

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND
INCIDENTS REPORT

MARCH 2017

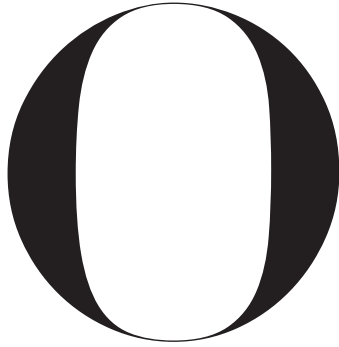


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during March monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech. Our charity published a quotation on its own Facebook profile which was commented on by Zoltán Schmidt Facebook user in a Holocaust-denying way. Actor, director, and Jászai Mari award winner Tamás Fodor found several copies of Mein Kampf lying on pallets in District 13 and drew attention to the case. In the third case, one of the reporters of ATV was spit on and called “zsidóbérenc” by an elderly man near Astoria on the national holiday of the 15th of March.

Two incidents were found for the “Further anti-Semitic hate incidents” this month.

There was no progress in our previous cases.

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, exclu-

sion, and the ignorance in which anti-Semitism is rooted, as well as atrocities and hate crimes.

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.

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 op-

erational **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.

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 incidents 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 incidents¹ 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 and McDevitt 1999, 92–93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19–21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17–18; Perry 2001, 10).

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

¹See detailed definitions in the Methodology section.

of the crimes are also frequent, where official authorities do not establish the hate-crime motivation. It is civil organizations that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor's office may be particularly beneficial.² 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).

²A 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, arrow-cross).

Detailed descriptions of approaches to, and recent tendencies in the definition of hate incidents can be found in our May Report. The report also cites the findings of literature in this field internationally. The present report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, wherever perpetrator, target, means or message of a case suggest it. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument or other property. It is important however, that anti-Semitic motivation can only be spoken of if the perpetrator chose the given target expressly because it was assumed to belong to Jewry. In this context it is not finally relevant whether the assumption is correct: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient. In the course of monitoring, on one hand, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code (violent assault of a member of a community, incitement to hatred of a community, denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime, use of symbols of autocratic regimes), but can also include other acts mentioned in the Criminal Code, if prejudice can be proven as a motivating factor. When identifying hate incidents,

³The 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵The 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.

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.

⁶These are described in the Methods section.

⁷The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

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

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 self-defense, or if the victim runs away
 - Throwing objects at a person or people, including where the object misses its target
- Damage to property
 - Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
 - Desecration of property
 - Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson
- Threats
 - Any clear and specific threat, whether verbal or written
 - Any “bomb” which is assessed to be a hoax
 - Stalking
 - Defamation
- Hate speech
 - Public hate speech
 - Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media
 - Abusive behavior
 - Abusive literature sent to more than one person
 - In literature and music
- Discriminatory incidents

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

⁸These 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

MARCH 2017

Action and Protection Foundation identified three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during March monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Holocaust-denying Facebook comment

Source: Action and Protection Foundation
2 March 2017

Our Foundation shared a Facebook post on the 2nd of March: “Basically, there are three different weapons against anti-Semitism: education, as a preventive tool, public speech and communication and legal action.”

Our colleague posted the picture of Slomó Köves, Chief Executive Rabbi to this quotation⁹. The first commentator, named Zoltán Schmidt reacted with a Ho-



Source: facebook.com

locast-denying comment to this post, “Basically, if you wouldn’t earn your living from the Holocaust industry, no one would give a shit about you. You are Khazars, not Jewish! Let’s just hope you file a charge against me so we can then have a conversation. Anti-Semitism is a form of opinion, but one can only like you, we know that. You are Khazar dogs

and you are dependent on other nations. If you think this is normal, you should all go and see a doctor. For you, we are goys, so who is being discriminative? Khazars are shitty, you are full of nuclear weapons and you call yourself the nation of peace? Shitty, dirty nation! Charge a file against me but in front of the People’s Court! “Holokamu” is your piece of art so fuck off, dear tev (abbreviation of Action and Protection Foundation, comment of the translator)!!!”.

Our Foundation filed a charge against him for the open denial of crimes committed by national socialist and communist regimes. We collected the necessary data to file the charge.

Copies of Mein Kampf were found on a street of Budapest

Source: 24.hu; nepszava.hu

24.hu reported that Jászai Mari award winner actor-director Tamás Fodor, permanent member of the Immortals’ Society, shared a photo on Facebook about the book of Hitler (new publishing but the old design) piling up in front of a cellar in Pest.

“Hundreds of the book on the picture (Mein Kampf) were slipped into this cellar from a red truck in Hollán street (Újlipótváros, where else?). The people passing by were shocked to read the title, they couldn’t believe their eye. But it was true”, wrote Tamás Fodor.

The Secretary of our Foundation, Kálmán Szalai, went to the spot together with a journalist of 24.hu where it turned out from the registry of inhabitants that there are not only individuals living in the building but also the publishing house of Gede brothers. Their warehouse is likely in the basement. The webpage of the publish-

⁹The quotation is from an article written by Slomó Köves, Chief Executive Rabbi, titled Fight against anti-Semitism – but how?, published on 2 March, 2017 in the 92nd issue of the magazine Unity.

ing house of Gede brothers also advertises the book of the Nazi leader.

The interesting part of the story is that there are two commemorative plaques on the wall of this building. One commemorates Sándor Blatz who died in the labor camp along the Don River. The other forms a black drop, inaugurated by the Hungarian Jewish Heritage Public Foundation for the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust, commemorating that the building was under the protection of the Swiss confederation during the Shoah. In theory, the Swiss “umbrella” protected the Hungarian Jews who moved there, but, in



Source: 24.hu

reality, the Nazis deported Jews from similar houses, shot them, and let their bodies fall into the Danube River. 24.hu mentions that the book became a huge success in Germany, but there it was published as a critical edition. (The text was edited, provided with footnotes, and put into a context).

The article adds that the original reprinting of Hitler’s book violates the law on hate speech. Consequently, book companies can’t legally publish the book. Kálmán Szalai said at the on-site report, “According to the position of our foundation, the trade and open dissemination of the book falls into the category of incitement against Jewish community, incitement of hatred so we are ready to take the necessary legal action.”

In the article of nepszava.hu, it was mentioned that an individual initiated the launch of the investigation and the identification of the offender with the suspicion of incitement against community and open denial of crimes committed by the national socialist regimes. He also requested the identification of suspected crime from the Prosecutor’s Office of Budapest District 5 13.

Atrocities against the reporter of ATV at the national holiday

Source: atv.hu
15 March, 2017

ATV broadcast the public commemoration on the 15th of March. At one of the shootings, which took place near Astoria, they were interviewing a pedestrian about his opinion on the current state of politics and about Péter Juhász (who organized a counter-demonstration and tried to disturb the centrally organized event by blowing whistles at the National Museum).

The young female reporter of ATV was presenting the upcoming activities of the day right after the interview when an elderly man passed by and exclaimed, “Jewish hirelings! Jewish TV!”. He then spat at them. The disturbed reporter said to the camera: “I am sorry but we were just spat at and called “Jewish TV”. The scene can be watched in the last 30 seconds of their video.

The recording can be downloaded at atv.hu: <http://www.atv.hu/belfold/20170315-felve-tel-lekoptek-es-lezsidoztak-az-atv-riporter-et-a-koruton>

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of its monitoring activity for March 2017, Action and Protection Foundation identified two incidents which are not part of the statistics as the anti-Semitic intention was not proven, the circumstances of the case are not clear or simply, the incidence has no such weight. We elaborated on it in the methodological chapter.

Petition against the Maccabi Games

Source: 888.hu; hvg.hu; reflektor.blog.hu; peticiok.hu 3 and 5, March 2017

888.hu webpage reported on an initiative called “NOMaccabi2019” on peticiok.hu. The initiative aims to ban the Maccabi Games in 2019. The text of the petition contained some

inative and racist. It is counteracting the idea of the Olympic Games as it discriminates people based on their ethnic origin and only opens for Jewish sportsmen.”

“According to our position, Maccabi Games are threats to national security. They can attract extremist terrorists or suicide attackers to the Hungarian capital between July 29 and August 7, 2019”. ... “It goes without saying that a nation can organize cultural and sport events for descendants and relatives living abroad. We therefore suggest that the Maccabi Games of 2019 would take place in Israel instead of Hungary.

888.hu raises the question (which is not entirely neutral) “whether will there be as much fuss about this initiative as it was about the petition of Momentum against the Olympic Games”? The website’s cynical approach is reflected in their article of the 23rd of February, entitled, Everybody calm down. We don’t have to live without Olympic Games.

Reflektor.blog.hu showed that Jobbik District 2 also promotes the initiative on its Facebook profile.

“I would like ask the activists and volunteers of Momentum to help us collecting signatures. All the reasons which stood against the Olympic bid are relevant in this case too.” extract from the petition of Jobbik against the European Maccabi Games, also known as the Jewish Olympics.

The Facebook post of Jobbik was removed, because Gábor Vona, Head of Party, classified the case as a “personal opinion”. As we pointed it out in our February report, a civil initiative started for the collection of signatures against Budapest 2024 Olympic Games. Betyársereg raised its voice against the Maccabi Games then, drawing parallels.



Source: reflektor.hu / [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

thoughts such as: “In our point of view, the Maccabi Games, also called as European Jewish Olympic Games are strongly discrim-

¹⁰ <https://888.hu/article-volt-mar-melegolimpia-es-lesz-zsido-olimpia-is-2019-ben>

Jew baiting was reported by the Commissioner of Fundamental Rights

Source: mno.hu

23 March, 2017

László Székely, Commissioner of Fundamental Rights, is paying unexpected visits and checking those residential institutions where inhabitants' personal freedom might be limited. According to legal definitions, the Hungarian Prison Service (IMEI) is an armed law enforcement health institution that carries out measures and sentences of imprisonment and criminal procedure and also executes confinements of fine defaulters. Those are placed in this psychiatric institution whose mental condition observation is ordered by Court.

Magyar Nemzet reported that verbal and physical aggression is permitted in the institute. In 2015, several inmates filed a complaint against a member of the staff who called them refugees and Jews. The Commissioner thinks that these cases are unacceptable and have to be followed by consequences.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Zoltán Radnóti rabbi gave an interview to Alfahír - debate in Mazsihisz

*Source: atv.hu
14 March, 2017*

Alfahir.hu, the news portal of Jobbik interviewed Zoltán Radnóti, the President of the Rabbinic Assembly of Mazsihisz. Radnóti said he saw no problem with the Hanukah greetings sent to the local representatives of Jews by Jobbik (contrary to Slomó Köves, the executive leader of EMIH). Radnóti greeted the declaration of Gábor Vona about the so-called Jewish Olympic Games which he supports, and he will cheer for those Hungarian Jews who compete in the name of Hungary. The reporter of alfahir.hu didn't understand how a chief rabbi can give an interview in the Jobbik's newspaper if Mazsihisz distances itself from this dialogue. Radnóti pointed out that he cannot allow himself to turn away from those who turn to him neither as a Jew nor as a rabbi. He said he is not afraid of a potential creation of a government led by Jobbik. The management of the organization couldn't fully support position of the chief rabbi.

In their communication, they slightly distanced themselves from it. András Heisler, the president of Mazsihisz said that in case of the Jewish community "it is a particularly sensitive attempt to synthesize opinions" and he added that the interview to Alfahír was approved by the management of the organization. "The content of the interview doesn't reflect the official position of Mazsihisz, especially the statements about Jobbik contrast sharply with the opinion of our organization", wrote Heisler. He also added that answering political questions would still remain the sole competence of the management of the organization.

The government supports the refurbishment of the burnt synagogue in Zugló

*Source: MTI; index.hu
28 March, 2017*

The government supports the refurbishment of the synagogue burned down last October in Zugló by a grant of HUF 142 million, announced Miklós Soltész state secretary, responsible for religious, ethnic and civil society relations. He recalled that this is not the first tragedy in the history of the building which is now more than 100 years old. During the Holocaust, the Nazi Arrow Cross troopers brought, tortured and killed Jewish victims here.

The President of Mazsihisz said that after the fire, the Hungarian and foreign communities showed exemplary cooperation, a lot of help was given in order to be able to start cleaning the ruins and the planning of the refurbishment. As our Foundation earlier reported, the fire started in the building on Thököly Road in October 2016 which was caused by an electrical failure at the altar of the prayer room. There was no personal injury but the building was severely damaged and the copies of the Sefer Torah of the synagogue were destroyed.

Bálint Hóman Foundation is operating illegally

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation
29 March, 2017*

As well as the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Court also declared that the name "Bálint Hóman Foundation" violates current legislation. Since the foundation didn't change its name, the Court of Székesfehérvár rejected its request to adjust further changes in personnel. Consequently, not only the naming but also the operation of the charity became illegal. In December 2015, Action and Protection Foundation turned to the Prosecution office supervis-

ing the legal operation of NGOs, complaining about the naming of the Bálint Hóman Cultural Foundation.

The name violates the law on NGOs which points out that the name of any person “who fulfilled a leading role in the foundation, creation or the maintenance of the autocratic regimes of the 20th century cannot be integrated in the name of any organizations.” According to the argumentation of APF, Bálint Hóman not only contributed to the seizure of power by the Nazi, but took part in the work of the Arrow Cross Parliament legitimating the autocratic regime of Ferenc Szálasi.

The Company Registry of Székesfehérvár requested the opinion of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA). MTA found the request too vague, so the Company Registry requested a new opinion from MTA. László Lovász president made it clear in his letter dated on the 20th of July that according to the position of the Academy, Bálint Hóman contributed actively to the maintenance of the autocratic regime, so no organizations registered in Hungary can be named after him.

According to this opinion, the Court requested the Bálint Hóman Foundation to change its name and indicated that it is not possible to register any changes until it happens. The Foundation did not come up to this expectation neither until the deadline of September nor until March 2017. By order of Court which has become definitive, the registration of changes in the management’s names was rejected and the organization’s operation is now considered to be illegal.

Action and Protection Foundation is committed to monitor the names of organizations in Hungary in order to avoid Nazi and racist politicians’ names at public places. APF pointed out to the Prosecution Office that the Foundation still operates illegally and requested the restoration of legality. APF already turned to municipalities several times because of the name of Bálint Hóman road in Vác and public places named after József Nyírő. Authorities justified the request of APF in each case, so, today, these public places are renamed.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Ministry of Internal Affairs was asked about the Day of Honour

*Source: nepszava.hu
11 March, 2017*

In our February report, we mentioned that extremist groups organized a demonstration in Budapest for the commemoration of Arrow Cross and Nazi “heroes” fighting against the Red Army during World War II. A few days later, Bertalan Havasi, the head of the Prime Minister’s Press Office said, “according to the practice of previous years, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is dedicated to find a solution for the prevention of such events.” Three weeks after the event, nepszava.hu asked the Ministry of Internal Affairs about the concrete steps taken in this case and about legal solutions for the prevention of neo-Nazi events. The Ministry’s short answer was that “relevant proposals were made” but “for the moment no further information is available.”

21 March was a dedicated day against Racism

*Source: MTI; magyarhirlap.hu
21 March, 2017*

“The presence of anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia and xenophobia endanger the appropriate operation of society”, wrote the deputy Ombudsman for Ethnic Minorities on the World Day against racism, 21 March. Erzsébet Szalayné Sándor emphasized that it is our individual obligation to fight against discrimination. She pointed out the fight against hate speech which is one of the main challenges of today. It is incredibly important to call the attention of children and youngsters to these important topics by educating them about human rights. Thus, we can transfer these values to the next generation where tolerance, human rights and the respect of democratic values have a central role, she added.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

The US Department of State published its annual report on human rights

Source: MTI

Washington D.C, US, 4 March 2017

The US Department of State identified the decline of fundamental freedoms, in particular the freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, in its annual report on fundamental rights published on Friday. The document doesn't contain an executive summary but it was integrated to the content of a video conference. The space around civil society continued to shrink according to the position of the Department of State. Both governmental and non-governmental players took steps towards the oppression of the political opposition, the limitation of the freedom of media and internet, and the activities of civil society. The report has been published every year for the past 41 years and it is based on the information given by the local NGOs and the staff of the United States Embassies, Consulates

and Missions. The document summarizes all necessary information about the country, in particular the situation of human rights, before elaborating on the "country report". About Hungary, it is clearly said that the country functions as a multi-party parliamentary democracy. The biggest threat to human rights is considered to be how Hungary is dealing with migrants and asylum seekers on governmental level. Among other problems, the report mentions anti-Semitism, the overloading of prisons, governmental oppression of civil society, domestic violence against women and children, and discrimination against the Roma.

About freedom of press and speech, the report of the US Department of State states that hate speech is illegal in Hungary. The report mentions that an article in Magyar Hírlap written by Zsolt Bayer in November 2015 was classified as hate speech by the Media Council, so it imposed sanctions. At the same time, it also mentions that later, Zsolt Bayer was given a state award.

OTHER NEWS

Interview with Vona on N1TV

Source: youtube.com

8 March, 2017

Dávid Szirmay, the deputy chief-editor of Blikk was interviewing the president of Jobbik at the broadcast Vona7 of N1TV. Among many topics, they talked about the potential power of Jobbik in the change of government, about Fidesz or “statements on sexual identity” and about the Facebook post of Jobbik District 2 against the organization of the Maccabi Games in 2019.

Vona said that the latter was a civil initiative but Szirmay seemed to be surprised and said that it was not a civil initiative but an independent call. They didn't seem to agree. Vona tried to shift the conversation from the anti-Semitic signs of Jobbik, but also added that without having talked to his fellow politicians of Jobbik district 2, the entitlement of the administrator of the profile was withdrawn. Vona said that “he has no aversions about the so-called Jewish Olympic Games” and he will support “his fellow Jewish citizens”.

Identitesz is now being formed to a political party

Source: 24.hu

10 March, 2017

On Echo TV's broadcast “Daily Actualities”, Balázs László who Identitesz recruited from right-wing university students is now becoming a political party. He talked for ten minutes in a very confused way. He said that the organization was formed in 2015 because there was significant liberal dominance at universities and added that “we strongly realized the need for this.” They wanted to reach out to right-wing university students and they were soon criticized for that.

In his opinion, the term “conservative” is overused and puts limitations on them so that is why they are not using it in this con-

text. “We do not consider ourselves conservatives compared to the current European conservative atmosphere.” They would not like to maintain the “European political setting.” They emphasize that they don't belong to any branches of any political parties and they are not related to Jobbik either. Then the reporter called them quasi Arrow-Cross fellows quoting their earlier issue against their logo. According to László, “there can be interesting approaches to the meaning of the arrow.” Those who are against the organization can see any content in this logo. Although the arrow stands for direction and the laurel has reference to the European heroic tradition.



Source: 24.hu

He said that he thinks the migrant and refugee crisis exists, the composition of Europe is being changed. “The quality of European individuals” is not restored.

We managed to survive the Turkish Empire because “we had a proper immune system”, there was proper identity. He added that “those type of thoughts got into European minds” which “make European young people castrated”.

Equality and individualism are harmful, that is why there is no immune system in societies. He did not answer the question directly whether they belong to the extreme right or not. They don't specifically identify themselves with that direction, they rather develop individual's qualities, he said several times. Hundreds of thousands of young people are cosmopolitan; they have no

roots, no home land. National awareness is decreasing, more ambitious approaches are needed. They identify themselves as “new right wingers”.

Then László announced in the interview that they will step outside the world of universities’ and they will be more than an NGO: “We will enter the world of politics”. Identitesz invited Tamás Retkes, one of the founders of Magyar Nemzeti Arcvonal and Movement Pax Hungarica to have a lecture and he referred to Ferenc Szálasi as a genius.

The Hungarian edition of the book written by the Auschwitz camp director was published

*Source: MTI
11 March, 2017*

Rudolf Höss wrote his memoirs in his prison cell in Poland right before his execution in 1947.

The reviser of the book (published by Jaffa Publications), historian András Szécsényi, said to MTI that his notes are mainly important from a “psychological point of view”, since it is the most reliable



Source: lajk.startlap.hu

source of information from the offenders’ side. According to the epilogue of the book, which was written by historians Zoltán Vági and Gábor Kádár, Rudolf Höss, as the head of camp in Auschwitz, was the biggest mass murderer in Hungarian history. He led the liquidation of 300 345,000 Hungarian citizens. Despite of this fact, his confession was never published in Hungarian, although the German edition was published in 1958.

The Hungarian version, followed by the

German edition, only contains the historically most important parts of notes of Rudolf Höss. It is clear from the text that the Nazi officer tried to relieve himself from his own role and responsibility. Historians Gábor Kádár and Zoltán Vági pointed out in the epilogue that Höss, despite of his excuses, was a camp director who misused his power, made profits from the wealth of Jews and not only tolerated brutality with the aim of destruction of humans but encouraged it with his decisions.

Minister Zoltán Balogh welcomed the Hungarian-Jewish relations in Tel-Aviv

*Source: MTI; magyarhirlap.hu
17 March, 2017*

Zoltán Balog, Minister for Human Resources, pointed out both nations’ love for freedom and praised the golden age of Hungarian Jewish past. At the reception, organized by the Hungarian Embassy in Tel Aviv for the occasion of the 15th of March, he talked about the transfer of traditions to the next generations and about the successful cooperation between Israel and Hungary. He emphasized that the Hungarian community living in Israel, possessing rich cultural traditions and special Central European Jewish religious, cultural and ethnical identity with roots in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, is very important to Hungary and to the Hungarian government so the continuity, the maintenance of relations, with future generations is crucial.

“Here we are together Hungarians and Jews, Hungarian Jews, Jewish Hungarians, celebrating freedom. It is the fight for freedom which brought us closer 169 years ago”, he said commemorating the Revolution and War of Independence of 1848-1849. The Hungarian Jewish Community stood by Hungarian liberty and it was the only ethnical group which was punished collectively for that”, he added. As a joint feature of Hungarian and Jewish past, he pointed out the love and suffering for freedom.

The key to the real success is the remembrance of connection and remarkable his-

torical moments, he added. “If we manage to hold on to this common human tradition, whilst we refuse the Evil and the stigma on Hungarian and European history, we will be able to appreciate our joint success”, he emphasized.

Identitesz organized an anti-Soros event

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation; 444.hu; oktatas.atlatszo.hu
20 March, 2017*

Identitesz (Association of Identitari-us University Students), a newly emerged right-wing organization invited guests to an event called “Stop Operation Soros”. The majority of the audience, approximately 100 people was mainly composed of journalists. One of our colleagues attended the event.

Among the lecturers, they had Nick Grif-

Macedonian Stop Operation Movement were present. Moreover Martin Belusky, member of the most well-known Slovakian neo-Nazi party who is currently the member of parliament of Marian Kotleba’s party; the Vice-President of Forza Nuova, known for violent demonstrations; Angelo Balletta, a politician with a criminal record; and Daniel Friberg, a writer.

From the Hungarian side, Zoltán Mihály Orosz and Edda Budaházy were present. Griffin and the other leaders of European extreme-right organizations discussed the damage that is caused by the influence of George Soros in Europe. Nick Griffin started his speech with the well-known complaints: Soros is spending his billions, earned by the crash of the English pound on the support of anti-European and anti-Christian subversive groups. He quoted as an example the case of the “famous”



Source:identitesz.blog.hu

fin, the former leader of the British National Party (BNP). He was the first speaker who was followed by Balázs László, the President of Identitesz who hardly stopped shouting during his speech and Béla Incze, the Vice-President of Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement. Apart from them, James Dowson, Ljupco Zlatev, the member of the

Aurora Centre which is the meeting point of drugs, Roma crime, left-wing university students, and is the basis of a rainbow colored minority alliance aimed at undermining national values.

This center is maintained by the left-wing Jewish group called Marom with the aim of recruiting Hungarian Jewish young people for the “ancient mission” inte-

grating Judaism into their program. This attempt will surely increase their appetite for more power, then Griffin added: “There are some European activists who stand against this phenomenon who demonstrate proper courage as young Europeans and Christians. But these people convict those who stand against them calling them racist.” It is his opinion that the Marom group is leading a racist campaign among non-Jewish minorities, mainly among gay people. He added that the members of the mainstream Jewish community don’t really support the activity of Marom because Marom is not excluding non-Jews from its activity, thus this program is not racist enough for the majority of Jews.

Later he said that George Soros is a pantomime figure. One must be careful with him. He is led by people who need this hatred and fear in relation to a Jewish plan which is based on anti-Christian values

and the hatred of Christians. Griffin thinks that Europeans need to identify the threats against the people and the culture. Among these threats, number one is George Soros. Another speaker, Béla Incze, the Vice President of Hatvannégy Vármegye Youth Movement quoted Ferenc Szálasi.

He is convinced that, since 1945, there was no such responsible person who was able to differentiate individual values from national values. The notion of “the will of the nation’s interest” was used by Szálasi at his trial in 1946.

Organizers clearly communicated prior to the event that exclusively Balázs László and Barnabás Ábrahám district manager will give interviews. The event was secured by the members of Magyar Önvédelmi Mozgalom but a pullover of Betyársereg appeared as well.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Action and Protection Foundation did not take steps in any official legal actions in March 2017. There was no progress in our previous cases either.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

All the incidents to be found in the report are presented chronologically in the table below. The Category column shows which part of the report deals with the given case in greater detail.

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	2 nd of March	Holocaust-denying Facebook comment	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
2.	3 rd and 5 th of March	Petition against the Maccabi Games	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
3.	4 th of March	The US Department of State published its annual report on human rights	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
4.	8 th of March	Interview with Vona on N1TV	Other News
5.	10 th and 12 th of March	Copies of Mein Kampf were found on a street of Budapest	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
6.	10 th of March	Identitesz is now being formed to a political party	Other News
7.	11 th of March	Ministry of Internal Affairs was asked about the Day of Honour	Official and Civil Responses
8.	11 th of March	The Hungarian edition of the book written by the Auschwitz camp director was published	Other News
9.	14 th of March	Zoltán Radnóti rabbi gave an interview to Alfahír - debate in Mazihsiz	Community News and Responses
10.	15 th of March	Atrocities against the reporter of ATV at the national holiday	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
11.	17 th of March	Minister Zoltán Balogh welcomed the Hungarian-Jewish relations in Tel-Aviv	Other News
12.	20 th of March	Identitesz organized an anti-Soros event	Other News
13.	21 st of March	21 March was a dedicated day against Racism	Official and Civil Responses
14.	23 rd of March	Jew baiting was reported by the Commissioner of Fundamental Rights	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
15.	28 th of March	The government supports the refurbishment of the burnt synagogue in Zugló	Community News and Responses
16.	29 th of March	Bálint Hóman Foundation is operating illegally	Community News and Responses

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) 5 1 00 000

The website of Action and Protection Foundation: www.tev.hu/forrodrot
The Facebook page: 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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