefore peace in the region is in Hungary's national security interest.

The minister stressed that after the failed attempts of the past decades, the Abraham Accords are the only hope for long-term peace, and the government sees it as in the interest of global security to extend this agreement so that more Arab countries normalise their relations with Israel.

"We are asking the European Union and the international financial institutions to provide funding for developments and investments that are made within the framework of the Abrahamic Accords to encourage and support their extension", he said.

The minister strongly condemned terrorism and said it was unacceptable that Palestinian organisations linked to terrorist organisations could receive financial support from the EU.

"Based on today's discussion, we have decided that Hungary will intervene on Israel's side in the international legal proceedings brought by the Palestinian Authority against Israel", he said, referring to the Middle East conflict and the legality of Israel's political actions.

"I also told the Minister that we reject all forms of antisemitism. We are proud that the largest Jewish community in the Central European region lives in Hungary", he said.

"We are concerned that a modern form of antisemitism has reared its head in the Western half of Europe. One of the sources of this phenomenon is mass illegal migration, which poses a particular security challenge for the continent", he added, underlining the importance of taking action against uncontrolled immigration.

Szijjártó reported that bilateral economic cooperation had reached a record high, with trade reaching a \$750 million last year and growing by 38 per cent again this year.

OTHER NEWS

Adolf Hitler praised by security policy expert Robert C Castel

Source: nepzava.hu

2 May 2023 "It is a strange irony of fate that the last great truly European leader in world politics was Adolf Hitler. I say this as a Jew", said Robert C Castel at the Ultrahang YouTube channel's public meeting. The security policy expert added that "it ended", referring to the phenomenon of "great" European leaders in world politics, with the Nazi dictator and added that he was again saying this as a Jewish man.

Born in Arad to a Hungarian Jewish family, Castel emigrated from Romania to Israel in 1987.

Police called on the Kutya Párt (Dog Party) leader when he painted over antisemitic graffiti

Source: rtl.hu

28 May 2023 "There were some hilarious police conversations", the party director of the Dog Party told RTL after police were called when he painted over an antisemitic sign on the side of a block of flats on Megyeri Street.

David Nagy had painted turtles on the "Jewish SZDSZ" sign, which had been on the wall of the building for decades. The police ended up not arresting him and are currently investigating whether to prosecute him.

According to a January ruling by Hungary's Supreme Court, graffiti is also considered vandalism if intended to express political opinions.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ON ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Anti-Defamation League (ADL): 19 per cent of people surveyed in Hungary agree with Holocaust denial

Source: akibic.hu

31 May 2023 According to a recent survey by the ADL, 19 per cent of respondents in Hungary agree with some form of Holocaust denial. According to the survey, which measures antisemitic attitudes across Europe, some of the most persistent anti-Jewish attitudes remain deeply rooted in ten European countries, and roughly one in four people hold widespread, classic antisemitic views, according to a statement from the organisation reviewed by Kibic Magazine.

In six Western European countries, one in three respondents believe Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their homeland, according to the survey. In Spain, one in four are likely to believe classic antisemitic stereotypes, in particular, beliefs about Jews and money and Jews controlling the government.

"It is worrying that so many Europeans continue to believe the most dangerous antisemitic fictions in history, including that Jews are inherently greedy, control the government and finance, or are more loyal to Israel. And unfortunately, this hasn't gotten any better since our last survey of the region in 2019", said Jonathan Greenblatt, the director of ADL. "These harmful ideas have historically motivated antisemitic attacks and should never be taken lightly, especially on a continent that witnessed the Holocaust."

In line with previous surveys, Spain continues to have the highest level of antisemitic attitudes among the six Western European countries surveyed, with 26 per cent of the population holding widespread antisemitic views, followed by Belgium (24 per cent), France (17 per cent), Germany (12 per cent) and the UK (10 per cent). Of the ten countries surveyed in the antisem-

itism index, the Netherlands registered the lowest level, with only 6 per cent of respondents holding antisemitic views.

In Eastern Europe, antisemitic attitudes are even more entrenched. Despite a modest decline in each of the four countries surveyed, antisemitic views are still high in Hungary (37 per cent), Poland (35 per cent) and Russia (26 per cent).

The most significant decline in anti-Jewish hate was recorded in Ukraine, where antisemitic attitudes fell from a record high of 46 per cent in 2019 to 29 per cent in 2023, likely partly due to the popularity of Jewish President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The survey's findings for Hungary are:

- The antisemitic topos of dual loyalty is even more prevalent in Eastern Europe, with 62 per cent in Poland, 48 per cent in Hungary, 38 per cent in Ukraine and 36 per cent in Russia agreeing that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their own country.
- Holocaust consciousness is universal across Europe, but Holocaust denial is significantly higher in Eastern Europe. In Hungary and Ukraine, 19 per cent of respondents agree with the statement that "the Holocaust is a myth and did not happen" or that the number of Jews who perished was "greatly exaggerated".
- Countries with higher levels of concern about far-right violence (France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK) tend to have lower antisemitism scores than countries with lower levels of concern about far-right violence (Hungary, Poland and Spain)

According to the survey, most Europeans reject the tactics of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to isolate the state of Israel. While many in Western European countries say they are more sympathetic to Palestinians than Israelis, support for boycotting Israel was extremely low.

"Many, if not most, European countries have a long way to go to educate their citizens about the sordid history of antisemitism and its reality today", said Marina Rosenberg, ADL senior vice president for international affairs. "Jewish life goes on in many of these countries, and we must ensure that their governments do everything possible to ensure a secure future for their Jewish citizens."

The ADL Global 100 survey was first released in 2014 and is regularly updated in selected countries to provide a broader picture of trends in antisemitic attitudes worldwide. For this edition, more than 6,500 adult European citizens were surveyed between 8 November 2022 and 30 January 2023.

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.	2nd of May	Adolf Hitler praised by security policy expert Robert C Castel	Other News
2.	6th of May	Neo-Nazi martial arts gala held in Csókakő instead of Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
3.	11th of May	A photo shows Kristóf Trombitás, a right-wing publicist, waving his arm in a Nazi salute	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
4.	18th of May	The Jewish cemetery in Veszprém has been transformed into a memorial park	Community News and Responses
5.	18th of May	Bence Rétvári: The Government is doing everything to ensure the safety of the Jewish community	Official and Civil Responses
6.	21st of May	Tamás Suchman, Socialist politician and winner of the Award for the Jewish People of Hungary, has died	Community News and Responses
7.	22nd of May	Israel expects zero tolerance of antisemitism to continue after György Budaházy's presidential pardon	Official and Civil Responses
8.	22nd of May	Holocaust victims remembered in Ajka	Community News and Responses
9.	27th of May	Baja's Holocaust victims remembered	Community News and Responses
10.	28th of May	Police called on the Kutya Párt (Dog Party) leader when he painted over antisemitic graffiti	Other News
11.	31st of May	Gergely Gulyás: Árpád Weisz's lifework is a unique heritage, his fate an eternal warning	Community News and Responses
12.	31st of May	Péter Szijjártó: Cooperation between Hungary and Israel reaches historic high	Official and Civil Responses
13.	31st of May	Anti-Defamation League (ADL): 19 per cent of people surveyed in Hungary agree with Holocaust denial	News and Opinions on Antisemitism in Hungary

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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