

**ANTI-SEMITIC  
HATE CRIMES AND  
INCIDENTS REPORT**



*February 2015*



**BRUSSELS INSTITUTE**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



One of the most important requirements for the struggle against anti-Semitism is an investigation of the actual prevalence of anti-Semitism. One of the aims of Action and Protection Foundation is to eliminate ignorance of this issue. Instrumental in achieving this objective is the continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes that occur public life. The community cannot really be protected unless current information on anti-Semitic acts and other hate crimes are collected and analyzed. Results of the monitoring are published, monthly by the Foundation.

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: anti-Semitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report refers to both types of behavior as “hate incidents”. An anti-Semitic hate crime is distinguished from other hate crime by possessing an anti-Semitic motive. Anti-Semitic hate crime is a violation of criminal law, not all hate-motivated acts are regarded as criminal. Nevertheless, a record of both types of hate incidents is necessary in order to gain a general overview.

For the monitoring to have the widest possible scope, it is required that a variety of sources are used simultaneously. Apart from registering the incidents, it is important to record their particular characteristics. Date recorded includes the incident’s location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified six anti-Semitic hate crimes in

February. Each of these falls in the category of hate speech. One case is the anti-Semitic speculation of Jobbik-member Tibor Ágoston. László Pista, also a member of Jobbik, published a desecrating post on his Facebook wall. László Benke, local representative of Jobbik, remained sitting when the body of representatives of the 13th district local government commemorated the late Chief Rabbi József Schweitzer with a moment of silence. Előd Novák, MP of Jobbik did the same in the Parliament. Sheikh Balázs Mihálffy shared his conspiracy theory with the audience at an event. Lastly, we listed the poster of an LMP candidate at the Veszprém interim elections, scribbled with the Star of David. There were five other cases which were not included into the statistics because they were not committed in the month in question, therefore these were summarized in the Further anti-Semitic hate incidents part. Our report also informs about several events connected to the Holocaust and anti-Semitism in Hungary.

The TEV Foundation filed complaints in two cases in February 2015. Both were advanced because of public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. In one of the cases a private individual shared twice an article published on the far-right portal kuruc.info that had previously been deemed Holocaust-denying in court. In the other case again a private individual wrote a comment to another article on kuruc.info in which he described the Holocaust as “holokamu” (approx. “holohoax”), and denied the Auschwitz genocide.

## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION



The phenomenon of anti-Semitism is by no means new to Hungary. The hate speech encountered earlier has however become increasingly dominant in public life. The situation is further aggravated by the Jobbik Party, which openly declares anti-Semitic and racist views, having forty-three members of parliament making hate speech far more ever-present in both Parliament and other organized events. These circumstances brought Action and

Protection Foundation into being. Among the forms of civil association offered by Hungarian law, Action and Protection Foundation chose the form of foundation; it was registered in November 2012. The Foundation seeks to provide an alternative to the ineffectual legal steps taken against deteriorating standards of public discourse, exclusion, and the ignorance in which anti-Semitism is rooted, as well as atrocities and hate crimes.

### BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

The Brussels Institute, founded by Action and Protection Foundation, carries out monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crime in accordance with methods worked out and proposed by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). In monitoring anti-Semitic phenomena the Institute records and analyzes them on the basis of information delivered by various standardized sources. The monitoring process, which categorizes incidents into seven different groups, relies on the following sources: the sources of the Institute's own Research and Incident Monitoring Group, information available in the press and public media, and relevant data to be found in judicial, criminal and other state administrative records in the framework of an agreement with these branches of government. The institute has set up a now operational HOTLINE that can be reached by dialing the number (+36 1) 51 00 000, where incidents of anti-Semitic and anti-Jewish behavior can be reported.

Beyond regular publication of the monthly monitoring reports the Brussels Institute's research plan incorporates a comprehensive research project related to Jewry—using both quantitative and qualitative methods—, as well as a survey on the current situation concerning anti-Semitism that encompasses society as a whole. Furthermore, the program includes development of a differentiated training program that prepares different levels and participants of state administration for action and appropriate procedure on racist and anti-Semitic phenomena, in the form of teaching materials for the educational system and further training.

*Unity*

Action and Protection Foundation is a registered civil organization. Among those actively participating in the work of the Foundation are status-quo/Chabad EMIH, the reform oriented Sim Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation, as

well as socially recognized emblematic personalities independent of these movements. Trustees of the Foundation represent the most important Jewish religious and cultural movements in Hungary, a symbolic expression of the fact that action on anti-Semitism is a cause shared by all.

## ABOUT THE REPORT



General opinion on, and treatment of Hungarian anti-Semitism is often unusually extreme. Voices are heard on the one hand, that be little the importance of such offences and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion it may be the case that in relation to one-off incidents<sup>1</sup> the image registered is of a public life deluged by such incidents. Knowledge of the actual situation is an indispensable condition for treatment of the real problems, which is why Action and Protection Foundation considers it its duty to provide as comprehensive an overview of the scale of anti-Semitism in Hungary as possible. Monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crimes and incidents is one of the tools of achieving this objective. The monitoring results are published by the Foundation on a monthly basis. Apart from the monthly report, an annual summary review including more detailed analyses on the offences committed in the course of the year is also prepared.

The fight against hate crimes bears exceptional importance, because they differ from other forms of criminal conduct. These crimes may be considered messages of a kind, and thus point beyond private actions. This additional import becomes manifest in various social realms: on the level of the individual, the group attacked, and of society as a whole. The victims may suffer a greater psychological and emotional trauma. In the case of these crimes not “only” the property, or physical integrity of victims is endangered, but also their self-respect. These offences question the right of

the individual to equality, even of belonging to society itself. It is important that in the course of such crimes the victims are the target of attacks because of some unchangeable characteristic, and for this reason may well feel more defenseless. The victims are often afraid that they may again become victims of further atrocities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents can easily lead to a secondary victimization of the targeted person. This type of criminal act also has a strong affect on the group to which the victim belongs. The victims of such crimes are often interchangeable, because in countless cases the attack does not target a certain individual, but anyone who, in the given instance, is a member of the group under attack. In the event, members of the group also become involved emotionally, and might live in fear of the future when they themselves may become the target of such prejudice-motivated crimes. This is especially true of groups, which have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length that Jewry belongs among such groups. These crimes violate the norm that holds the members of society equal. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the whole of society. It may on the one hand, encourage the perpetrators, or even others to commit further crimes in the same mold. On the other, it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society (Levin and McDevitt 1999, 92–93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19–21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17–18; Perry 2001, 10).

<sup>1</sup> See detailed definitions in the Methodology section.

<sup>2</sup> A great example of the above can be found in the Community Security Trust (CST) and cooperation between the London and the Manchester police forces. (CST 2013)

It may be stated in general that fewer hate crimes are reported, and in the event documented, than are committed. Victims often do not report them to the police. A number of reasons may cause this implicitly. Firstly, many do not feel assured that the authorities will treat these incidents adequately, either because they are not sufficiently prepared, or due to prejudice. Certainly there are many victims who are not clear about the applicable legal regulations. Victims may feel shame, or fear that one of their concealed traits will be exposed. Lesser categorizations of the crimes are also frequent, where official authorities do not establish the hate-crime motivation. It is civil organizations

that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs—such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor’s office—may be particularly beneficial.<sup>2</sup> Reports prepared by civil organizations can be expedient in alerting the official authorities to hate motivated crimes in the country. Long-term tendencies can be outlined on the basis of the collected data. Civil organizations can help in setting particular cases on track for legal process, may provide legal defense for the victims, and give various other forms of aid. These organizations may also serve as intermediaries between the victims and the police (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 34–36).

## METHODOLOGY



The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows<sup>3</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>4</sup>

**hate-motivated incident:** an offence, also based on prejudice against a certain 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. Hungarian criminal legislation identifies two forms of hate crime: violent offences committed against the member of a group, and incitement to hatred of a community. The recently adopted Criminal Code (Act C of 2012) deals with these in Chapter XXI, Paragraph 216, on crimes against human dignity and certain basic rights, as well as Chapter XXXII, Paragraph 332, on crimes against public peace. The crime of violence against a member of a group may be established if the perpetrator assaults or otherwise coerces the victim, because they belong to a protected

group. Additionally, this is also the case if the perpetrator demonstrates provocative behavior against a community that is apt to cause alarm. The crime is only affected if there is a concrete victim. Incitement against a community most often means hate speech, and it can only be defined as such on the condition that it is committed in public. Incitement to hate crimes does not target concrete individuals but a group of people. It is important to add that other crimes may also be categorized as having been committed on racist motives. In such cases the courts must pass a heavier sentence<sup>5</sup> (TASZ 2012, 3–4). Apart from these, Paragraph 333 of the Criminal Code also describes the crime of denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regime. Furthermore, Paragraph 335 bans the distribution and use in wide public, or public display of the symbols of various autocratic regimes (among them the swastika, the SS insignia, arrow-cross).

Detailed descriptions of approaches to, and recent tendencies in the definition of hate incidents can be found in our May Report. The report also cites the findings of literature in this field internationally. The present report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, wherever

<sup>3</sup> The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakraborti and Garland 2009, 4–7). These definitions can serve as important addenda to an understanding of these crimes, however they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

<sup>4</sup> For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behavior would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

<sup>5</sup> The Criminal Code does not include racist motives verbatim, but for example the case of “contemptible motive” is fulfilled, if someone commits a crime out of such a motivation.

perpetrator, target, means or message of a case suggest it. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument or other property. It is important however, that anti-Semitic motivation can only be spoken of if the perpetrator chose the given target expressly because it was assumed to belong to Jewry. In this context it is not finally relevant whether the assumption is correct: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient. In the course of monitoring, on one hand, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code (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), 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 recorded during the monitoring period are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

For the widest possible scope in monitoring anti-Semitic hate incidents the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. The victims' filed reports are of especially great importance to this study. If the victim cannot, or does not want to file a report with the Brussels Institute, the involvement of an intermediary may be facilitated to gain information. Such an intermediary may be a family member, acquaintance of the victim, a witness of the incident or another civil organization. The earlier mentioned 24-hours-a-day Hotline operated by the Foundation serves to ease the passage of reports. Additionally there are

options for online filing of reports, which allow even greater anonymity for the person placing the report.

It is a declared objective of the Foundation to keep in touch with the authorities, since they are the most likely to be first approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent important 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, so called, online hatred, which seems currently to have become an ever-increasing threat.

Monitoring of these media channels is covered in part by a paid team of experts within a professional framework, while volunteers are involved additionally in the media watch, sending information gained on to the Brussels Institute for processing. It is an aim to cover an 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 networking pages and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried through systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

Among the monitored hate incidents there are some that are considered a part of the statistics, but there are also some that are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> These are described in the *Methods* section.

<sup>7</sup> The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

**The criteria for hate incidents that are included in the statistics follow:**

- Only hate incidents that occurred in Hungary; no matter whether the victim is a Hungarian citizen or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an anti-Semitic intent or content can be proven, or if the victim was attacked for being Jewish or due to an assumed Jewish identity
- Deliberate and want on impairment of any Jewish institution or building (even if no further, explicit anti-Semitic message was paired with the vandalism [for example, a Jewish synagogue's window is broken with a stone])
- Anti-Semitic comments that have been reported to Action and Protection Foundation appearing on blogs, fora, community pages
- Anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi material delivered to particular Jewish individuals, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi material deposited at Jewish-owned property, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Criticism related to Israel and Zionism, if they go beyond a political statement and serve to recall traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes
- Events apt to raise fear among Jews.

**Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics:**

- Anti-Semitic hate incidents that are related to Hungary and Hungarian Jewry, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in Hungary)
- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online fora, and have not been personally reported to Action and Protection Foundation.

A number of the aspects of the registered incidents are recorded. The indicators that help decide whether a given incident was motivated by prejudice have been mentioned earlier. 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—possibly legal—consequences.

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 (CEJI 2012, 10–12):

- 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
  - 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 environs in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often processes, rather than separately occurring events can be spoken of (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which aid understanding of the environment surrounding the incident.<sup>8</sup> In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

<sup>8</sup> These descriptions in particular are held to be a most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

# ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

## FEBRUARY 2015



Action and Protection Foundation identified three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crimes, one of which falls into the category of threat, and two of which fall into the category of hate speech.

### Hate Speech

*Tibor Ágoston “speculates”*

Hungary

Source: Népszabadság

The 26 February issue of Népszabadság summarized in an article the problematic Facebook posts of Jobbik representatives. In what follows, we shall deal with the comments of Tibor Ágoston.

Tibor Ágoston, a Jobbik representative from Debrecen who is already defendant in a criminal suit started, among others, on the basis of the complaint from the TEV Foundation for the public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime, published a controversial post on his Facebook social media page. On 1 February, he shared a post saying that before the attack, the Charlie Hebdo magazine was in the possession of the Rothschilds. He wrote the following comment: “*Strange coincidences – you can speculate...*” The post reads: “*The Charlie Hebdo by mere coincidence got into the hands of the Rothschilds some days before the attack. What a coincidence! A Rothschild-owner behind the Charlie Hebdo; interesting parallels between the Paris attack and the explosion of the World Trade Center.*” In another post he shared a

photo representing Jewish men in arms, with the caption: “*This is how they prepare for peace.*”

*Local government representative failed to honour József Schweitzer*

Budapest

Source: MTI

József Schweitzer, retired Chief Rabbi of Hungary, former director of the Jewish Theological Seminary, University Professor, died at age 93 on 5 February.

On 12 February, at the board meeting of the 13th district local government before the agenda Mayor József Tóth appraised József Schweitzer, honorary citizen of the district, then he asked the participants to rise and share a moment of silence for the memory of the deceased. Everybody rose, except for László Benke, representative of Jobbik.

The consequences of the case are summarized in the Official and civilian reactions part.

*Előd Novák did not rise either*

Budapest, Parliament

Source: ATV

In the parliamentary session of 16 February, József Tóbiás, President of the MSZP requested his colleagues to rise for a moment of silence to honour the memory of Chief Rabbi József Schweitzer who died at age 93. As seen on the broadcast from the Parliament, Előd Novák, Parliamentary representative of Jobbik, did not rise for the commemoration.

*The conspiracy theory of a Hungarian Sheikh*

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation, www.fgk.hu

The Economy Cabinet of Fidelitas organized an event titled »*The cohabitation of Christianity and Islam*« on 19 February, on which occasion Miklós Beer, Bishop of Vác and Sheikh Balázs Mihálffy, shared their opinion on the relation and future of Western and Islamic civilization, religion and culture. According to a volunteer of TEV Foundation, Mihálffy made several statements which offended not only Hungarian Jewry, but also the state of Israel and Ilan Mor, Ambassador of the state of Israel in Hungary. In Mihálffy's opinion, the Jihadist ISIS is in fact the work of the CIA and Israel, and ISIS consists of hired actors or agents of Mossad, Israel's national secret service.

The Economy Cabinet of Fidelitas issued a statement about the event on 25 February:

*“The Economy Cabinet of Fidelitas organized an evening event titled »The cohabitation of Christianity and the Islam« aiming at a friendly discussion that tried to reveal the relations of the two religions and cultures, the connection points of Western and Eastern civilization, the ways of understanding and respecting each other, and the possibilities of peaceful cohabitation. The Cabinet distances itself from the statement of Sheikh Balázs Mihálffy, who said that »the ISIS is a creation of the CIA, and the Mossad's implication cannot be completely excluded either“ in connection with one of the questions asked that evening.”*

*József Pista's desecration*

Komló, Baranya County

Source: Népszabadság

In an article published on 26 February, the Népszabadság summed up questionable Facebook posts of Jobbik representatives. József Pista was also mentioned in the article with one of his posts.

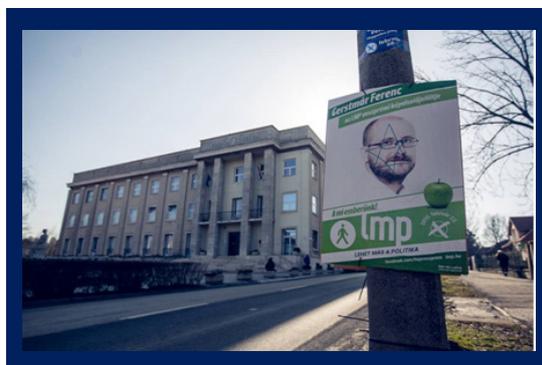
József Pista, Jobbik representative of Komló, shared a post on 20 February with the title “*Thought provoking, provoking!*”, in which he noted, in connection with the death of Chief Rabbi József Schweitzer, that the Chief Rabbi “*was tolerated in our country, nobody slapped him in the face, or knocked him on his head (to come to his senses), but he definitely fulfilled his promise, he harmed us every way he could.*”

*Another election poster was scribbled upon*

Veszprém, Veszprém County

Source: Forum against Anti-Semitism

On 27 February the Forum against Anti-Semitism posted a photo on its Facebook wall about a poster of an LMP (Lehet Más a Politika party) representative. The photo was taken in Veszprém, near the building of Pannon University. The election poster was placed there because of the interim elections in Veszprém on 22 February, and an unknown perpetrator drew a Star of David over the face of Ferenc Gerstmár (LMP).



Ferenc Gerstmár's election poster in Veszprém, Source: Forum against Anti-Semitism

## FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

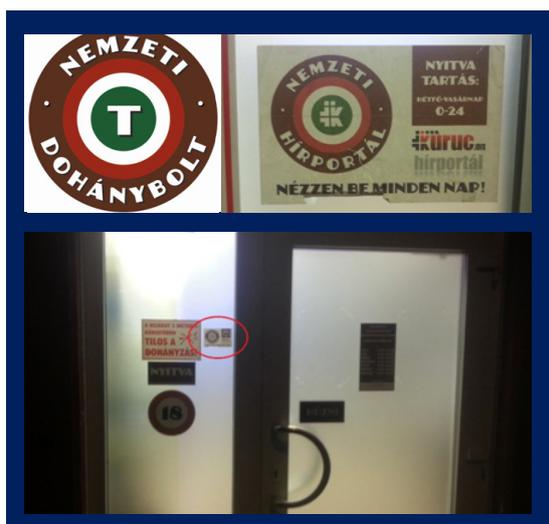


The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified five anti-Semitic hate crimes in February which are not included in the statistics because they were not committed in February.

### *Ad in the shop window of the National Tobacco Shop*

Budapest, Zemplén Győző Street  
Source: Fellow of TEV Foundation

A fellow of TEV Foundation photographed a sticker advertising the kuruc.info portal on a window next to the entrance of a National Tobacco Shop located in Zemplén Győző Street, 3rd District, Budapest. Using the logo style of the National Tobacco Shop, the sticker presents the kuruc.info portal as “National News Portal” and encourages to “Visit every day!”.



The images show the similarity between the “logos” of the National Tobacco Shop and the National News Portal, Source: a fellow of TEV

*Erika Ulics’s anti-Semitic and racist posts*  
Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County  
Source: 4024.hu

Debrecen news portal 4024.hu collected the posts shared on Facebook by Erika Ulics on 16 February. They received links at their office address to the posts of Erika Ulics, representative of the Jobbik Tolerance Movement in Derecske and member of the Legal Assistance Service and the Kaba Core Organization of the Jobbik, who shared quotations of Ferenc Szálasi, as well as anti-Semitic and racist images.

On 6 January 2013 she commemorated the birth of Ferenc Szálasi: “We have no reason to despair. True, people without a country still teach us patriotism today; the ungodly doubt our faith in God; the coward offer wise advice to the brave; the thoughtless, the idealess and the poor in spirit steals, defalcates and pours into empty forms that what the abundance of our spirit, the knowledge of our mind has created, produced, and shaped. But there is great Truth coming all over our world, the time will come when everything receives their place and reward: they will be thrown to the midden of history and be burnt, while we shall reach the wheel of history to steer and lead it!”

On 20 March 2013 she shared a photo which, using the motif of the title scene of the Magyar Népmesék (Hungarian Folk Tales) animation series, announced “a Hungary and a world without Jews!!!” (literal translation)



An image reminiscent of the Hungarian Folk Tales animation series, *Source: Facebook profile of Erika Ulics*

### *Scribbled football goalposts on Nehru riverbank*

Budapest, Nehru riverbank

Source: !!444!!!, Hír 24

The internet portal !!444!!! published an article by Dániel Ács, one of their journalists on 17 February, in which he wrote about the bad conditions of two playgrounds of the 9th District. In addition to damaged objects and dangerous environment, he also mentioned an inscription on both goalposts of the small football ground on Nehru riverbank, saying “*Exterminate the crappy Jews!*” (literal translation).



The goalpost on Nehru riverbank, *Source: !!444!!!*

### *Sticker advertising the kuruc.info at a college*

Budapest

Source: Forum against Anti-Semitism

The Forum against Anti-Semitism published on 17 February an image on its Facebook page which popularizes the kuruc.info portal. According to their information, it is the image of a sticker

located on the premises of the Budapest College of Economics. The sticker pictures a tank, with a Star of David flag on it, struck through with a red line. The text next to the tank reads: “*Was! Is! Will be!*”



A sticker popularizing the kuruc.info, *Source: Forum against Anti-Semitism*

### *Questionable posts of Jobbik representatives*

Hungary

Source: Népszabadság, Kettős Mércé

Below we detail Jobbik representatives’ Facebook posts from other months, published in the 26 February article of Népszabadság.

Zoltán Vass, local government representative of Jobbik in Nyíregyháza, also offended Jews in his post from 14 February 2012: “*The Hungarian National Bank is controlled by the European Central Bank. And what do you think: who are the owners of the European Central Bank? Well, the central banks on which their nations cannot exercise any influence. They dictate who are placed in leading positions there. And who place them there? David Rockefeller, Nicholas Rockefeller, Soros György.*”

A colleague of Tibor Ágoston of Jobbik from Debrecen, Róbert Herpergel, called the Israeli flag a “rag” on the social site. In his post on 6 May 2011 he wrote: “*And the Gypsies and the Jews blaspheme*

*the Hungarian flag day after day. I hope the honourable officer rounds up those perpetrators too with the same zest as one of these David-starred rags.”*

On 14 February 2015, the Kettős Mércé (Double Standard) blog collected a bunch of Facebook posts of László Rig, parliamentary representative of Jobbik at the interim elections at Tapolca on 12 April 2015. Rig posted on 22 April 2012 that “*the agreement reached at the end of January on the payment of perpetuity in 2012 for the Jewish religious community of Hungary*” was endorsed, and “*the*

*around 1,7 billion forints due this year will be divided among three religious organizations.”* Then he expressed his indignation in the comments about why only Jewish-origin people receive this compensation, and his opinion that “*everybody must do their duty towards their race, if they do not want the bells to fall silent in the church towers of their ancestors and foreign newcomers to reside in our fathers’ homes.*” On 23 March 2013 he shared the conspiracy theory that in Hungary Gypsies are the biological weapons of Jews to eliminate non-Jews and non-Gypsies.

## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES



No community news and reactions connected to the subject of this report have been identified in the course of February.

## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL REASONS



### *László Benke asked to resign*

Budapest

Source: MTI

Lajos Gellért, press officer of 13th District local government, told MTI that because of his decision to refuse to rise during the commemoration of late Chief Rabbi József Schweizer, the 13th District local government representatives prompted László Benke to resign his mandate. Gellért added: Benke was asked about his choice during the debate, and he said that “*this decision was a conscious one*”. The representatives condemned “*this rude, discriminatory, provocative action*” in a collective statement and in addition to asking for his resignation, they also prompted László Benke to publicly apologize to the community of the district.

In a statement on 13 February, Jobbik claimed: the party gave no instruction or guidance as to the commemoration of the death of József Schweitzer, for they do not wish to deal with the memory of the deceased. They stated: László Benke expressed his private opinion, which “*shows to a great extent that he did not agree with the public activity and manifestations of the late Chief Rabbi.*”

Jobbik also added: since they do not consider that the commemoration of the representatives was “*a relevant event for the advancement of the country and the welfare of its inhabitants,*” they plan to take no action regarding the incident.

### *The first hearing in the case of Tibor Ágoston*

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: dehir.hu, fellow of TEV Foundation

We reported in January 2014 that, in a speech given at the commemoration events of the soldiers who died by the Don River, Tibor Ágoston, parliament representative of Jobbik at that time, first called the Holocaust a “*holokamu*” (approx. holoscam), then pretending it was a slip of the tongue, he corrected himself, using the word “*hollokoszt*”, then after an “*it was intentional, I’m sorry*” he continued his speech. Furthermore, he also objected to the commemoration of the Holocaust, feeling that it is forced onto people.

Legal action was taken against Tibor Ágoston for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime, based upon accusations made by several persons and TEV Foundation. The date of the first hearing was 24 February 2015, but it was postponed to 26 March, because, according to his lawyer, the defendant could not appear for the first hearing due to poor health.

## NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY



### *Zero tolerance against anti-Semitism*

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: MTI

On 10 February, the press conference of the project “*Travel to the Jewish inheritance of the North Alföld*” took place. Csaba Latorcai, assistant Secretary of State for social cases of special importance, stated again that the government announced zero tolerance against anti-Semitism, for which reason, he claimed, several thousands of Israeli students study in Hungary.

### *Gábor Vona: I have no responsibility*

Budapest

Source: ATV

In the 10 February show of ATV’s Egyenes beszéd (Direct speech), during a discussion connected to a Jobbik representative from Mezőtúr who published racist posts, Gábor Vona, President of Jobbik, noted that he had no responsibility for spreading anti-Semitism, and emphasized that the Jobbik does not differentiate on the basis of skin colour or religion, but on the basis of honesty.

### *Hungary has a hard time fighting anti-Semitism*

Düsseldorf, Germany

Source: MTI

The online edition of the German business paper Handelsblatt published a compilation about European Jewry on 18 February, including Hans-Peter Siebenhaar’s article, “*Hungary: anti-Semitism is rising.*” Siebenhaar considers that Hungary “*has a hard time fighting anti-Semitism,*” one reason is the “*anti-Semitic Jobbik*”, but Viktor Orbán’s government also “*puts wrinkles on the faces of Jewish citizens,*” for, according to criticism, the Prime Minister focuses on nationalism instead of multiculturalism. The author stressed that in his speech delivered at the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the death camp at Auschwitz, Orbán recognized for the first time that Hungary was an accomplice in the genocide of European Jews, but it is still a matter of debate among Hungarians whether his speech was “*finally a clear position*” or a “*subtle double game*”.

*Report by Human Rights Watch*

Budapest

Source: MTI

Human Rights Watch (HRW) published its report on Hungary on 18 February, which claims that the situation of human rights in Hungary gives reason for concern. *“The Hungarian government brought a series of worrying laws and guidelines, but neglected the international appeals to change them”* – reads the conclusion of the report. The HRW insisted – among others – on the public condemnation of anti-Roma and anti-Semitic sentiments from the highest levels of government.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> In addition to this, HRW also insisted on ceasing attacks against NGOs, restoring the jurisdiction of the constitutional court, ensuring the independence of the judge, creating multi-party nomination system for electing the members of the media authority, revoking the constitutional change that enabled the criminalization of the homeless, applying the sentence of the European Court of Human Rights for the equality of churches, ensuring the possibility of general attendance at elections also for the disabled, concrete action for the protection of Roma minority rights, and guaranteeing the protection of victims of domestic violence.

## OTHER NEWS



### *Anti-fascist demonstration against breakout day* Budapest

Source: Népszabadság

Far-right organizations celebrated the breakout day – also named day of honour – in Buda Castle on 7 February. The Népszabadság reported that during the day a far-right historian held a lecture at Polgári Műterem at Astoria Square on “*facts and lies*” about the siege of Budapest. The event, as far as it could be judged from outside, failed to gain much interest, only a small group of people were seen to enter.

The police cordoned the anti-fascist demonstration of around 70 people, who displayed banners with the inscriptions: “*Fascism means war and misery*”, “*Down with the Nazi state!*”.

Later, based on the website of the far-right organizers, “*our commemorations attempted either in the public space or a private space worthy of the event were impeded openly or with secret service methods*” and added that they had “*a whole album of orders of interdiction*”. In the end, the speakers and the organizers invited the interested public at a club on Soroksári Road. The participants of the anti-Fascist demonstration seemed satisfied. “*We reached our goal as much as we could*” – one of them said.

### *Counter-demonstration at the Horthy-commemoration*

Budapest, Szabadság Square

Source: Népszabadság

On 8 February Loránt Hegedűs held a church service in commemoration of Miklós Horthy in the Reformed Church of Homecoming on Szabadság Square in Budapest.

A counter-demonstration was organized during the commemoration by Ferenc Donáth, Eszter Garai-Édler, Dávid Veres and Andrea Zoltai. The Budapest Organization of Imre Nagy Society, the Tolerance Group, the organization called Democratic Civil Opposition and the Anti-fascist Network also joined the initiative.

The organizers’ announcement claims that the Reformed service commemorating Regent Miklós Horthy is part of the events connected to the far-right celebrations of the so-called day of honour, organized by “*mutant-fascistoid groupings*”. Democracy, they claimed, cannot accept the Hungarian far-right to celebrate Horthy’s anti-Semitic measures and the senseless blood sacrifice of the Hungarian troops.

Dániel Deák, one of the speakers, protested as a Christian against the Szabadság Square Reformed community’s letting in Horthy’s commemorations, coating the “*poisonous well*” with a Christian glaze. Similarly to Imre Mécs, he also claimed that the commemorations in the church were blasphemy. One of the banners represented a huge swastika smashed with a fist.

## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS



### *Ongoing investigations in the case of Mihály Zoltán Orosz*

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 6 August 2014 the Foundation accused Mihály Zoltán Orosz, Mayor of Érpatak, for vandalism committed at a public event. On 2 August, at an event in Érpatak called “*Protest against the genocide of the freemason terrorist state of Israel*”, the mayor theatrically wiped his boots against a paper-flag of Israel, then commanded a man wearing a black hood to execute the death punishment by hanging on two puppets, impersonating Benjamin Netanjahu and Simon Peresz, describing it as a political performance. On 13 August, for reasons of competence, the case was moved to the National Office of Investigations.

On 2 February 2015 the Foundation asked for information on the case. On 16 February the National Office of Investigations communicated that the investigation is in progress, the deadline is 5 May.

### *Investigation ordered in the case of K. I. I. – the case was moved*

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

The Foundation made an accusation against an unknown offender on 7 January for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime and instigation against a community. On 14 August 2014 the offender using the Facebook name K. I. I. shared

a photo with the following caption: “*This user hates Jews and does not believe in the legend of the Holocaust!*” Above the caption there was an arrow pointing to the user’s profile photo. On 5 October 2014, he or she shared a photo illustrating a schoolgirl leaning over her books, with the text under it reading: “*This Holocaust really got me: half of it is impossible, the other half a lie!*” (literal translation). On 7 September 2014 the user shared a montage of a little girl carrying a machine gun on the left, and the text on the right reading: “*We must learn how to use weapons and we must kill all Jews, for if we don’t, we won’t live to be grownups!*” (literal translation). On 20 September, the user shared the following post: “*Fucking (sic!) Jews, they are responsible for all wars, all illness from cold to Ebola to cancer, all bad things are because of the Jews! DEATH ON ALL JEWS, DEATH ON ISRAEL!!!*” (literal translation)

The Department of Investigations of Budapest Police Headquarters informed the Foundation on 5 February that the investigation of the above crimes was ordered on 23 January. It was also determined that the posts shared on 7 September and 20 September 2014 were not suitable to establish reasonable suspicion of criminal action. The case of posts shared on 14 August and 5 October 2014 were moved to the 5th District Police Headquarters because of lack of jurisdiction and competence.

*The Foundation filed a complaint in the case of Sz. Z. – the complaint was upheld*

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

The Foundation filed a complaint on 30 September 2013 against Sz. Z. for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime, who shared a defamatory photograph of Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves (EMIH) with the text: “*There was no Holocaust, but there’s need for it!*”. Our January report detailed that in the decision of 27 January 2015 the Vác District Prosecutor’s Office stopped the investigation because the data of the investigation were not sufficient to determine whether the crime was indeed committed by the suspect.

The Foundation filed a complaint on 10 February 2015; it demanded the annulling of the decision to stop the investigation. The Foundation explained in the complaint that Sz. Z.’s only plea was that he only rarely signed in since the spring of 2013, the post in question was not written by him, and his daughter called his attention to the fact that someone was writing “*bullshit*” in his name. The Foundation attached the following evidence to refute the defence of the defendant: on 29 October 2013 the defendant shared the following information: “*Hi, Finally the Jewish terror is here ! I was summoned to Vác for Nov. 07 at 09 for a crime I’m suspected to be a criminal according to § 330 law C of 2012 ! Long live Hungarian freedom of speech directed by the State! Everybody says what they want if they say what they may !!! Does Hungary perform better ??????*” (Literal translation). Based on this it can be stated that the person who received the summon was the user of the Sz. Z. profile, that he was aware of being suspected to publicly deny

the crimes of the Nazi regime, not the communist one, and in the comments to the incriminated post it never occurred that someone else might have written it.

As further evidence supporting the complaint, selected screenshots of his posts between 1 March 2013 and 6 September 2013 showing frequent activity were also attached. Additionally, the following comments from the mentioned period were picked out: 18 June 2013: “*... But it should be extended/distributed???* with the statements of the “*holohoax*” to **FINALLY BECOME FACT!**”; 20 June 2013: Sz. Z. commented on a private person’s post, “**JUDEN RAUS!!!** [*Out with the Jews*]”, as follows: “*ab SOFORT!!* [*but at once*]”; 24 July 2013 “*I’m not aware that the EU or Hungary ever declared that the freedom of opinion and speech was exclusively a JEWISH property! I’ve always known that EVERYBODY [is entitled to] fundamental democratic rights!;*”; 24 April 2013: “*Let the engines roar! And the elected go HOME to Israel!!*” (literal translation).

The District Prosecutor’s Office of Vác upheld the complaint in the decree of 12 February, and ordered the continuation of the investigations. The complaint advanced new evidence previously undiscovered by the authorities, based on which the offender can be identified.

*Investigation completed in the case of B. Cs.*

Gyöngyös, Heves County

Source: TEV Foundation

The Foundation filed a complaint on 30 October 2014 for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. User B. Cs. shared a montage on his/her Facebook page on 14 September 2014. The image stylizes the logo of Disneyland, the world's most famous theme park franchise. The Disneyland inscription was changed to Auschwitzland, preserving the same font style; above it there is the drawing of the entrance to the extermination camp Auschwitz II. (Birkenau). The sign above the entrance reads: "*Promotional Summer Camp – Free for the "Un-tar-privileged"*<sup>11</sup> *and hook-nosed!*" Below the Auschwitzland sign, as a reference to Auschwitz, there is the following text: "*The greatest fairy tale camp of the world!*"

The Gyöngyös Police Headquarters informed the Foundation on 11 February that the investigation had been completed and the documents created were sent to the Gyöngyös District Prosecutor's Office.

*Investigation against B. J. stopped – the Foundation filed a complaint*

Hajdúböszörmény, Hajdú-Bihar County; Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

The Foundation filed a complaint in November 2014 for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against unknown offender.

The Hajdúböszörmény Police Headquarters in a decree issued 12 February 2015 decided to cease the investigation because the action is not a criminal act. On 12 July 2014, user B. J. shared a montage on his/her Facebook wall, referring to him/herself,

with the text: "*This person does not recognize Israel as a state and does not believe in the legend of the Holocaust!*" The police identified the offender who admitted, during the hearing, to have committed the criminal act he/she had been suspected to, therefore the investigation documents were sent to the Hajdúböszörmény District Prosecutor's Office, with the proposal to bring the suspect to justice. The prosecution observed the proposal, but B. J. claimed in court that he/she did not deny the Holocaust as such, only doubted some actions connected to it. B. J. exposed in the second hearing at the Police Headquarters that he/she believes in the Holocaust, but does not believe in the connected and unfounded "*confusing writings like legends*". The investigation established therefore that B. J. did not deny, doubt or trivialize the Holocaust as the genocide planned and directed by the German Nazi government and executed during WWII, therefore the facts were not understood.

The Foundation reported on 26 February that the grammatical analysis of the phrase "*the legend of the Holocaust*" reveals the following: the Holocaust is a genocide planned and directed by the German Nazi government and executed during WWII on German occupation territories. Doubting or denying its existence is punishable by criminal law. In the present context "*legend*" is used not in a literary, but in an everyday meaning, which emphasizes that the user implies the fabricated, embellished nature of the genocide committed by a 20th century totalitarian system.

Presenting the Holocaust as a legend, the offender distances the concept from the objective reality it denotes, and questions its existence. It must also be noted that the offender uses Holocaust as a proper noun, and “*legend*” in the singular, referring to the entire event, and not to “*unfounded confusing writings connected to it*”. The criminal act has already been committed by making public this grammatically unequivocal statement. It is not changed by the fact that during the trial the defendant attributed to it a sense contrary to its grammatical meaning.

*The TEV Foundation filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against unknown offender*

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 17 February, the Foundation filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against unknown offender at the Füzesabony Police Headquarters.

As antecedents of the case, the Foundation informed that it reported in July 2013 on the content of an article on kuruc.info entitled “*Letters of resignation, payment records, precise data handling – »unorthodox« documents from Auschwitz*”, as public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. The author of the text and the editor of the portal could not be identified, therefore the Budapest Prosecutor’s Office proposed to make the electronic content permanently inaccessible. The spokesman of the Budapest Court of Law, Dr. Péter Póta informed the public on 14 January 2015 on Kossuth Radio; the news was taken over by other major national media over the day, among which the index.hu as well. On 27 January 2015 the Népszabadság online published an interview with the President of the Board of TEV Foundation, on the

occasion of the above mentioned proceedings.

Facebook user V. P. shared on two occasions the kuruc.info article in comments to the posts published on index.hu on 14 January and on the Facebook profile of TEV Foundation on 27 January, this way distributing it electronically to a wide public, while being aware of its content denying the crimes of the Nazi regime. Sharing on Facebook on 25 January the index.hu article originally published on 14 January, he made the following comment: “*it should not be prohibited but REFUTED!!! Oh, so you can’t? Thanks!*” (literal translation). In the comments of the 27 January post he also shared kuruc.info contents and commented: “*here you are, filthy Jews!*”.

*The TEV Foundation filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against unknown offender*

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 17 February, the Foundation filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against unknown offender at Székesfehérvár Police Headquarters.

The kuruc.info portal published on 27 January 2015 the article “*An uncomfortable list: the children »immediately gassed as they arrived to Auschwitz« were very much alive at their »liberation«*”. Sz. I. made an embedded Facebook comment below the article on 27 January: “*This holocaust must not be denied, for everyone knows who reads this news portal that this is a holoscam and nothing more, this Auschwitz (sic) wasn’t a death camp but a collection camp from where people who were able to work were taken to various industrial plants, military plants and other places, so there was no gassing, a Jewish person said this, so they got paid for*

11 “Kátrányos helyzetű” - Untranslatable pun combining the term “hátrányos helyzetű” (underprivileged) and “kátrány” (tar).

*their work, and full subsistence, they were quite well off compared to the circumstances, and weren't harmed in any way. of course for the Zionist Jewish gang the truth is the biggest pain, and this is their biggest illness, they get billions as compensation just for these lies.*" (literal translation, original full of spelling mistakes).

On 7 January 1952, Hungary joined the international agreement for prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide signed 9 December 1948, which gained legal force by the promulgation of decree-law 16 of 1955. Article III of this decree defines the concept of genocide: it means the committing of one or more of the following actions with the purpose of partial or complete annihilation of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group as a whole: a) killing the members of the group; b) causing serious physical or psychological damage to members of the group; c) deliberately forcing such life conditions on the group which cause its partial or complete physical annihilation; d) taking measures with the purpose of hindering births within the group; e) forceful transfer of children from the group to other groups.

Sz. I. stated, on the one hand, that "*the holocaust [...]*

*is just a "holokamu" [holoscam].*" The word "*kamu*" (a scam, a fake) unambiguously refers to the Holocaust as a lie. On the other hand, he explained that Auschwitz was not a death camp but a labour camp where the inmates received payment and food for their work, they were not harmed, and there was no gassing. However, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was a collective name for the largest German extermination camp and a number of concentration camps, with 1.1-1.6 million victims. In the light of those above, the commenter publicly denied the crimes of the Nazi regime by denying the fact of genocide committed by the Nazi regime.

## 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.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Incident</i>	<i>Category</i>
1	1 February	Tibor Ágoston “speculates”	Hate crimes: hate speech
2	2, 16 February	Ongoing investigation in the case of Mihály Zoltán Orosz	Official cases of TEV Foundation
3	5 February	Investigation ordered in the case of K. I. I. – the case was moved	Official cases of TEV Foundation
4	7 February	Anti-fascist demonstration against breakout day	Other news
5	8 February	Counter-demonstration at the Horthy-commemoration	Other news
6	10 February	New and opinions on anti-Semitism in Hungary	News and opinions on anti-Semitism in Hungary
7	10 February	Gábor Vona: I have no responsibility	News and opinions on anti-Semitism in Hungary
8	10, 12 February	The Foundation filed a complaint in the case of Sz. Z. – the complaint was upheld	Official cases of TEV Foundation
9	11 February	Investigation completed in the case of B. Cs.	Official cases of TEV Foundation
10	12 February	Local government representative failed to honour József Schweitzer	Hate crimes: hate speech
11	12 February	Investigation against B. J. stopped – the Foundation filed a complaint	Official cases of TEV Foundation
12	13 February	László Benke asked to resign	Official and civil reactions
13	16 February	Előd Novák did not rise either	Hate crimes: hate speech
14	17 February	The TEV Foundation filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against unknown offender	Official cases of TEV Foundation
15	17 February	The TEV Foundation filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against unknown offender	Official cases of TEV Foundation
16	18 February	Hungary has a hard time fighting anti-Semitism	News and opinions on anti-Semitism in Hungary
17	18 February	Report by the Human Rights Watch	News and opinions on anti-Semitism in Hungary
18	19, 25 February	The conspiracy theory of a Hungarian Sheikh	Hate crimes: hate speech
19	20 February	József Pista’s desecration	Hate crimes: hate speech

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Incident</i>	<i>Category</i>
20	24 February	The first hearing in the case of Tibor Ágoston	Official and civil reactions
21	27 February	Another election poster was scribbled upon	Hate crimes: hate speech
22	–	Ad in the shop window of the National Tobacco Shop	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
23	–	Erika Ulics's anti-Semitic and racist posts	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
24	–	Scribbled football goalposts on Nehru riverbank	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
25	–	Sticker advertising the kuruc.info at a college	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
26	–	Questionable posts of Jobbik representatives	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents

## CONTACT AND SUPPORT



Action and Protection Foundation is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread anti-Semitic manifestations.

In case anyone faces insults or anti-Semitic 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) 510 00 00**

The website of Action and Protection Foundation:  
[www.tev.hu/forrodrot](http://www.tev.hu/forrodrot)

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

Action and Protection Foundation'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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The publisher wishes to thank Dr. András Kovács, sociologist, Professor at CEU, for all the encouragement and helpful advice.

The publishers express their gratitude for the self-sacrificing work of the volunteers who, under expert guidance, have put their continuous efforts into the preparation of this report over the past months.

Use of the Report or any part thereof requires written permission from the publisher and such use must properly cite this report as a reference.

2015 Budapest



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