

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT  
IN HUNGARY

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JULY 2023



ACTION AND PROTECTION  
LEAGUE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

In July, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified three hate incidents of antisemitic nature. Two of these were categorised as Threats, and one as Hate Speech.

This month, we have not identified any further hate incidents.

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

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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In the last decade there has been a rise in antisemitism in Europe. Surveys by e.g. the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)<sup>1</sup> and the ADL Global 100<sup>2</sup> show a broad spectrum of antisemitism and how it fluctuates over time.

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

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

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

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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The general opinion on, and treatment of, antisemitism often takes extreme forms. On the one hand, some voices try to belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion, one-off incidents are exaggerated in the public arena to such an extent that they give the impression that they are frequent or a regular part of daily life. Knowledge of the actual situation(s) is an indispensable condition for the treatment of real problems. Monitoring of antisemitic hate crimes and incidents<sup>3</sup> is one of the tools used in achieving this objective.

From 2019 the Action and Protection League has decided to monitor seven European countries. In the first stage, data is collected from seven countries: Austria, Czechia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Sweden, and more countries will be added later. All countries have their own particularities and vast differences when it comes to the monitoring of antisemitism in some cases, there are several organisations with similar goals as the APL and in other countries, few or no similar activities. In no case will APL try to replace existing organisations, but rather seek cooperation and exchange of data.

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

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

against property or lead to physical threat of individuals, but it also concerns self-dignity. The offenses indicate that the victim is not an equal member or a member at all of the society. Since hate crimes, in general, target victims due to some unchangeable characteristics (real or imagined), the victim becomes almost defenseless. Victims often fear that they may again be targets of similar incidents or worse atrocities if they identify perpetrators to relevant authorities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents may easily lead to secondary victimization where the victim can be led to believe that it was their fault, e.g., by not being careful enough, etc. This type of criminal act also, as mentioned, has an effect on the group as a whole. The victims of these crimes are often interchangeable, since they are not targeted at individuals and any other member could just as well have been targeted. This means that all members of the targeted group become potential victims and might live in fear of a future when they themselves may be the target of a prejudice-motivated crime. This situation is particularly poignant for groups that have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length why Jews belong among such groups. These crimes undermine the fundamental value that all members of a society are of equal value. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the society as a whole. Not only may it encourage the perpetrators to commit further crimes, but it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society as a whole<sup>4</sup>.

It is not an exaggeration to state that fewer hate crimes are reported and documented than are committed. The discrepancy between committed crimes and reported crimes vary significantly between different countries is not necessarily connected to the number of Jews. A contributing factor to the under-reporting is that victims rarely report them to the police or relevant

<sup>3</sup> See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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## METHODOLOGY

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The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows<sup>5</sup> (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people<sup>6</sup>
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a specific group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

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

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

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

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

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

When identifying hate incidents, various indicators are recorded during the monitoring period<sup>7</sup> and are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by antisemitism.

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

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.<sup>8</sup>

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

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

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

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics<sup>9</sup> :

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

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

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

<sup>8</sup> The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

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



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

Based on the *Facing Facts! Guidelines*, seven types of incidents are differentiated as follows<sup>10</sup>:

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

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

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

## ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS JULY 2023

In this month, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified three hate incidents of antisemitic nature. Two of these were categorised as Threats, and one as Hate Speech.

### THREAT

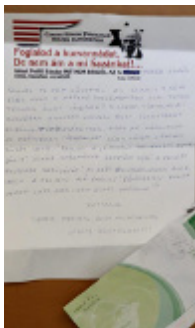
*András Jámbar was called a "dirty Jew" and threatened with death*

Source: tev.hu

**12 July 2023** "I was threatened with death in a crude, antisemitic, handwritten letter signed 'Betyárok'", writes András Jámbar on his Facebook page. According to the Párbeszéd-Zöldek politician, the letter's content "is linked to the smear campaign that Fidesz and its media are conducting against him and the Szikra community".

On the letter's printed header are two lines from Sándor Petőfi's poem "What the German does not speak...": "You occupy your whore, But not our country...". The title has crossed out the word "German" and replaced it with "dirty Jew". The headline also says Message to the President of Israel, Shimon Peres, and that is what is published by the terrorist group Hamas.

The letter's content reads:



Source: facebook.com/Jámbar András

"So, you didn't do anything? It's not enough that you sit in the Hungarian parliament for being a sick, paedophilic animal? In certain historical periods, gay rejects like you were segregated and exiled so as not to poison a healthy society. Your whole existence reeks of contagion. Unfortunately, the criminal institution of "liberal parliamentary democracy" allows the scum to surface! We'll make sure you get below the surface. You will meet your ugly end soon enough. We are very close!!!"

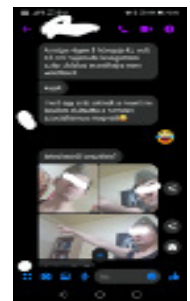
Signed: "Outlaws. No mercy for sick, paedophilic animals!!!"

The letter is presumably related to the recent discovery of paedophile content on the computer of a member of the Szikra Movement led by András Jámbar. After the case broke, the man committed suicide.

*A young Hungarian man harasses Facebook users with a Nazi salute photo*

Source: metropol.hu

**31 July 2023** A young Hungarian man who calls himself Bendi is harassing strangers with a Nazi salute photo, claiming that he once went to hell but then had the seeds of national socialism planted in him. He sends a picture of himself in a photo doing a Nazi salute and a portrait of Hitler in a message, Metropol reports.



Source: Facebook / Metropol

The screenshots of the letters were uploaded to the internet by one of the recipients, who called the events shocking, especially because Bendi threatened him.

"I cut my hair into a nice side cut, not by accident (...) I am a Nazi! (...) A guy whose name I will not reveal has passed on the seeds of national socialism", he wrote. Bendi then listed the people he hates: everyone and everything.

The Nazi stalker justified his claim as a Hitler supporter by saying he had been to hell and back. When the harasser asked the young man why this was good for him, he replied: "Just don't let them cut your throat cut or set you on fire."

He responded to the suggestion that he might need to get treatment by then sending a portrait of Adolf Hitler.

"He liberated me!" he replied, reiterating that he meant his messages seriously.

"I wasn't joking at the beginning! I had problems fitting in, but I chose this", he stressed.

## HATE SPEECH

*A young Hungarian man harasses Facebook users with a Nazi salute photo*

Source: tev.hu

**12 July 2023** The Action and Protection Foundation received a report of antisemitic comments on a Facebook travel page discussing the existence of the State of Israel:

- "This is not a powder keg; it is an ongoing genocide since 1948. Because nothing dulls the shock of the Holocaust like a good bit of genocide and ethnic cleansing."
- "There is a reason for all of this; the Jewish bastards have not learned from the past, they have taken land that was never theirs, then let them live in fear, that is what they deserve."
- "Dirty Jews are the reason for every war on earth. A disgusting breed of merchant. They don't care about human life."
- "Dirty Jews, they've always been terrorists. Now they terrorise the whole world. The devil's people!"

- "There is no bigger antisemite than the Jews. They hate other people and want only to rule over everyone. Well... don't talk to me about Jews! They are a rapacious, parasitic race, a hotbed of hatred!"
- "Fucking filthy Jews. Go, Palestine!"
- A quote attributed to Shlomo Köves: "I am Shlomo Köves, Chief Rabbi of the EMIH United Hungarian Jewish Congregatio! I will do my best to give our Israeli brothers and sisters in Hungary a new start in life, and together we will build our homeland, the New State of Israel, and destroy the Hungarians. God created Hungary for Us!"
- "If they had not been given territory, the doorknob-nosed people would still be walking in the desert."
- "We will face the same fate (as the Palestinians) if we let these retarded Jews grow on us even more!"

APF reported the hate content to the operators of the social networking site.



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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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The section titled Further Hate Incidents contains no 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 did not take place in Hungary but may have an antisemitic intent and the perpetrator is connected to the country.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*Holocaust victims remembered in Szekszárd*  
Source: szombat.org

**2 July 2023** The victims of the Holocaust were commemorated in Szekszárd's House of Arts on Sunday. Seventy-nine years ago today, the deportation of local Jews began.

It is always difficult to speak without vehemence about the cruelty with which millions of Jews were deported and murdered during the Second World War, said Tamás Friedmann, president of the Hungarian Israeli Friendship Society and the Szekszárd Jewish Community.

He added that remembrance is a time of silence, and the sincerity of shock fills hearts with hope that the horror of what happened will never happen again. He also said that Szekszárd had resisted antisemitism for a long time, as the then mayor, István Vendel, had refused to allow a ghetto to be built in the town, but in July 1944, trains with hundreds of Jews started to leave.

Vice Mayor János Gyurkovics said that we remember the horror, the suffering, the inexplicable. He stressed that there were some 6 million victims of the Holocaust in Europe, roughly one in ten of them Hungarians. For our ancestors, a few generations older than us, the victims were not just numbers but faces of our playmate, neighbour, shopkeeper. The number of survivors is now a handful.

In a world where the internet allows hate speech and fake news to spread faster than a virus, he says, antisemitism can reappear again and again. It's important to remember how we got this terrible wound so that it doesn't happen again. Both Judaism and Christianity believe that God created man in his own image. Life is unique and unrepeatable.

"Respect other people, and you will be fine", Gyurkovic said.

He was followed by the students of the Cricket Musical Theatre. In their performance, it was repeatedly said that the deportation of large numbers of Jews from Hungary in a very short period was unprecedented, indicating the indifference of a large part of society. At the same time, they mentioned many others who even risked their lives to help their fellow human beings.

Rabbi Gábor Fináli conducted the liturgical commemoration with the assistance of cantor Anatoliy Klavinsky. As he said, the Holocaust is a complex crime involving not only the Nazis but also society. He also discussed a new documentary film on the relationship between the United States and the Holocaust.

He explained that in the 1930s, the US was "locked up". Many Jews applied in vain for admission but were denied. In addition, antisemitism was present at the government level. He added that he likes to commemorate with positive examples, but

that for every one person in our country who saved the lives of five to six people, there were five or six who served the genocide, and that 50 per cent of the population were passive bystanders. If more had stood up against evil, there would have been fewer victims.

*Holocaust victims remembered in Pápa*

Source: veol.hu

**3 July 2023** The Jewish Cultural Heritage Association of Pápa and Surroundings paid tribute to the victims of the Holocaust in the synagogue of Pápa. The event commemorated the establishment of the ghetto in the town on 24 May 1944, after which 3,500 Jews from Pápa and the surrounding area were deported.

At the commemoration, Orsolya Schmidt, president of the association, interpreted the thoughts of the British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks to the audience.

"To be human is to ask the question: Why? Because you have to ask, you have to be curious, without that, there is no answer, no learning. And learning has been one of the saviours of Judaism for millennia, one of the keys to its survival, and I hope it still is. We are not all the same - that also means that we can learn from each other, a different point of view, a different opinion. The collision of these, the substantive debate, and the argumentation all help us to know a subject better, to dig deeper, and to get answers to our questions. Because there is a time and a place for why. Just as we have been searching for answers to the Holocaust - for nearly 80 years. Why? There were, are and will be many answers. But that does not make the loss any less, the pain any less, the memories any less, the family members any less. We can learn and teach, be here and talk about it."

Mayor Tamás Áldozó said in his memorial speech that we must remember the great community that strengthened and enriched the city. We must remember them and build a world where this terrible genocide can never happen again. Rabbi Ákos Kurucz spoke of how Jews were gradually excluded from society.

"We have two tasks: one is to remember, and the other is to educate our children so that they do not accept any discrimination as valid", he said.

*Exhibition on the philanthropic activities of Ottó Komoly and the Hungarian Zionist movement*

Source: mazsihisz.hu

**6 July 2023** The Holocaust Memorial Centre commemorates the lifesaving activities of Ottó Komoly and the Hungarian Zionist movement during the Holocaust with an exhibition of tableaux. The opening ceremony of the exhibition "Saving Souls - The lifesaving activities of Ottó Komoly and the Hungarian Zionist movement during the Holocaust" took place on 12 July 2023 in the synagogue of the Holocaust Memorial Centre.

Ottó Komoly, President of the Hungarian Zionist Federation and, from 1943, of the Budapest Rescue Committee, was appointed by Friedrich Born in September 1944 to head the A Section of the International Red Cross. Together with his Zionist colleagues, they rescued thousands of Jews, ran children's homes and provided food for the ghetto inhabitants. On 1 January 1945, he was deported and murdered by the Arrow Cross. The exhibition pays tribute to his heroism and self-sacrifice and shows how Zionism, which had a long tradition in Hungary, became a widespread mass movement in the years after the Second World War.

At the opening were Ottó Komoly's relatives: his grandson Oded Fürst, his niece Judit Komoly and nephew Tomi Komoly, who donated their family heritage images to the exhibition. The exhibition aims to give Nathan Kohn (Ottó Komoly), who is highly respected in Israel and widely known in Hungary, a place among the greatest saviours of humanity.

*Holocaust Memorial unveiled in Kiskőrös*  
Source: mazsihisz.hu

**16 July 2023** The Kiskőrös Holocaust Memorial was inaugurated at the town synagogue on 16 July 2023. The event was opened by Attila Kendrusz, religious leader of the Szeged Jewish Community.

László Domonyi, Mayor of Kiskőrös, recalled the history of the Jewish community of Kiskőrös and its role in the life of the town. He recalled that on 18 June 1944, when the town's Jewish population was marched to Auschwitz-Birkenau a few days later. He thanked the Benyik family for their generous donation, which made it possible for a statue to be erected that is a fitting memorial to these families - so that no one can forget the past, which must not be repeated.

Dr Andor Grósz, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary (Mazsihisz), said that "we must remember the past, present and future of the Jewish community."

Chief Rabbi Zoltán Radnóti recalled a day 79 years ago that was as hot as the one on which this celebration occurred. He stressed that there was no relief for those whose fate was sealed on that fateful day. He commemorated all four rabbis who led the Jewish community of Kiskőrös. He pointed out that "the Holocaust began with words, in which the media of the day had a huge role and responsibility". We cannot afford to allow even a tiny seed of hatred to sprout.

*Renovation of the synagogue in Zenta completed*

Source: zsidu.hu

**28 July 2023** The renovation of the former so-called small temple in Zenta has been met with the support of the Hungarian government. According to Jewish Heritage Europe, the building will become a cultural centre. The project was completed with HUF 220 million.

Back in 2014, on the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary, the government launched a synagogue renovation programme with a budget of around HUF 10 billion, which included synagogues in historic Hungary. In Vojvodina, in addition to renovating the synagogue in Zenta, substantial funds were also earmarked to reconstruct the synagogue in nearby Subotica.

Used for decades as a sports centre, the synagogue in Zenta is now owned by the Thurzó Lajos Cultural and Educational Centre and will be a cultural space designed by architect István Vatai; it will also house an art gallery and a permanent exhibition on local Jewish history.

The exterior of the building has been restored to its original state in cooperation with the Institute for the Preservation of Historical Monuments in Freetown. The area around the building was landscaped, and a new fence was built.

The building, also known as the Sephardic Synagogue, was built between 1928 and 1929 and served the local Hasidic community, who were not Sephardic. The municipality acquired it in 1956. The city also took over the large synagogue, which was built in 1873 for the Neolog community, but this was demolished in 1957, and since 2001, a memorial has stood on its site.

The last rabbi from 1939 until his deportation to Auschwitz was Moshe Teitelbaum, who survived the death camp and eventually settled in the United States,

where he became the leader of the Satmar Hasidic group in 1980. He died in 2006, aged 91.

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*The police have closed the investigation into the case of the grave of Ferenc Szálasi's wife*

Source: merce.hu

**19 June 2023** The police have closed the investigation into using an illegal totalitarian symbol on the grave of Ferenc Szálasi's wife, according to information sent to MÉRCE by the Budapest Police Headquarters. According to the police statement, "no criminal offence was committed" when the symbol resembling the Arrow Cross symbol was placed. No details were given about the expert opinions based on which the investigation was terminated, but it was said that no suspects were questioned in the case.

Deputy Mayor Ambrus Kiss told the newspaper that the capital had closed the topic by covering up the inscription "In memory of Ferenc Szálasi" on the tombstone. As for the picture of Ferenc Szálasi, he said that there are many gravestones with such pictures in the cemetery, so there is no objection to it.

He also does not consider the decision on the cross to be a municipal competence, as ideological and symbolic interpretation issues like this would give rise to far-reaching debates, which are not the responsibility of a city government. Although the city itself had planned to have the Hungarian Academy of Sciences investigate the symbol, it did not see the need to do so in the end because of the launch of a police investigation into the matter.

Ambrus Kiss also said that they did not want the cemetery to become a political battleground and hoped that the current situation and the police decision would put the scandal surrounding the grave to rest.

According to information from MÉRCE, the headstone is now standing there in a regular way. In the meantime, the cemetery has been provided with the necessary schematics, which do not need to include inscriptions or symbols, so the tombstone is considered to be in line with normal practices.

MÉRCE was the first to report that the recent renovation of the tomb of the widow of the "national leader" included an inscription in memory of Ferenc Szálasi, a photograph of the politician and a symbol resembling that of the Arrow Cross. It has emerged that these alterations were carried out by the new owner of the tomb, the leader of the neo-fascist Magyarérvű Movement, without permission, according to the Capital.

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## OTHER NEWS

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*The organiser of the neo-Nazi “breakout” march receives HUF 70 million in state support for accommodation development*

Source: 24.hu

**5 July 2023** Several noteworthy companies are among the winners of the Kisfaludy Programme 2023, writes 24.hu, based on a 2,477-page document published on the Kisfaludy 2030 Zrt. website. So far, 711 million 647 thousand forints have been allocated to the programme, and the portal points out that the Hazajáró Honismereti és Turista Egylet, which organised the neo-Nazi march, has won 70 million forints for the accommodation development.

In response to a question from 24.hu, the Association replied that the 70 million forints would be used to build a "tourist house".

Neo-Nazi, Hungarist and other far-right organisations (accompanied by anti-fascist counter-demonstrations) commemorate every year the attempt by German and Hungarian units trapped in Buda Castle on 11 February 1945 to “break out” of the Soviet siege ring. This is called the "Day of Honour" and was also commemorated this year, 24.hu recalls.



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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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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 July	Holocaust victims remembered in Szekszárd	Community News and Responses
2.	3rd of July	Holocaust victims remembered in Pápa	Community News and Responses
3.	5th of July	The organiser of the neo-Nazi "breakout" march receives HUF 70 million in state support for accommodation development	Other News
4.	6th of July	Exhibition on the philanthropic activities of Otto Komoly and the Hungarian Zionist movement	Community News and Responses
5.	12th of July	Antisemitic comments on a Facebook page with a travel profile	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
6.	12th of July	András Jámbor was called a "dirty Jew" and threatened with death	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Threat
7.	12th of July	Holocaust Memorial unveiled in Kiskőrös	Community News and Responses
8.	19th of July	The police have closed the investigation into the case of the grave of Ferenc Szálasi's wife	Official and Civil Responses
9.	28th of July	Renovation of the synagogue in Zenta completed	Community News and Responses
10.	31st of July	A young Hungarian man harasses Facebook users with a Nazi salute photo	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Threat

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## CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**13597539-12302010-00057157**

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2023 Budapest

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