

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



December 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 two anti-Semitic hate crimes in December. The cases fall in the category of hate speech: the note about the Hanukkah festivity on the door of the prayer house on Teleki Square was torn; and the petition of Bálint Hóman Foundation contained the expression “*Zionist group born to kill*”. Two other cases were not included into the statistics either because the date of the event could not be established or the anti-Semitic intention is not clear. These cases were listed in the Other anti-Semitic hate crimes part. The report also tells of several events connected to the Holocaust or anti-Semitism in Hungary.

The TEV Foundation filed no complaint in December 2015. It submitted two petitions requesting Fejér County High Prosecution Office and the Pest County Government Office to act on the modification of the name of Bálint Hóman Cultural Foundation and the Bálint Hóman Street in Vác.

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

December 2015



The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified two anti-Semitic hate crimes in December. Both fall in the category of hate speech.

Hate speech

Torn note

Teleki Square, Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

Our October report informed that some of the residents of the building on Teleki Square which houses a prayer house disapproved of the gatherings and/or offended the Jews who gathered there. This happened on several occasions during Jewish feasts.

On 8 December, a member of the community told the Foundation that on the same morning they found that one of the notes regarding the event had been torn down. The notes were posted because of the events listed in the October report.

Employees of TEV Foundation took part at the Hanukkah celebrations, but there was no incident.

Petition of Bálint Hóman Foundation

Székesfehérvár, Fejér County

Source: Facebook profile of Bálint Hóman Foundation

On 17 December, the Bálint Hóman Foundation said in a petition to the Székesfehérvár Local Government that they would not erect the statue of Bálint Hóman. The letter praised the work of Bálint Hóman: “*Our Foundation did not take on the*

name of Bálint Hóman by chance. Our remaining national pride after WWI was crushed by a small Zionist group born to kill, and simply left them alone. Then even the country’s left in the contemporary sense could not accept it and faced the filth of Trianon with confusion. Bálint Hóman had awakened a nation historically humiliated and touselled with his identity and research, and had taught it to think as a nation with the elaboration of his education system.” They added: “*It is our strong conviction that Bálint Hóman’s memory must evolve in a statue in our coronation city. We also take notice of the Mayor’s request to keep our city calm, economically stable, and do not permit that the citizens of Fehérvár be blamed with unjust accusations. It is our conviction that Bálint Hóman would deem important even today every citizen of the historical capital he represented and if he could, he would personally stop the erection of the Hóman-statue.”*

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS



The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified two other cases which were not included into the statistics either because the date of the event could not be established or the anti-Semitic intention is not clear.

The rapper's worldview

Budapest

Source: !!444!!!

The !!444!!! reported in a 2 December article about the interview volume entitled »*Mr. Busta – You're writing your own fate*«, which discussed the worldview and philosophy of rap singer Mr. Busta. The interview was made by Gergely Horváth. On page 86 there is the following dialogue:

Mr. Busta: [...] Master Pie too, they are all famous rappers and businessmen.

Gergely Horváth: Jay Z too.

Mr. Busta: Well, that's a different story.

Gergely Horváth: In what way?

Mr. Busta: He is an Illuminati. I am against the Illuminati, I'm really into this devil-god thing.

Gergely Horváth: How?

Mr. Busta: There're some really serious foreign performers, and the world driving forces, with the eye of Horus and them. I think they represent Evil. I don't want to go into this politically, but... the Wall Street

controls the world. There are six or seven Hungarians among the 12 most influential Jewish businessmen. There are videos about it etc. etc. It's a clear thing, they're laundering their money through the greatest performers. I could have said Rihanna too.

Gergely Horváth: You mean she's in it too?

Mr. Busta: This is a permanent topic out there in America, so Tupac and Eazy-E didn't die just by chance. The thing here is that I don't want to draw any parallels. But my fans do."

Roma Holocaust memorial on Nehru riverbank damaged

Budapest, Nehru riverbank

Source: Romnet

The Phiren Amenca international Roma youth organization reported to Romnet on 5 December that the Roma Holocaust memorial on the Nehru riverbank in Budapest was damaged and defaced.

On one side of the memorial a gallows with a hanged man was drawn, with the text next to it running: "George Soros the rat", and another one under the hanged man reading: "Dick sucker". One corner of the granite monument was also broken, pieces are missing at the joints and signs of blows are also visible.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES



First Hanukkah candle lit

Budapest, Nyugati Square

Source: MTI

The first Hanukkah candle on Nyugati Square was lit on 6 December. Slomó Köves, Chief Rabbi of EMIH Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation, said: this feast teaches us that the fight itself, even if it is true, is not enough for admiration. Admiration and miracle *“needs light”*: for this, value must be created. There are many discontented people living in Hungary, who always fight against something, but *“we must learn that it is not enough to just fight against something, but we must create value.”* We, Hungarian Jews, must also keep in mind that it is not enough to just fight for *“our freedom”*, our *“pure remembrance”*, or against anti-Semitism, but we

must create value. *“We can be sure that if we light a flame, then the good God will light seven more. If we create value, the miracle will not fall short”*, said Slomó Köves.

Csaba Latorcai, deputy state secretary for special social cases of the Prime Minister’s Office, said in his speech that: Hungary was given a possibility twenty-five years ago to take her fate in her own hands, support and help the cultural and social elevation of the people living here. The Hungarian Jewish community has also taken its fate into its hands. *“Our Jewish brothers can now freely experience their confession, their faith. The Hungarian government has always given and continues to give all assistance for it in the future.”*, he said.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES



Huszár personally apologized

Budapest

Source: Népszabadság

We reported in November that Gábor Huszár, Mayor of Szentgotthárd, said on a committee meeting: *“Everybody accept that much from me, that what happened in Paris is a clear proof that certain business circles, and I speak it out, backed in all probability by the Jewish state, wants to incite the Christian Europe against the Islam, so the establishment of this camp has nothing to do with the events in Paris...”*

Fidesz has not really shown interest in the case. They think Gábor Huszár expressed his personal opinion.

On 8 December Gábor Huszár paid a visit to Ilan Mor, Ambassador of Israel in Hungary, and apologized for his statement. The Népszabadság reports that the Ambassador accepted the apology and considers the case closed.

Perhaps it is more visible now

Budakeszi, Pest County

Source: TEV Foundation

We reported in March that there are two swastikas on the door of the second floor men’s toilet of István Széchenyi Elementary School in Budakeszi, a smaller one that got there in March, and a larger one at an unknown time.

On 17 December, a volunteer of TEV Foundation reported that the two swastikas had been scraped off the toilet door, but this way they are perhaps even more visible. The photo below shows the outlines of the larger, almost one meter high swastika. The brown spot in the top right corner of the photo is the place of the smaller swastika.



The toilet door in December, *Source: TEV*

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY



There were no news and opinions on anti-Semitism in Hungary identified in December.

OTHER NEWS



The Hóman-Statue

Budapest

Source: MTI, website of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Facebook profile of Bálint Hóman Foundation, Népszabadság

Our previous reports presented the protests against the erection of the Hóman-statue. Below, we report the events taking place in December.

On 1 December, the online version of Népszabadság reported that the Eleven Emlékmű movement and the SzabadságSzínpad addressed a letter to András Cser-Palkovics, Mayor of Székesfehérvár, saying: *“We, Hungarian citizens concerned about the revival of honest national memory, symbolically occupied the place where the local government wants to erect at the end of December 2015 the statue of Bálint Hóman, seriously responsible for the exclusionist laws of the Horthy-regime.”* They also organized a quiet protest for 7 December. On 29 November, they erected the shadow image of the planned statue, asking the city officials to consider the installation a manifestation of tribute, a free expression of opinion and not have it removed.

On 2 December, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ranking Member of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly, said: *“I am deeply distressed that the Hungarian Government, even during their year-*

long chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, continues to shamelessly whitewash history.” Ben Cardin urged Hungary *“to end the rehabilitation of anti-Semitic figures and to disavow efforts to honor members of the murderous wartime regime.”*

Ronald S. Lauder, President of World Jewish Congress, urged Hungary in a statement on 3 December to stop the inauguration of the Hóman-statue. The statement said that the life-size, bronze statue of Bálint Hóman was to be inaugurated at Székesfehérvár by a private foundation, and for its most part financially supported by the Hungarian Government. *“It is quite alarming that the Hungarian tax payer must pay for the monument of a man who not only was an anti-Semite and a key figure of the prosecution of Jews before and during the Second World War, a supporter of the Nazi Germany and in 1944 of the Fascist Arrow-Cross regime, but never regretted his sins in his whole life”,* Lauder said. The statue is *“an offense for the many Hungarian victims of the Holocaust”,* therefore he urged the Hungarian government to withdraw its contribution to the statue. *“Today I urge Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to intervene in the matter and make sure that this statue will not be built on public funds. If this fails, Hungary would send a wrong message about how such delicate cases like the Holocaust should be treated”,* he added.

Co-chairs of the U.S. House Bipartisan Taskforce for Combatting Anti-Semitism protested in a letter to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán against the erection of the Hóman Bálint monument,

informed the New-York based Jewish Telegraphical Agency (JTA) on 6 December (local time). The organization launched on 24 March 2015 expressed its *“deep concern”*, stating that Hóman *“spearheaded Hungary’s anti-Jewish legislation and paved the way for deportations of and atrocities against Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust.”* The members wrote: *“We urge you to publicly condemn Hóman’s role in the persecution and deportation of innocent Hungarians and to withdraw government funding for the construction of this or any statue in his honor.”* The letter was signed by the co-chairs of the organization: four democrats and four republicans.

In a common statement dated 8 December, Maximilian Teleki, President of Hungarian American Coalition and Katrina Lantos Swett, President of Lantos Foundation, protested against the planned erection of Hóman Bálint’s statue in Székesfehérvár. *“As proud Hungarian-Americans and as longtime activists in the fight against rising anti-Semitism, we are calling on the Hungarian government to forcefully and unequivocally oppose the plans to erect a statue of Bálint Hóman”*, they wrote. Teleki and Lantos Swett said they share the *“outrage expressed by many organizations and citizens of conscience”*, who raised their voice against the statue. They called on the Hungarian government *“to make it absolutely clear, in word and deed, that they oppose this monument and any efforts to rehabilitate or whitewash the terrible legacy of Bálint Hóman.”* They stressed that it would not be sufficient for the government to claim it is *“a matter of local concern and control.”*

János Lázár, Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office, said at a press conference on 10 December, answering the question of Népszabadság: the Bálint Hóman statue is finished, the government cannot change the support granted by the Ministry

of Justice, but the government ponders the matter. For the question what it means that the government ponders the matter of erecting the statue, János Lázár said that Hungary is a democratic state with freedom of opinion, the decision about the statue was made at the local government of Székesfehérvár. The Prime Minister and the Government received many letters about this matter, they will answer these and then *“the Government ponders”*, the Minister repeated.

In a press release on 11 December, András Cser-Palkovics (Fidesz), Mayor of Székesfehérvár, said that the local government, *“keeping in mind the interests of the country and the town”*, asks the Hóman Bálint Foundation to rethink the matter of the statue. Cser-Palkovics added: the statue was initiated and commissioned by a non-governmental organization, which is now entitled to freely decide the fate of the statue. *“If the Bálint Hóman Foundation decides to still erect the planned monument – to which it is entitled in a democracy – then we ask it in the name of the local government of Székesfehérvár to pay back the public funds granted by the Hungarian state and the local government – as permitted by its financial possibilities – and thus exempt the town and the country from undeserved attacks”* – he said. András Cser-Palkovics noted that they continue to condemn Bálint Hóman’s *“national political activity, his role in the Second World War”*, but they acknowledge his *“town building activity, having its effects even today, as a result of which schools and cultural institutions were built and industrial establishments still working today were founded.”* The Mayor also said there would surely be people who considered his statement a back off, or might think that they gave in to blackmail. *“I think that the only way to defend the citizens of Fehérvár, their jobs and their town considered our common home from various forms*

of pressure is to ask the NGO erecting the statue to reconsider their intention.”, he said, and added: in the past days, Székesfehérvár had been the target of a series of undeserved attacks from Budapest and abroad. The Mayor said it was contemptible and appalling to apply any form of pressure on the town, because “it is incompatible with a society that hails the freedom of opinion and self-determination of citizens.” He rejected the negative qualification of the inhabitants, that “a hundred thousand people of Székesfehérvár were called vicious and stupid”. He said it was unacceptable that some people, guided solely by their political interests, and pretending to be tolerant, “try to import the culture of hatred and confrontation” to Székesfehérvár. He stressed: they had never and would never give way to any anti-Semitic or extremist views and always took firm action against these. Cser-Palkovics reminded that the citizens had the organization had contacted the local government years before about the statue, but the city officials said then that as long as Bálint Hóman was not rehabilitated from the charges brought against him because of his WWII activity, they would not discuss this subject. In March 2015 the Budapest Court posthumously absolved Hóman in a legally binding decision, after which the Bálint Hóman Foundation claimed there was no legal impediment, they already have the financial support of the Ministry, and they asked for the local government’s approval to erect the statue. The general assembly of the city acknowledged the erection of the statue and offered a support of two million Forints for the foundation works and the rearrangement of the neighboring public spaces. The Mayor also added: history is never black or white, historical figures are never exclusively good or evil. He thought that history must be evaluated and talked about: “let us speak about the evil, the sin, and condemn it, but present the values.”

On 11 December, the TEV Foundation issued a statement in which it approves of the statue erection being canceled, and urges András Cser-Palkovics, Mayor of Székesfehérvár, to lead the way for the whole country with an exemplary decision and authorize the memorial plaque intended by the EMIH. The Foundation said: “the statue that was to erected for Bálint Hóman was one of the most dangerous attempts which was prevented in the last minute by sensible politicians.”



The memorial plaque proposed by the TEV Foundation, Source: TEV

Judit Földi, President of the local organization of the Democratic Coalition (DK), reported on 11 December that the party considered to be its personal success as well as that of the citizens of Székesfehérvár that the city revoked any financial support from the statue, in reference to the statement of András Cser-Palkovics. She added that they trusted that the plan of the statue would be officially withdrawn on the 18 December general assembly.

The Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (MAZSIHISZ) greeted the changed standpoint of the Székesfehérvár local government in the Hóman-case in a statement on 11 December. They stressed: the plan has not been officially given up yet, and the Mayor's statement was not a unequivocal rejection of the statue.

On 13 December, several hundreds of people gathered for the irregular Hanukkah festivities organized on Béla Bartók Square in Székesfehérvár, to protest against the statue planned to be erected on that square. András Heisler, President of MAZSIHISZ, said: no politician who openly held on to Nazi views, who was openly racist and anti-Semitic could ever be given a statue in our country. He explained: the lighting of the candles and the clear message means that they do not want statues of anti-Semitic, Nazi politicians, no doublespeak on the Holocaust and on genocide, nor incitement to, or enduring of hatred. After the lighting of the candles, the Ambassador of Israel in Hungary also took a position against the erection of the statue. Ilan More said that Jews and non-Jews should be united in *"rejecting fascism, anti-Semitism, and every terrible idea"*, and *"support the Hungarian government in the zero tolerance against anti-Semitism."*

On 15 December, Gábor Kováts, President of the Board of Bálint Hóman Foundation, said on a press conference in Székesfehérvár that they do not give up the erection of the statue of Bálint Hóman, but they postpone the decision regarding its festive inauguration. Kováts said that the Foundation *"cannot give up"* the festive inauguration of the statue. Székesfehérvár and the town's Mayor have to face attacks and serious threats which are irreconcilable with Bálint Hóman's ambitious nation- and town-

building activity. The Foundation rejects the accusations and *"in order to defend the attacked"*, it postpones the decision regarding the inauguration planned for 29 December. Gábor Kováts announced that the Bálint Hóman Foundation organizes a campaign of public contributions for refunding the financial support received from the local and national government.

Judit Földi (President of the Székesfehérvár organization of DK), who protested with some other people after the press conference, said: they were sorry to see that the Foundation does not withdraw from erecting the statue, so they will form a human chain in protest. They claim that an anti-Semite does not deserve to be erected a statue, and although *"what he did for Székesfehérvár is indisputable"*, the two cases cannot be treated separately, she said.

Roland Márton, deputy president of MSZP also present at the events, said: *"the Foundation is a supporting actor in the story"*, it is the responsibility of the town leaders and the government to decide what statues to be erected in public space. In reference to the statements of the past days, he trusts that, *"just like the government"*, at the next general assembly the town will also come to the decision that the statue cannot be erected on public space.

After the press conference, András Cser-Palkovics, Mayor of Székesfehérvár wrote in his statement sent to MTI: based on the claims of the Foundation, he thinks that the organization is ready to consider whether or not to erect the statue in the given situation. He asked the members to take into account the effect of their decision on the opinion about Hungary and Székesfehérvár. The Mayor

thanked the Foundation for accepting the request to repay the public funds received from the state and the local government.

The TEV Foundation reported on 15 December that it would turn to the Prosecutor's Office responsible for the legal supervision of foundations, and the Pest County Governmental Office responsible for the legal supervision of Pest County local governments, because no foundation or public space can be named in Hungary after any person who had taken an active part in the operation, construction or support of any of the subsequent dictatorial regimes of 20th century Europe. The petitions are reported in the Official Cases of TEV Foundation part.

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán answered questions in the Parliament on 15 December. Ágnes Kunhalmi (MSZP) asked whether the Prime Minister would openly support the erection of a statue for Bálint Hóman, Minister of Education and Religion of the Horthy-regime. The Foundation still wants to raise the statue, for which they received ministerial support – she added. Viktor Orbán answered: constitutionally, it is not possible to support the erection of a statue for a political leader in power at a time when Hungary lost its sovereignty. The government cannot support the statue of a politician who cooperated with the oppressors, Orbán Viktor said. He also mentioned that for this reason he will not support any statue raised for Miklós Horthy. He added that the Constitution gives the right for citizens to found organizations and the Prime Minister cannot remove this right. He also said that he would not like to divert responsibility, but the NGO's request for support did not reach to the highest levels of decision making. He pointed out that he is responsible politically for the operation of the government,

therefore the responsibility for the financial support granted to the organization is his. He said he was pleased that the organization decided to refund the money. He also stated that *“we feel that the fight against anti-Semitism is largely compromised by the fact that it is systematically led by representatives of a successor party of another dictatorship.”* This is a problem – he went on – because on such occasions people will go about listing the statues erected for persons serving the communist dictatorship, and instead of speaking reasonably about anti-Semitism related problems, they instantly go astray.

In a 15 December article, Népszabadság reported that archaeologist Gyula Fülöp, former head of Fejér County Museum, President of the Board of Trustees of Arnold Marosi Foundation, said: the erection of the Hóman-statue was not initiated by a civil contract, but by László L. Simon, born in Székesfehérvár, currently cultural state secretary of the Prime Minister's Office. László L. Simon originally turned to the Arnold Marosi Foundation with the idea of the Hóman-statue. When Gyula Fülöp rejected him, he then turned to the Bálint Hóman Foundation. The Office of Press Relations of the State Secretary's Office did not disprove the information, and only answered that *“Prime Minister Viktor Orbán gave all information about the case today in the Parliament.”*

The Democratic Coalition (DK), in a press conference on 16 December, said that in their opinion Prime Minister Viktor Orbán lied to Ágnes Kunhalmi when he said, in reply to Kunhalmi's question, that he did not support the Hóman Bálint-statue. Zsolt Gréczy said that on 26 May the Prime Minister personally campaigned for a statue in the memory of Bálint Hóman and hoped for the rehabilitation of anti-Semitism and racism. After that Judit Földi, President and local representative

of the Székesfehérvár organization of the DK, said that even if the Fidesz ministers are pointing fingers at each other, or Mayor András Cser-Palkovics is pointing fingers at the civil organizations, no statue can be erected on the public space without permission from the local government. The town does have a valid decision suggestion that the statue may be erected on 29 December – she added. She also stressed that the local left submitted a decision suggestion that the case be debated on the following session of the local government and the permission be withdrawn. The politician mentioned that the territory where the statue should be erected was closed down before, but it was restored to its original state by the morning of December. This supposedly means that the statue will not be erected there, but the permission to do so is still valid.

In a 16 December report, Ronald S. Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), saluted Viktor Orbán's standpoint that he does not support the Hóman-statue to be built with the taxpayer money. *"Prime Minister Orbán's clear statement on this matter comes very late, but it is nonetheless welcome. I thank him for making the standpoint of the Hungarian government very clear: No honors must be given to those who prepared the ground for the mass murder of 600,000 Hungarian Jews by Nazi Germany in 1944."*, he declared. *"It would have been a travesty if the taxpayer, including more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews, would have had to contribute toward a statue for a man who not only hated Jews, but who helped actively in their persecution"*, Lauder said, and added that the statue *"is an affront to the many Hungarian victims of the Holocaust."* He was also pleased about Viktor Orbán's announcement that he would not support any statue for Miklós Horthy as well due to the above reasons. At the same time, he thanked the US Government and especially Ira Forman: *"Ira*

Forman was in Hungary in the past few days, and he spoke out against the statue very clearly. I want to thank him, as well as Secretary of State John Kerry, for raising this issue with the Hungarian authorities. Clearly, their efforts have paid off," Lauder said.

On 16 December the Democratic Coalition (DK), the MSZP and the Együtt addressed together a letter to the Mayor of Vác, Attila Fördős, calling on him to *"hear the voice of the times and change the name of the Hóman Bálint Street in Vác. Just like nowhere else in the country, in Vác as well as in Székesfehérvár, no public space can be named after an anti-Semite politician."* *"We call on Attila Fördős [...] to initiate the name change of Hóman Bálint Street if possible even at the following general assembly."*

On 17 December, Népszabadság published an interview with Ira Forman, US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. Ira Forman said that the three-member delegation of the US Department of State (the other members: Robert Berschinski Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and Nicholas Dean, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues) had the duty to get information about the Hóman-statue, and exposed that *"Being aware, of course, that this decision must be made by the Hungarians, we wanted to say – as friend to a friend – that it would be a mistake to raise that statue."*

In a petition to the local government of Székesfehérvár submitted on 17 December, the Bálint Hóman Foundation gave up its intention to build the statue: *"The Bálint Hóman Foundation – although being aware that there are no legal obstacles – withdraws from the erection and inauguration of the Hóman-statue on 29 December 2015. At the same time the Foundation states that it will keep the commemorations on 29 December for the remarkable person, Bálint Hóman, born 130 years ago."*

On 18 December the general assembly of Székesfehérvár acknowledged the decision of the Bálint Hóman Foundation and repealed the decision from June, which meant the withdrawal of the two million forints of local government funding and the support of the building of the statue. Mayor András Cser-Palkovics (Fidesz) said that in a legal sense the Foundation was the initiator of the statue, but the decision belongs to the general assembly. *“I am convinced that, if the Bálint Hóman conferences held at Székesfehérvár had had enough publicity and the counter-arguments could have also appeared, the entire process would have been different”* – he said, and added: the general assembly drew the conclusions. András Cser-Palkovics declared before the decision was made: the town wants public peace and the case to be closed. He said he was pleased that the foundation listened to the town’s request, and the case can thus be closed. Ágnes Horváth-Tancsa (Jobbik) said that the foundation loves the town, and wanted to commemorate a man who also loved the town. She thought that the foundation’s withdrawal is honorable, and added that the statue erection is a *“scandal”* generated in the past 2-3 weeks. Roland Márton (MSZP) reminded that they called the attention already at the decision of the general assembly in June that the statue would disturb the public peace. He was content that the protests were successful, and said he trusted that the local leaders would respect the decision in the future as well. Sándor But (Együtt) declared that the statue is divisive, and does not urge for cooperation. He thinks the statue should be withdrawn not because the decision of a foundation was withdrawn but as a common decision in the interest of the town and the country.

After the general assembly, Gábor Kovács, President of the Board of Trustees of the Bálint Hóman

Foundation made a press release in which he said that the enemies of the statue and of Bálint Hóman had won that day, but the victory is not theirs. He declared that Székesfehérvár made a *“miserable, but expected”* decision on 18 December. He said that the Bálint Hóman Cultural Foundation is trusted by the family, the town leadership, the citizens of Székesfehérvár, local and non-local organizations, and supporters outside the borders. He added: the Foundation does not forfeit this trust and does not expose the name and work of this politician, his results in Székesfehérvár, to vicious attacks based on data not yet elucidated by history.

The Democratic Coalition (DK) greeted the decision of the Székesfehérvár General Assembly not to erect a statue for Bálint Hóman – said Judit Ráczné Földi, President of the local organization of the party on the press conference of 18 December. She thought this decision is only a partial success because the general assembly acknowledged the decision because of the withdrawal of the foundation, and it was not made willingly by the local government. She said it was essential that, with the failure of the statue erection, no room was left for anti-Semitism. Földi also said that the role of László L. Simon in the case is unquestionable, therefore he must take the political responsibility for it and he may even have to resign his position as secretary of state.

The Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (MAZSIHISZ) was relieved that the local government of Székesfehérvár changed its decision regarding the erection of the Hóman-statue – the organization reported to the MTI on Friday. The MAZSIHISZ hoped that *“the further public rehabilitation of the notorious politician will once and for all be removed from the agenda.”* The federation thanked *“all those who acknowledge their opinion*

and advocate the honor of our country, and openly reject the ideology represented by Bálint Hóman's political role in the history of Hungary.”

Dóra Dúró, Jobbik-member President of the Cultural and Educational Parliamentary Committee, sent her report to the MTI on 18 December, saying that it was unclear why the Fidesz politicians suddenly changed their opinion on Bálint Hóman. The Jobbik claims that the debate about the Hóman-statue is a derogatory “hysteria based on lies”. Bálint Hóman was a constructive Minister of Culture for Hungary, and followed Kunó Klebelsberg in office, whose work is now generally acknowledged by all parties. *“Based on the reflex of the Fidesz and the MSZP to find anti-Semitism everywhere, he [Kunó Klebelsberg] shouldn't have a statue either, for Klebelsberg himself was reluctant to »have thousands of Jewish university students brought again on the nation's shoulders« - Dóra Dúró said. Although Mayor András Cser-Palkovics raised his voice against calling the people of Székesfehérvár vicious and blunt, Dóra Dúró thought that it was him and the local government that acted that way: first they supported the statue, then they rejected it. She recalled that the Székesfehérvár General Assembly supported the statue in a decision, and the Bálint Hóman Foundation received two million forints from the local government and fifteen million forints from the Ministry of Justice as funding. The Jobbik politician was curious why the Fidesz politicians changed their mind. What new information did they find out about Hóman? – she asked, and added: “Clearly none, but the Embassies of the USA, Israel and Germany began to be intensely »interested« in the case.” She finished the report by saying: “The Jobbik thinks that the Fidesz has stepped out many times from behind the initiative that many of its voters considered their own. The leftist liberal side is traditionally not interested in the truth: they*

just want to march with torches and criticize the Nazis. This way eventually the entire Bálint Hóman-statue case had only one dignified character left: Bálint Hóman.”

Ex-MDF and ex-Fidesz Parliament representative István Varga, lawyer, filed a lawsuit on January against the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) for the posthumous restoration of Bálint Hóman's Academy membership. He declared his intention at the 29 December commemoration and “spiritual statue” inauguration at Székesfehérvár, on the occasion of 130 years since the death of the politician. On the event organized by the foundation named after the late historian and Minister of Education and Religion of the Horthy-regime, in front of 70-80 people, István Varga reminded them that after his request of retrial, on 6 March 2015 the Hungarian court of law absolved Hóman of the charge of war crimes. As he said, Bálint Hóman as a scholar was excluded from the Academy after the illegal modification of the Statutes of the MTA.

Foreign media also published articles on the Hóman-statue.

On 7 December, the online edition of the French leftist liberal Le Monde published a report on the polemics about the planned statue for Hóman with the title *»A statue for an anti-Semite intellectual«*. The article said that while Hungary seems very thorough in dealing with the Stalinist regime, it is very indulgent with those who collaborated with Hitler's Germany and supported its anti-Semite politics. A sign of this is that they plan to raise a statue for Bálint Hóman on the 130th anniversary of his birth. The historian is mainly remembered as a fierce intellectual of the persecution of Jews, the newspaper stressed. The Székesfehérvár

local government endorsed the erection of the statue, which was criticized by some government members, but the inauguration of the statue at the end of December is still planned. The paper claims that this episode annuls the Orbán government's ambition to recognize the responsibility of the Hungarian state in the deportation of the Jews. Although János Lázár had various initiatives to calm the highly critical Jewish organizations that feared that the Horthy-regime would be exempt from historical responsibility, the Hóman-statue will not improve either the atmosphere or the image of Hungary, the *Le Monde* wrote.

On 13 December Andrew Bryne, the Financial Times correspondent from Hungary published an analysis of the debates surrounding the planned statue. According to the online edition of the English daily economic newspaper, admirers of Bálint Hóman would like to commemorate him as a well-educated politician, who studied the history of migration of the Hungarian tribes in the Carpathian basin. They are less enthusiastic, however, when Hóman's role is mentioned with respect to developing the notorious Jewish laws, and also the deportation and killing of more than 500 thousand Hungarian Jews, despite the fact that these biographical facts stand in the focus of the debate – the author writes. The case stirs fear with respect to the resurgent anti-Semitism, in a country where, according to the Medián Public Opinion and Market Research Institute,⁹ 25% of the population share anti-Semitic views, 10% more than in 2009 – the Financial Times says. Such intolerance is unusually high in Middle and Eastern Europe; nevertheless, Hungarian anti-Semitism

has spread noticeably in political speech and online media – András Kovács, professor of the Central European University said to Financial Times.

Man captured by TEK possibly member of Hungarian National Front

Budapest

Source: MTI, Origo

On 24 November, János Hajdu, Director General of TEK (Counter Terrorism Centre) said that on the previous weekend TEK had captured two groups who had weapons and munitions on them. He said that the two cases were not connected, the first happened on 20 November, when two people were caught with rifles in a car, in the latter case four people were detained on 21 November. The people detained on 21 November were later released.

In an article dated 3 December, Origo made public that one of the two men arrested on 20 November could be identified. Because of personality rights his name was not made public, but the 60-year old man, coming from District IX, was connected, according to information found on the internet, to the Hungarian National Front, which is a nationalistic and paramilitary organization, and using the pseudonym „gyuszuSS” published a series of anti-Semitic writings and made anti-Semitic remarks in his comments. For example: *“Is it (also) Viktor Orbán's racial interest or – even – that of his mandators to have his people of the same race kill us, and offer them the best possible conditions for it? I repeat: All responsibly is his and his gang's, and they must be made responsible when the reckoning begins.”*

9 The analyses carried out by the Medián Public Opinion and Market Research Institute, at the request of the TEV Foundation, are available at: <http://tev.hu/kutatasok>

Effect of the Hóman debate

Tata, Komárom-Esztergom County

Source: Villámnarancs blog

The Villámnarancs blog of Magyar Narancs reported on 5 December that some individuals, taking advantage of the Hóman-debate, had vandalized the Hóman memorial plaque inaugurated in Tata in 2001, sticking a new inscription on it. The original memorial plaque bears the inscription: *“This coin honors the most artistic interpreter, Dr. Bálint Hóman 1885-1951, Minister of Culture, Director General of the Hungarian National Museum, President of The Hungarian Numismatic Society [placed by]: Coin Collectors from Tata, Bálint Hóman Numismatic Summer School, Tata 2001.”* The new memorial plaque reads: *“Task for your coin – my blood on your coin, In the memory of Dr. Bálint Hóman-Stróman 1885-1951, Apostle of Hungarian anti-Semitism, Parliament Representative of the Arrow Cross Party, [placed by:] The distinguished coin collector of the Hungarian Jews sent to death by him and his companions.”*



The old and the new Hóman memory plaque, Source: *kemma.hu*

Document published in the Vatican

Vatican City

Source: MTI

On 10 December, the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations published a document named after the introductory line of the Letter to the Romans 11:29 »*For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*«. The Vatican Document was presented on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Nostra Aetate synodal declaration that had

started the Jewish-Christian dialogue. It describes the relations of Judaism and Christianity in the last half century, presenting the main milestones of this relation and containing analyses of theological matters that affect both religions. The theological document states: a common goal of the Jewish-Catholic dialogue is to fight together all kinds of discrimination and anti-Semitism. It also stresses that the results and outcome of the Jewish-Catholic dialogue should be incorporated in the formation of young generations.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS



Investigations terminated in the case against Gergely Kulcsár

Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On 26 March, APF filed a complaint against Jobbik MP Gergely Kulcsár for public denial of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime. On 10 April 2012, Gergely Kulcsár asked for directives on the mailing list of the Jobbik parliamentary group for the event that “*some kike-Jewish hireling*” fraction would initiate some commemoration of the “*so-called victims of the falsicoast*”.

Defendant N. J. found guilty

Esztergom, Komárom-Esztergom County

Source: TEV Foundation

On 11 November, TEV Foundation filed a complaint for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime against N. J. for his/her comments on Facebook. On 9 August, N. J. commented on an article written by Slomó Köves, Chief Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH), shared on the Facebook page of the Foundation: “*How should we speak? Go back to wherever you came from! We’ve had enough of your complaints, your parasitism, your holohoax! You write all this moral bullshit here, and you’ve been living on compensations and amends for fifty years!*”

On 2 December the Esztergom District Court notified the Foundation that a sentence was reached in the public trial held on 27 November: J.N. was found guilty for the crime of public denial

of the crimes of the Nazi regime, effected by using the word “*holohoax*”. The court sentenced him to a 400-day fine. The amount of one day fine was set to 2.000 forints. This totals to 800.000 forints that in case of non-acquittal can turn into custodial sentence. The sentence, declared on 27 November is considered final and legally binding.

N. J. is a Hungarian citizen, is trained as a waiter but works as an electrician. He is unmarried, has no underage children, and no assets. He was sentenced three times, for the last time in 2011 to a six-months imprisonment for fraud, but the execution was suspended for a two-year probation.

TEV Foundation requested a review of legality for the name of Bálint Hóman Foundation – procedure started

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 15 December the Foundation filed a petition to the Fejér County Prosecutor’s Office. The Foundation asked the Prosecutor’s Office as an authority of legality review to take action in the case of the name of the Bálint Hóman Cultural Foundation.

According to the petition, Law CLXXXI of 2011 on the court registration of civil organizations and regulations concerning modes of action says that “*an organization cannot be named a) after a person who had a leading role in the foundation or development and maintenance of the 20th century autocratic systems, or b) an expression or organization that can*

be directly linked to an autocratic system of the 20th century". In agreement with the modifications to Law CLXVII of 2012 with respect to interdiction of names connected to autocratic systems of the 20th century, "in case of foundations that were registered prior to the coming into effect of the Law and whose names do not comply with the regulation described in the paragraph, the founders must change the name of the foundation at the first change in data registration, but no later than 01. 01. 2014." The procedure necessarily includes the standpoint of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on the case, which was also suggested to be acquired in the petition.

In accordance with the Law of Prosecution, the Prosecutor's Office has the right of legality review of the operation of civil organizations, supervising whether the operation of civil organizations complies with the law.

On 21 December, the Prosecutor's Office informed the foundation that the Office can only take action in the issue of legality in cases and modes specified by the law. The Office's authority in legality review only extends to decisions of an already registered foundation, and does not extend to possible illegal regulations contained in the statute of the foundation. The above mentioned 2011 law specifies that the court where the foundation is registered is authorized to control the legality of the foundation's name, and in case of doubt the court of law must procure the standpoint of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. According to the official communication of the Court of Székesfehérvár, proceedings without a trial were started concerning the changes in the data registry of the Bálint Hóman Cultural Foundation. The Prosecutor's Office initiated at the Court of Székesfehérvár that the court should reach out to the Hungarian

Academy of Sciences with respect to the person in the name of the Foundation, in order to establish if it complies with the prohibition of names related to the autocratic systems of the 20th century.

TEV Foundation requested an appeal for the name of Bálint Hóman Street in Vác

Budapest

Source: TEV Foundation

On 16 December the foundation filed a petition to the Government Office of Pest County. The Foundation asked the Government Office as an authority of legality review to take action by way of a legality appeal so that the Local Government of Vác should change the name of Bálint Hóman Street immediately.

The petition points out that Law CLXXXIX of 2011 on local governments of Hungary stipulates that "a public location or institution cannot bear a) the name of a person who took part in the foundation, development or maintenance of any of the autocratic political systems of the 20th century and b) the name of an institution or an expression that is related to the autocratic political systems of the 20th century". According to the law, it is the responsibility of local governments to name public places and institutions. The petition drew attention to the decree of the Local Government of Vác saying that "a public space can only be named after a person whose actions in the history of the nation were outstanding and who is held in high public esteem." The local government has violated the law by not changing the name of the Bálint Hóman Street after 01. 01. 2013, when Law CLXVII of 2012 came into force. The Government Office as legality supervisor of local governments, may make a legality appeal as requested by the Foundation.

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, 8 December	Huszár personally apologized	Official and civil responses
2	2 December	Defendant N. J. found guilty	Official cases of TEV Foundation
3	3 December	Man captured by TEK possibly member of Hungarian National Front	Other news
4	5 December	Effect of the Hóman-debate	Other news
5	5 December	First Hanukkah candle lit	Community news and responses
6	8 December	Torn note	Anti-Semitic hate crimes: hate speech
7	10 December	Document published in the Vatican	Other news
8	15, 21 December	TEV Foundation requested a review of legality for the name of Bálint Hóman Foundation – procedure started	Official cases of TEV Foundation
9	16 December	TEV Foundation requested an appeal for the name of Bálint Hóman Street in Vác	Official cases of TEV Foundation
10	17 December	Perhaps it is more visible now	Official and civil responses
11	17 December	Petition of Bálint Hóman Foundation	Anti-Semitic hate crimes: hate speech
12	–	The rapper's worldview	Other anti-Semitic hate crimes
13	–	Roma Holocaust memorial on Nehru riverbank damaged	Other anti-Semitic hate crimes
14	–	The Hóman-statue	Other news

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

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