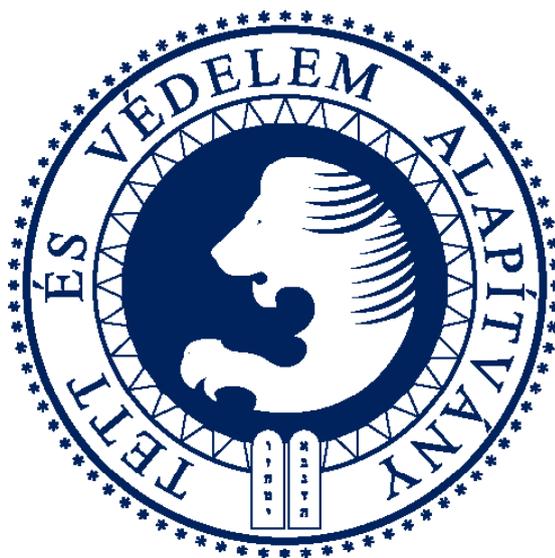


ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT



August 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.

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified seven incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during August monitoring. One incident was a threat: a rabbi was spat upon at Erzsébet Square. APF classified the other six incidents as hate speech: a publication written about the formation of “*Greater Israel*”; an anti-Semitic post by a teacher in Pestszenterzsébet; an individual pestered Tamás Ungvári (Hungarian writer) on the tram; Hungarian chess player Judit Polgár was called “*a Zionist Jew*”; anti-demonstrators were asked to go to Auschwitz at a commemoration on 20 August; refugees made harsh remarks at and used threatening non-verbal communication with a Jewish family at Keleti railway station. There were five other incidents that we did not include in our most recent statistics, because we do not know when those hate crimes happened. We have included these incidents in the section titled Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents. We also report on a number of events in connection with the Holocaust in Hungary, as well as a number of incidents related to anti-Semitism.

In August 2015, APF pressed charges for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime on two occasions: individuals posted comments on Facebook using the term “*holokamu*” (=Holohoax).

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 belittle the importance of such offences and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion it may be the case that in relation to one-off incidents¹ 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 effect 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 és McDevitt 1999, 92–93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19–21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17–18; Perry 2001, 10).

¹ See detailed definitions in the Methodology section.

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 beneficial². 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).

2 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)

METHODOLOGY



The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows³ (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 people⁴

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 sentence⁵ (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, arrowcross).

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 perpetrator, target, means or message of a case

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

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 period⁶ 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.⁷

⁶ These are described in the Methods section.

⁷ 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 wanton 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 selfdefense, 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.⁸ In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

⁸ 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

August 2015



Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified seven incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during August monitoring. APF classified one incident as a threat and the other six incidents as hate speech.

Threat

A rabbi was spat upon

Budapest, Erzsébet Square

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 31 August, a rabbi was relaxing on the grass with his wife and several children when suddenly a woman, aged between 22–26, spat on his head from behind and then ran away. The woman was with a man of similar age who, when questioned, denied being with her. The woman was also asked why she spat on the man, but she did not reply to the question and left with the man. With respect to Hasidic traditions, the rabbi was dressed in black and white and has a beard.

Hate speech

The formation of “Greater Israel”

Hungary

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

It was a citizen’s report that informed APF that on 3 August, an article titled »*The refugee-invasion is*

the preparation of Greater Israel« was published on Nemzeti InternetFigyelő (National Internet Observer). The named author is linked with Nemzeti Arcvonal⁹ (Hungarian National Front).

A theoretical map of “*Greater Israel*” may be found as an introduction to the publication. It includes Lebanon, a small part of Turkey at the eastern coast of the Mediterranean, more than half of Syria, approximately half of Iraq and the Sinai Peninsula which is under Egyptian administration. The southern boundary of “*Greater Israel*” is the horizontal line starting at the northern tip of the Gulf of Akaba, east of the Sinai Peninsula and ending at the northern tip of the Persian Gulf. As a result, most of Jordan, the northern parts of Saudi Arabia and a small part of Kuwait are parts of “*Greater Israel*”. A caption under the map said: “*Greater Israel, land of hatred towards human qualities, the future home of the Devil*”.

The author of the article states at the beginning that “*the stream of refugees is led from the background by Zionist powers. It is enough to look at human rights organizations being padded with Jewish experts who are providing invaders with money, food and clothing. They quote human rights but in the background, there are much darker plans to be achieved by a group of Jews and Freemasons.*” Then, a plan is presented, whose aim is to build a mighty Jewish empire. The first step of the plan was the formation of Israel.

⁹ The Hungarian National Front (Magyar Nemzeti Arcvonal, MNA) is one of the largest and most organized paramilitary hate groups in Hungary. It is in the forefront of Hungarian extremism and plays a crucial role in the paramilitary preparation of other Hungarian hate groups. (source: <http://www.athenainstitute.eu/en/map/olvas/20>)

The second step is the formation of “Greater Israel”, which is — according to the article — under way. The article says that it is not surprising that most refugees are from Syria, Egypt, and Iraq, which are going to be part of “Greater Israel”. *“These countries have relatively good economies and natural resources, such as oil. This is why the United States initiated war and made life impossible at these territories, at the request of Israel. Since Jews will have to live in the countries mentioned before, the current population has to be eliminated. [...] Those who do stay are eradicated by ISIS, the terrorist organization which is also led by the Jews (anti-Islam/anti-state) and which creates living space for the Jews.”* In Europe, *“liberalist human right defenders are continuously trying to make foreigners be accepted at the request of their Zionist leaders. [...] By this, they are weakening and destroying the native European race. They are producing senseless and countless creatures who are easy to be instructed and used as slaves by the prince of Jews.”* *“If Europe falls, it will be easy to set up jewish world empire [implement the third step]. This empire comes with the eradication of European people and the endorsement of the rules of chaos.”*

The end of the article can be considered an incitement to hatred against a community: *“We cannot let them do this! Europe’s men must take action against Jewish aspirations of world domination! We are going to enforce our wills that will restore order and chase away conquerors.”*

Anti-Semitic post from a teacher

Budapest

Source: !!444!!!

!!444!!! published an article on 25 August that collected the Facebook posts of a teacher from an elementary school in Pestszenterzsébet. According to the article, the teacher has taught at the school for over 20 years.

Besides posts inciting hatred against refugees arriving to Hungary and against Gypsies, the teacher also posted an anti-Semitic joke and a picture of Hitler on 15 August:

„Hitler turns to Jews:

- There will be a party at the furnace!
- Who’s playing?
- 100 fok Celsius!¹⁰”

Further information regarding the case are reported in the section titled Official and Civil Responses.

Found his humanity

Budapest

Source: Tamás Ungvári’s Facebook page

Writer, literary historian and literary translator Tamás Ungvári posted on his Facebook page on 18 August that he suffered no serious harm thanks to his clever answer. He was on his way to teach on tram No. 4 and 6 when a bold, muscular man with

10 Reference to Hungarian band called “100 folk Celsius” that was formed in 1976 and mainly plays country and bluegrass music. They have songs for both adults and children. (Source: <http://www.100folkcelsius.hu/>) – The joke made by the teacher is a pun as “100 degrees Celsius” in Hungarian is “100 fok Celsius”.

tattoos started to pester him. Fellow passengers stepped aside, he was left alone. Finally, he said to the man that “*Look, mate, I cannot hit back any more.*” The guy then turned around and got off at the next stop.

Did Judit Polgár deserve it or not?

Budapest

Source: !!444!!!

On 20 August, lyricist Tamás B Varga expressed his views about the distinction Judit Polgár¹¹ received from Magyar Szent István Rend¹² (Order of Saint Stephen of Hungary). The Facebook post read: “*JUDIT POLGÁR WAS INVESTED WITH THE ORDER OF SAINT STEPHEN [new line] And I wholeheartedly congratulate to her! [new line] (An award that was named after an anti-Hungarian, illegal, Habsburg fucking xenophile could not be granted to a more worthy person than a Zionist Jew)*” (verbatim quote)

It was a !!444!!! article that drew attention to the post. After the publication of the article on 20 August, Tamás B Varga posted an explanation on his Facebook page, sharing the reasons why he had posted such a text. The relevant part is: “*It would be silly from me to question Judit Polgár’s abilities to play chess. And the problem with her is not that*

she is Jewish. The problem is that she is a Zionist Jew. Which makes it impossible for her to keep, as a Hungarian, Hungarian interests above all. And so to receive any high rankings or national orders.”

Tensions at a commemoration in the 8th district

Budapest, Golgota Square

Source: Hír24, Magyar Narancs

The national celebration of 20 August in Budapest’s 8th district was held on Golgota Square where the mayor of the district, Máté Kocsis (Fidesz) gave a speech. Before the start of the event, representatives of the Gábor Szabó led Nincs Alku Párt (No Deal Party) gathered at Orczy Square, then they moved on to Golgota Square. There, about a dozen of “*bold, muscular, seemingly Fradi supporters who possibly work as voluntary security guards*” blocked their way.

According to Hír24, “*it was obvious that they followed previous instructions: they deliberately kept everyone outside*”. After a few minutes, those who were trapped outside and the “*guards*” started to shout at each other angrily, during which a man said to the anti-demonstrators: “*Go to Auschwitz instead!*”.

11 World-famous Hungarian chess grandmaster. She was No. 1 on the women’s world ranking list from 1989 until 2014 when she announced her retirement from competitive chess. She first won an international chess tournament in 1985. After having won the Olympic gold medal with the national women’s team for the second time, she competed only against men. In 1991, she became an international chess grandmaster. Among other awards, she was elected Woman Chess Player of the Century to acknowledge her results. She designed an educational program called »*Skill-building Chess*« that was integrated to the National Curriculum in Hungary in 2013 and it is also a subject available for elementary schools. In 2013, she was also awarded the order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary. (source: <http://www.juditpolgar.com/en/biography>)

12 It has been the highest order in Hungary since 2011. It recreated the Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephen, founded on 5 May 1764 by the empress Maria Theresa, and it is awarded for outstanding and special merits, lifetime achievements or considerable recognition in an international scene. (source: <http://www.keh.hu/kitunetesek/1514-Kitunetesek>)

Stares focused on a Jewish family

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

The Foundation was informed on 24 August that “*the other day*” a man, his wife and their 6-year-old son — the man and his son wore kippahs — were on their way home from the synagogue on Bethlen Square. They were walking through the underground of Keleti railway station where, at the time, refugees from the Middle East and Africa were lying on the ground. As the family was walking through the narrow path left free between the crowd of refugees, they had to endure harsh comments and threatening gestures, which left deep impressions on them.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS



APF identified five incidents of anti-Semitic hate crimes during August monitoring, which we did not include in our most recent statistics because we were unable to determine when the incidents occurred.

The Holocaust memorial in Nyíregyháza was damaged

Nyíregyháza, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County

Source: MTI

In the morning of 4 August, the Police Department of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County was informed that the Holocaust memorial in the park on Dob Street in Nyíregyháza was damaged. A graven marble tie was removed from the pedestal of the memorial and was left broken on the ground.

More information in the section titled Official and Civil Responses.

Revelation?

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 11 August, an APF volunteer took a photo of one of the ad posters on underground carriage No. 305 circulating on line M3. A caption was written on the forearm of the smiling man on the poster, which read: “*I am Jewish*”. A skull and some bones were also drawn next to the caption.¹³

Swastika on the underground

Budapest, Dózsa György Street

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 16 August, an APF volunteer took a photo of a swastika, which was scratched on the white surface of a wall at Dózsa György Street Underground Station (line M3)¹⁴.

Nazi symbol on stickers

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 18 August, an APF volunteer informed the Foundation that a shop on the 1st floor of Köki Treminál sells packs of body stickers that include a sticker of the symbol of Nazi Germany — the imperial eagle with a swastika, and another sticker of a separate swastika.



Sticker pack with the imperial eagle and swastikas, Source: Action and Protection Foundation

¹³ Due to poor quality image, the picture is not disclosed.

¹⁴ Due to poor quality image, the picture is not disclosed.

Commemorative plaque damaged

Budapest, Teleki Square

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 2 September, an APF volunteer informed the Foundation that a member of a group of 4–6 people damaged the commemorative plaque at the synagogue on Teleki Square at dawn on 31 August. The young man climbed up on the window bars next to the plaque, then stepped onto the plaque, which broke off under his weight.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES



No community news and responses pertaining to the subject of the report were identified during August monitoring.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES



Investigation launched

Nyíregyháza, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County

Source: MTI

We reported in the section titled Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents that the Holocaust memorial in Nyíregyháza was damaged. Press Officer for the Police Department of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Rita Fedor said to MTI on 4 August that the department launched an investigation into vandalism.

On 4 August, the Prime Minister's Office launched an official statement that said the Hungarian government deeply condemns the act of vandalism of the Holocaust memorial. They wrote that the Hungarian nation suffered much in the 20th century, and that *"it is the Hungarian government's and the citizens' duty and moral obligation to pay tribute to the innocent victims who were persecuted, disgraced, tortured and killed by totalitarian dictatorships and other oppressive regimes."* There are numerous memorials in the Carpathian basin that draw attention to the important events of the history of Hungary. Preserving these is a common social duty to which the Hungarian government gives priority, read the statement.

On 4 August, leader of the Jewish Community in Nyíregyháza, György Sárosi, said to M1 that he sincerely hopes that the case in question was *"only vandalism"* and there were no far-right or racist motives behind it — especially because there are several efforts made in Nyíregyháza today to show

more of *"real Jewish values"*. Mr Sárosi recalled that the memorial had been vandalized once before, but that was *"simply vandalism"*, the graffiti sprayed on the memorial did not include totalitarian symbols. He said that since it is the city of Nyíregyháza that owns and manages the memorial, it has to bear the costs of restoration, but the vandalism of a statue in a public space is *"a material and moral loss for all of us"*.

Charges for Jew-baiting

Budapest

Source: Index

We detailed in our May report that on 25 May, two men speaking Hebrew while waiting in front of Dunapark Restaurant and Café were called *"dirty Jews"* by a 63-year-old local man who then also told that *"it is a shame Hitler did not finish the job. If I had a gun, I would shoot you"*. Later the man repeated that *"I wish I had a gun to shoot every one of you"*. The elder of the two men waiting, an Israeli consul who is fluent in Hungarian, notified the police. According to information we received on 29 May, the BRFK's Crime Detention Department initiated proceedings against the perpetrator for reasonable suspicion on violence against a member of a community. The perpetrator has the right to defend himself on parole.

In an article dated 24 August, Index wrote that the Prosecutor's Office of Budapest District 5 and 8 indicted the 63-year-old man for violence against a member of a community. The act of violence

against a member of a community is a criminal offence in Hungary and punishable by up to three years of imprisonment.

KLIK also conducts an investigation

Budapest

Source: MTI, !!444!!!

We reported in the section titled Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents the case of the teacher who – among other posts — posted an anti-Semitic joke on Facebook.

In an article dated 25 August, !!444!!! wrote that they contacted the school where the teacher works, and learned that the teacher is employed by the Klebelsberg Intézményfenntartó Központ¹⁵ (Klebelsberg Public Sector Institutions, KLIK). The school called the teacher for the moderation of her Facebook comments. According to !!444!!!, the teacher did delete her most severe posts.

On 25 August, the State Secretariat for Public Education told MTI that they requested KLIK to launch an investigation into the teacher's Facebook posts. According to a statement released by the State Secretariat, if the allegations of !!444!!! with regards to the teacher's posts are correct, she cannot be employed by KLIK any more. KLIK excused the teacher from work for the course of the investigation. The State Secretariat finds it important that *“teachers have the required moral values, which they convey to both students and parents through education.”* They also added that they condemn all racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic

aggression towards ethnic or religious minorities, as well as any verbal or written incitement to such aggression.

Tibor Ágoston apologized

Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar County

Source: Dehir, Népszabadság

In January 2014, Jobbik local councilor Tibor Ágoston deliberately referred to the Holocaust as *“holokamu”* (=Holoohoax) and *“holokaszt”* (=Holocaste) in one of his speeches. On 26 March 2015, Debrecen District Court fined him HUF 750,000 in the first instance.

On 17 August, Népszabadság online wrote that region councilor of Debrecen, local president of Demokratikus Koalíció (Democratic Coalition, DK) Zoltán Varga submitted a draft decision so that the municipality would revoke Tibor Ágoston from the Cultural Committee, the Educational, Youth and Sports Committee and from the supervisory board of Debreceni Vagyonkezelő Zrt. which comprises local government companies.

We detailed in our July report that mayor of Debrecen, László Papp, requested Tibor Ágoston to make amends to the Jewish community and the citizens of Debrecen. On 28 August, Tibor Ágoston did apologize. His words were: *“In line with the decision of the [Debrecen] General Assembly, I would like to apologize to the Jewish Community in Debrecen for my unfortunate statement made at the commemoration last January.”*

¹⁵ In 2013, KLIK signed a contract with numerous Hungarian educational trade unions and undertook that they would practice employer's rights and employ those who work as public servants in public educational institutions under KLIK's administration. (source: <http://klik.gov.hu/dokumentumok>)

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY



Education is a good tool

Gyöngyös, Heves County

Source: MTI

On 26 August, at an opening of an exposition in the synagogue in Gyöngyös, which was part of the Jewish Cultural Festival, Israel's Ambassador to Hungary Ilan Mor said that through education, we could fight anti-Semitism, prejudice and different exclusionary views. He highlighted that

the exposition shows what kind of emotional relationship the Jewish community in Hungary has with Israel.

András Heisler expressed how terrible the growing anti-Semitism in Europe is, and that it could be fought against with education. *“Anti-Semitism has no objective source, anti-Semitism is a synonym of ignorance”*, he said.

OTHER NEWS



A memorial set up in Kamianets-Podilskyi (former name)

Budapest

Source: MTI

A memorial presenting a closed door of a railway carriage was set up in Kamianets-Podilskyi in Ukraine, and its ceremonial presentation took place on 27 August. On this day in 1941, in the western part of the Soviet Union under German occupation — officially called Kamianets-Podilskyi at the time — approximately 23,600 Jews, (mostly Hungarian Jews) were killed by German SS troops.

After the inauguration of the memorial, Deputy State Secretary for Priority Social Affairs Csaba Latorcai said to MTI that it is important, especially today, that when one takes a decision, he or she is aware of all its possible consequences. *“We found it important to erect a memorial for the victims on behalf of the Hungarian government, and by that we express our grief and solidarity to the relatives of victims. At the same time, the memorial will remind everyone that certain government officials’ decisions*

led to major tragedies at the time, tragedies for which the officials did not calculate. [...] The Deputy State Secretary also highlighted that it is our common duty to speak against and condemn genocides of any kind”, he said.

Chairman of the Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association, Péter Kirschner, said that a delegation of the association visited Kamianets-Podilskyi in 2013. Kirschner said, *“We were shocked by the fact that there was no memorial presenting the responsibility of the Hungarian government.” “We believe that even the smallest manifestations of hatred, persecution and stigmatization must be answered immediately, we cannot wait until these lead to catastrophic consequences.”*

Director General of the History Research Institute VERITAS Sándor Szakály highlighted that knowing and understanding the past is essential for everyone. This memorial warns us not to let such things happen to anyone anywhere in the world. *“Decision takers must always be aware of the consequences of their decisions”,* he added.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS



APF pressed charges for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 11 August, APF pressed charges at Esztergom Police Department¹⁶ for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime.

On 9 August, Facebook user N. J. commented on an article shared on Facebook by APF on 5 August. The article titled *“How to talk about the Holocaust?”* was written by the Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves. N. J.’s comment read: *“How to talk? In a way to go back to the hell where you came from! People had enough of your moaning, your bloodsucking, as well as your holohoax. You write about your fucking moral crap, but you have lived on compensation and indemnity for the last 50 years!”* (verbatim quote)

The charge’s justification claim was that the Holocaust is a genocide planned and directed by the German Nazi government and executed during World War II on German occupation territories with the purpose to exterminate the Jews. The reality of this genocide having taken place stands under protection of criminal law, the Holocaust is an unquestionable fact is written into law. Yet, the term *“holokamu”* (=holohoax) clearly denies it

is fact, and using this term publicly is a crime¹⁷, as *“holohoax”* is a compound word which is coined by the words *“Holocaust”* and *“hoax”*. The meaning of the term clearly refers to the Holocaust as if it was a made-up genocide carried out by the Nazi regime.

APF pressed charges for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 11 August, APF filed charges at Budapest 5th District Police Department¹⁸ for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime.

On 9 August, Facebook user R. T. commented on an article shared on Facebook by APF on 5 August. The article titled *“How to talk about the Holocaust?”* was written by the Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves. R. T.’s comment read: *“Don’t, because we are sick of the lot of holohoaxes — it is time you shut up and stopped bloodsucking, you should feed and support yourselves by working and not by stealing the fruits of other people’s labor – so if you want to live here then only do so according to the Doctrine of the Holy Crown???”* (verbatim quote)

The accusations were grounded in the same arguments as the previously discussed cases.

16 The private individual’s living location was Dömös (administratively that belongs to Esztergom) on their Facebook profile.

17 On 2 July 2014, Pest Central District Court made a final decision in the case of the car owner who had driven around for years with a *“Holokamu”* (=Holohoax) caption stuck on his or her vehicle. The sentence was one year imprisonment, suspended for two years.

18 The private individual’s living location was Budapest on their Facebook page.

In its 31 August decision, Budapest 5th District Police Department informed APF that the present accusations were joined with the charges APF pressed on 20 March 2015. Charges filed on 20 March were also for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime. On 16 March, APF published an article titled “Dismissal of Jobbik member desecrating the memory of the Chief Rabbi”, and posted it on its Facebook page as well. User M. T. wrote the following comment under APF’s Facebook post: “Where’s that *Holohoax* monument on the Danube shore? I’ve been looking for it for twenty years, but have

not found it... and I can’t imagine the Jews using pickaxes on the Danube... because the Danube was quite frozen then... clip clop? Karinthy guffaws in his grave... for he invented the whole story...” (verbatim quote) “There are no Hungarian Jews... there are either Jews, or Hungarians... I’ve got nothing to do with their invented humbug *Holohoax*... What kind of people lives on its own dead even after 60 years? and they kill Palestinian children after their *Holohoax*?” (verbatim quote). It is because of the term “*holohoax*” that appears in all three posts that the Police Department decided that the cases could and should be joined.

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	3 August	<i>The formation of "Greater Israel"</i>	Anti-Semitic hate incidents: Hate Speech
2	4 August	The Holocaust memorial in Nyíregyháza was damaged	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
3	4 August	Investigation launched	Official and civil responses
4	11 August	APF pressed charges for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
5	11, 31 August	APF pressed charges for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime	Action and Protection Foundation legal actions
6	15 August	Anti-Semitic post from a teacher	Anti-Semitic hate incidents: Hate Speech
7	17, 28 August	Tibor Ágoston apologized	Official and civil responses
8	18 August	Found his humanity	Anti-Semitic hate incidents: Hate Speech
9	20 August	Did Judit Polgár deserve it or not?	Anti-Semitic hate incidents: Hate Speech
10	20 August	Tensions at a commemoration in the 8th district	Anti-Semitic hate incidents: Hate Speech
11	24 August	Stares focused on a Jewish family	Anti-Semitic hate incidents: Hate Speech
12	24 August	Charges for Jew-baiting	Official and civil responses
13	25 August	KLIK also conducts an investigation	Official and civil responses
14	26 August	Education is a good tool	News and opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary
15	27 August	A memorial set up in Kamianets-Podilskyi (former name)	Other news
16	31 August	A rabbi was spat upon	Anti-Semitic hate incidents: Threat
17	31 August	Commemorative plaque damaged	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
18	–	Revelation?	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
19	–	Swastika on the underground	Further anti-Semitic hate incidents
20	–	Nazi symbol on stickers	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) 51 00 000

The website of Action and Protection Foundation:

www.tev.hu/forrodrot

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

[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:

13597539-12302010-00057157

Contact details for Action and Protection
Foundation

Address: Semmelweis utca 19, 1052 Budapest,
HUNGARY

Phone: +36 1 267 57 54

+36 30 207 5130

<http://www.tev.hu>

info@tev.hu

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Contributors and publisher information

Publisher: Brussels Institute Nonprofit Ltd.
Kálmán Szalai, Executive Director

Author: Dr. Ildikó Barna, sociologist, Associate Professor (Habil.) at ELTE TáTK, Department of Social Research Methodology

Editors: Dr. Kristóf Bodó, legal advocate,
legal representative of Action and Protection Foundation and the Brussels Institute
Dr. István Fekete, legal advocate, *legal representative of Brussels Institute*
Kata Majoros, Communications consultant
Melinda Minkó research scholar,
head of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Dr. Krisztina Szegő, lawyer
Julianna Görög, translator

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

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Action and Protection Foundation

Address: Semmelweis utca 19, 1052 Budapest

HUNGARY

Phone: +36 1 267 57 54

+36 30 207 5130

<http://www.tev.hu>

info@tev.hu