

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2017

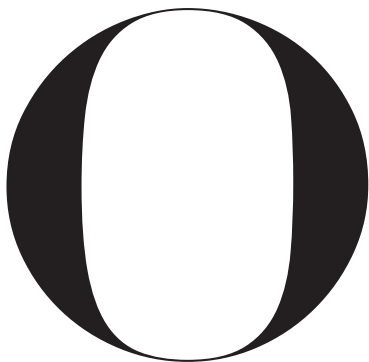


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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, yet 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. Data recorded includes the incident’s location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime during September monitoring. In the debate over the Római-part mobile dam, the Római-partért Egyesület (Association for Római-part) made remarks capable of relativizing the Holocaust and attacked public figures for their (supposed) Jewish heritage. The association shared a photomontage of public figures who oppose the construction of the dam system on their public Facebook profile and wrote: “*A group of Jewish intellectuals would like to ghetto inhabitants of the római part.*”

The section titled Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents include two other incidents. The tabloid entitled ‘Ripost’ reported that their journalists were present at Jobbik’s in-camera faction meeting in Siófok. According to the article, anti-Semitic and discriminatory comments were voiced at the meeting. The other incident was registered after a citizen notified APF of a graffiti saying “*Down with damn Jewish Soros*” at a bus stop in Gazdagrét.

Action and Protection Foundation did not initiate any legal actions this month. There was no progress reached in previous cases either.

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.

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 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.

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 offenses 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 offenses 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 offenses 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 of the crimes are also frequent, where official authorities do not establish the hate-crime motivation.

¹ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

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).

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)

METHODOLOGY³

The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows⁴ (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 people⁵
- 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 sentence⁶ (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 preju-

³ Our methodology remains the same since we started our monitoring in May 2013. The methodology was elaborated by Ildikó Barna, her text was integrated in this chapter. Small modifications are marked separately.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

dice can be proven as a motivating factor. When identifying hate incidents, various indicators recorded during the monitoring period⁷ 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.⁸

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 statistics⁹:

- Anti-Semitic hate incidents that are related to Hungary and Hungarian

⁷ These are described in the *Methodology* section.

⁸ The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

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

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.¹⁰ In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹⁰ 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 SEPTEMBER 2017

APF identified one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime during September monitoring. APF classified the incident as hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

*Anti-Semitic remark on
Római-partért Egyesület's
Facebook page*

Source: facebook.com; hvg.hu;
444.hu; obuda.hu; mno.hu

11-19 September 2017 (Background to the case: the General Assembly of Budapest decided in 2011 that a dam should be constructed on Római-part because of flood hazards. Plans of the dam were made public in 2016 and outlined a necessary removal of 1,500 trees. When the plans became available publicly, a series of demonstrations began. Groups of activists and specialists set out to develop alternative concepts in order to protect the trees on the Danube bank. The conceptual difference between the plan of the general assembly and the alternative plans concerns the track of the dam.)¹¹

The incident itself: In the debate over the Római-part mobile dam, the Római-partért Egyesület (Association for Római-part) in favor of the plan of the General Assembly of Budapest published a post on their Facebook page. The post attacked and discredited intellectuals who lobby for alternative solutions because of their (supposed) Jewish heritage. The post is also relativizing the Holocaust by comparing the case of the mobile dam to the Shoah.

Above the photomontage of public figures who oppose the construction of the mobile dam – András Lányi, Iván Tosics, András Béres, László Moldován –, the following text was written:



Source: facebook.com / hvg.hu

“A group of Jewish intellectuals would like to ghetto inhabitants of a 70-hectare area on Római-part! They would erect a concrete wall on the Királyok-Nánási track separating our district! They dazzle with false and demagogic statements! As if they had forgotten what happened to their relatives in the 40s, they would like to handle the inhabitants of this 70 hectares similarly! They remap private properties! May it be that they want to take over and send the inhabitants to work camps? What do Lányi, Tosics, Béres, Moldován think of themselves!”¹²

In response to reactions under the montage, the association later confirmed the rightness of their statement. To criticism suspecting anti-Semitic content in the post, the association said: *“Why is it a problem that we declare that Jewish intellectuals lead the discrimination against us since it is fact. The social group that wants to discriminate us is the*

¹¹ Index file: Mobilgát a Római-parton (Mobile dam on Római-part), http://index.hu/aktak/romai-part_mobilgat_budapest_arviz_fakivagasz/ (downloaded on 19/10/2017)
¹² Direct translation.

very social group that has suffered all the agony of discrimination! Look inside yourselves! Talk to your family members about what it is like to be excluded. A history lesson indeed! It is high to read a bit!”

It was not the first time that the Római-partért Egyesület tried to support their arguments with Jew-baiting. In a post shared on 28 July 2017 – we presented the case in our July monitoring report –, they wrote that “the 70 hectares of római is turned into a ghetto”, and said they were surprised that András Lányi laid its foundations.¹³

Later, the association released a statement through MTI in which the word ‘Jewish’ is no longer included. The statement said that “a group of intellectuals would like to exclude and discriminate against inhabitants and workers of Római part”¹⁴; and the association calls for political parties to distance themselves from the discrimination the “group of intellectuals” commit. They added they were outraged by being branded anti-Semitic for criticizing “certain circles”.¹⁵

Reactions to the case: mayor of Budapest District 3 Balázs Bús released a statement in response to the issue. His statement calls for self-restraint and adherence to the rules of civilized discussions.¹⁶ Mayor of Budapest István Tarlós said in a TV program on M1 that this post was the last straw.¹⁷ He stated he was sure that the dam should be constructed on the bank but if the discussion of the issue ceased to stay rational, a local referendum shall decide on the matter. As to opposition parties, Együtt voiced their outrage over the anti-Semitic content.¹⁸

APF also released a statement and stated that we consider the Facebook post an anti-Semitic incitement. Instead of arguing for the dam, the association in question used anti-Semitic topoi from 70 years ago and enraged their followers. In our opinion, “Jew-baiting – although it is time-tested,

it is luckily considered improper by now – is not going to substitute rational decisions with solid foundations”.¹⁹ In addition to releasing a statement, APF is considering taking legal action for offense against the dignity of the Jewish community.

After our statement was released, leader of the Római-partért Egyesület contacted our foundation and initiated a meeting with us. The meeting was held with the aim of discussing the issue where the leader of the association apologized for the content of their posts and pledged they would remove it from Facebook as well as not letting similar posts to be published on any of their platforms in the future. The incriminated post was removed as promised, yet – at the time of the compilation of this report – the above-mentioned post from July was still available in the public group of the association. This post, which also concerns the alternative plans for the dam, starts off by saying that “The 70 hectares of római turned into a ghetto!!” and is illustrated with a photo taken of the Budapest ghetto.

13



Source: facebook.com

13 See our July 2017 monitoring report, <http://tev.hu/wp-content/uploads/TEV-2017-07-HU.pdf> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

14 hvg.hu: Tudja még fokozni a zsidóüz Egyesület a Római Partért (The previously Jew-baiting association called Egyesület a Római Partért goes further), http://hvg.hu/itthon/20170911_tudja_meg_fokozni_a_zsidozo_romaipartert_egyesulet (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

15 hvg.hu: Tudja még fokozni a zsidóüz Egyesület a Római Partért (The previously Jew-baiting association called Egyesület a Római Partért goes further), http://hvg.hu/itthon/20170911_tudja_meg_fokozni_a_zsidozo_romaipartert_egyesulet (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

16 Balázs Bús: Önmérsékletet kérünk Óbudán! (We seek self-restraint in Óbuda!), <https://obuda.hu/hirek/ommersékletet-kerunk-obudan/> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

17 László Szily: Tarlós népszavazást kezdeményez a Római parti mobilgát ügyében (Tarlós initiates a referendum on the Római part mobile dam), <https://444.hu/2017/09/11/tarlos-nepszavazast-kezdemenyez-a-romai-parti-mobilgat-ugyeben> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

18 Zoltán Molnár: Zsidózással hallatja hangját a Római mobilgátat védő szervezet (The association in favor of the dam participates in the discussion by Jew-baiting), <http://24.hu/belfold/2017/09/11/zsidozassal-hallatja-hangjat-a-romai-ingatlanjait-vedo-szervezet/> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

19 Statement of APF, <http://tev.hu/aljas-antiszemita-uszitas-romai-parti-hoteltulajdonostol/> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

APF identified two incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during September 2017 monitoring which we did not include in our most recent statistics, as the circumstances of the incidents are unclear and the offenders cannot be identified. Both incidents are classified as hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Ripost article about anti-Semitic comments of Jobbik
Source: ripost.hu; hirado.hu

8 September 2017 A Hungarian tabloid entitled Ripost published an article and presented that with the help of disillusioned Jobbik supporters, some of their journalist could make it into the party's in-camera faction meeting held in Siófok. According to the article, anti-Semitic and discriminative comments were voiced at the meeting. *"These', this is how they refer to their Jewish fellow-countrymen. Scornfully and mockingly, even when they talk about the 'forced' political dialogue and cooperation with 'these'. 'At such times, everyone should bite the bullet!' – suggested one primary member of Jobbik. We often heard harsh, Jew-baiting jokes – they truly enjoy making such jokes for some reason, we felt awkward listening to these."*²⁰

On the other hand, the article did not provide any further information or mentioned a particular person or context. In response to hirado.hu's written request, the press services of Jobbik released a statement.²¹ The brief statement did not in effect react to the individual claims of Ripost, it just stated in general that nothing was true in the article.

²⁰ Ripost: Zsidóztak egy jót, simicskáztak és röhögtek Vonán. Főnök lett a Lajos! (A good Jew-baiting, Simicska-baiting and laughing at Vona. Lajos became boss!), <https://ripost.hu/cikk-zsidoztak-egy-jot-simicskaztak-es-rohogtek-vonan-f-nok-lett-a-lajos> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

²¹ Jobbik's relevant statement on hirado.hu: Inkognitóban jutott be a Ripost riportere a Jobbik frakcióülésére (Journalist of Ripost made it to Jobbik's faction meeting incognito), <https://www.hirado.hu/2017/09/19/inkognitoban-jutott-be-a-ripost-riportere-a-jobbik-frakcioulesere/> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

²² APF: Lemossuk a gyalázatot (We will wash away the shame), <http://tev.hu/lemossuk-a-gyalazatot/> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

APF notified of anti-Semitic graffiti
Source: tev.hu

14 September 2017 On Monday 11 September, APF was notified by a citizen that a photo of a graffiti drawn on the pavement at a bus stop was shared in the 'Gazdagrét' Facebook group. The graffiti said: *"Down with damn Jewish Soros!"*²²



Source: tev.hu

In the event of such notifications, Action and Protection Foundation believes it is important to contact competent authorities, and it is also our duty to quickly and effectively remove the anti-Semitic graffiti. Comments under the Facebook post revealed that inhabitants of Gazdagrét had reported the insinuating damage at various channels but received no significant answer and no measures were taken.

Therefore, with the assistance of Press-Tech Cleaning's owner, colleagues of APF removed the anti-Semitic graffiti from the pavement themselves.



Source: tev.hu

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

House of Fates on the brink of demise

Source: nepszava.hu; [24.hu](https://www.facebook.com);
[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

21-22 September 2017 (Background to the case: A government decision of July 2013 stated that a center called the House of Fates commemorating child victims of the Holocaust would be established at the site of the former Józsefváros railway station, the Fiumei út end. Director-General of the House of Terror Museum Mária Schmidt was appointed as leader of the project. In February 2014, the Federation of Hungarian Jewish



Source: nepszava.hu

Communities (Mazsihisz) called for a boycott of the Holocaust 70 memorial year and demanded the dismissal of Mária Schmidt as head of the House of Fates project, because the project's "perception of history was to date unknown....., and the leader of the project did not really cooperate"²³. In response to this, János Lázár pledged that the center would not be inaugurated without the approval of Jewish communities. The construction of the center was finished a year later than the planned inauguration of spring 2014 but it still has long been completed. However, the building complex has been empty for over two years because of the stalemate of the issue.)²³

Népszava published an article entitled "House of Fates on the brink of demise" presenting what Minister of the Prime Minister's Office János Lázár stated in his regular communication to the public (Government Info) on 21 September. The minister said that if no progress is made within a short period of time, the building complex is not going to serve as a memorial center for victims of the Holocaust, but it will be assigned a different function. In response to a journalist's question, János Lázár said the government grants a few months' grace period for Jewish organizations and leaders of the institution to agree on the content of the exhibition.²⁴

In response to János Lázár's communication, Mária Schmidt released a statement, which she also shared on Facebook. Schmidt's statement drew attention to the fact that the demand for and importance of such an institution was actually János Lázár's

suggestion to the government in 2013. "The aim has not changed since: it is our common duty to overcome the Holocaust in the Hungarian society together, with Jews and non-Jews, to face our past, name the sinners, mourn the victims with dignity and praise the rescuers."²⁵ According to Schmidt, these aims are met by the concept of the House of Fates, which will help the whole society to overcome the Holocaust. On the other hand, she ended her statement by saying that "until Gusztáv Zoltai (former executive manager of Mazsihisz, current advisor for the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office) is in control of the House of Fates, there is no hope for it to open".²⁶

23 László Szily: Két éve nem nyitnak meg egy világszínvonalú, teljesen kész múzeumot Budapesten, mert Schmidt Mária és Lázár János utálják egymást (A world-class, absolutely finished museum is not opened in Budapest because Mária Schmidt and János Lázár hate one another), <https://444.hu/2017/03/29/ket-ve-nem-nyitnak-meg-egy-vilagszinvonalu-teljesen-kesz-muzeumot-budapesten-mert-schmidt-maria-es-lazar-janos-utaljak-egymast> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

24 Népszava: Bodóles szélén a Sorsok Háza (House of Fates on the brink of demise), <http://nepszava.hu/cikk/141126-bodoles-szelen-a-sorsok-haza> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

25 Ildikó D. Kovács: Schmidt Mária keményen visszaszólt Lázár Jánosnak (Mária Schmidt reacted harshly to János Lázár's statements), <http://24.hu/kazelet/2017/09/22/schmidt-maria-kemenyen-visszaszolt-lazar-janosnak/> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

26 Ildikó D. Kovács: Schmidt Mária keményen visszaszólt Lázár Jánosnak (Mária Schmidt reacted harshly to János Lázár's statements), <http://24.hu/kazelet/2017/09/22/schmidt-maria-kemenyen-visszaszolt-lazar-janosnak/> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Charges against György Gyula Zagya
Source: pestisracok.hu; hvg.hu

7 September 2017 The Balassagyarmat District Public Prosecutor's Office pressed charges for assault against former Jobbik MP and co-chair of the Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom (Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement) György Gyula Zagya for Jew-baiting and death threat against musician-publicist Tamás Varga-Bíró.²⁷



Source: hvg.hu

The case started in June when György Gyula Zagya featured in one of political activist Márton Gulyás' videos lobbying against the current electoral system. Varga-Bíró wrote to Zagya in relation to this video that “*you are also just a liberal b.stard*”. The former MP then phoned Varga-Bíró, threatened him and made anti-Semitic remarks. According to Varga-Bíró, not only did Zagya threaten him but also his family. The former MP, however, denied this. Later, Varga-Bíró was at the Balassagyarmat police station at the time when Zagya phoned him again. The musician put his phone on loudspeaker so the police officer who was present could hear the conversation and took the minutes.²⁸

Zagya told Magyar Idők that Varga-Bíró lied about their conversation, he did not say “*stinky Jew*”, neither did he make a death threat against Varga-Bíró's family. “*All I said was that these Jewish manners do not apply here.*” He also said he was not surprised by the charges against him, but he said that neither during the lineup nor in his witness statement taken in the minutes were such sentences recorded. Zagya alleged that during the lineup, the musician also stated that no anti-Semitic comments were made.²⁹

²⁷ Eljárás indult Zagya György Gyula Jobbikos képviselő ellen (Proceedings against Jobbik MP György Gyula Zagya), http://hvg.hu/irthon/20170908_Eljaras_indult_Zagya_Gyorgy_Gyula_Jobbikos_kepvisele_ellen (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

²⁸ See our monitoring report of June 2017, <http://tev.hu/wp-content/uploads/TEV-2017-06-HU.pdf> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

²⁹ Tamás Pihál: Vádat emeltek a zsidózza fenyegetőző Zagya György ellen (Charges pressed against György Gyula Zagya for Jew-baiting and uttering threats), <http://pestisracok.hu/vadat-emeltek-zsidozva-fenyegetozo-zagya-gyorgy-ellen/> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017)

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

*British author talks about
emerging fascism in Hungary
at an event in London*

Source: nepszava.hu

8 September 2017 British author and one of the most well-known espionage novelists John Le Carré (David John Moore Cornwell) launched his new book at an event held in London, where he also talked about the present conditions of the world. Le Carré spoke of toxic parallels between the rise of Donald Trump and the rise of 1930s fascism. He said that manifestations of racial hatred are becoming more and more intense in the United States. *“I think of all things that were happening across Europe in the 1930s, in Spain, in Japan, obviously in Germany. To me, these are absolutely comparable signs of the rise of fascism and it’s contagious, it’s infectious. Fascism is up and running in Poland and Hungary. There’s an encouragement about”* said the author.³⁰

*Péter Szijjártó held talks with
American Jewish organizations
in New York*

Source: MTI; demokrata.hu

18 September 2017 Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó attended the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, and during his visit the Minister also met with representatives of American Jewish organizations.

“The greatest challenge currently facing Europe is the question of whether European leaders can succeed in restoring the security of the continent and the people living there”, Szij-

jártó said. *“Security challenges are clearly even more serious in relation to ethnic and religious communities, and accordingly, just as is the case for the whole of Europe, security also represents the most important challenge facing Jewish communities living in Europe.”*

For this reason, the Minister assured American Jewish organizations that there are two things in which the Hungarian government knows no compromise. One is the security of Hungary and the Hungarian people. He said it is the duty of the Hungarian government to protect Hungary and the people of Hungary, including members of the Hungarian Jewish community. The other is the policy of zero tolerance declared against anti-Semitism. *“While this government is leading Hungary nobody has anything to fear, regardless of what ethnic or religious community they belong.”*³¹

*Financial Times believes
the new campaign against Soros
has undertones of anti-Semitism*

Source: mandiner.hu; hvg.hu;
888.hu; atv.hu

25 and 27 September 2017 The British daily business newspaper Financial Times published an article about the national consultation in Hungary.

According to this editorial of the Financial Times, the Hungarian government’s campaign against Soros – including the national consultation – is troubling in many ways. *“First, the supposed ‘Soros plan’ is ‘fake news’.” “Second, the campaign against the Jewish Holocaust survivor has undertones of anti-Semitism.”* The newspaper urges

³⁰ nepszava.hu: Egyre kinosabb – John Le Carré megsemmisítő ítélete Magyarországról (More and more awkward – John Le Carré condemns Hungary), <http://nepszava.hu/cikk/1139935-egyre-kinosabb---john-le-carre-megsemmisito-itelete-magyarorszagrol> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017) and <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/sep/07/john-le-carre-on-trump-something-truly-seriously-bad-is-happening> (downloaded on: 19/11/2017)

³¹ demokrata.hu: Magyarországon senkinek nem kell félnie (Nobody has anything to fear in Hungary), <http://www.demokrata.hu/hir/belfold/magyarorszagon-senkinek-sem-kell-felnie> (downloaded on: 19/10/2017) and <http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-foreign-affairs-and-trade/news/nobody-has-anything-to-fear-in-hungary-regardless-of-ethnic-or-religious-affiliations> (downloaded on: 19/11/2017)



the European Union to penalize Hungary. “It is time for the EPP to expel it [Fidesz] from the group”. “Cohesion fund payments should be linked to observing the rule of law” stated the article. Yet, it also highlighted that the suspension of “EU funding to Hungary risks unfairly penalizing ordinary Hungarians”.³²

met with members of the European Commission regularly and he himself published his plan about the reception of refugees. Kovács also wrote that criticism of George Soros was not anti-Semitism, as Israeli Ambassador to Hungary has also stated recently.³³

In response to the article of the Financial Times, government spokesperson Zoltán Kovács denied the allegations of the newspaper in a reader’s letter. The government spokesperson believed the newspaper “voiced criticism without taking some obvious facts into consideration”, as George Soros

32 Financial Times: az Orbán-kormányt meg kell büntetni (Financial Times: the Orbán-government should be penalized), http://hvg.hu/itthon/20170925_ft_buntetes (downloaded on 19/10/2017) and <https://www.ft.com/content/c4d5934-9f8c-11e7-8cd4-932067f946> (downloaded in 19/11/2017)

33 Kovács Zoltán bírálta a Financial Times lejárató cikksorozatát (Zoltán Kovács criticized the series of discrediting Financial Times articles), <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20170928-kovacs-zoltan-biralta-a-financial-times-t.html> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

OTHER NEWS

Zsolt Bayer's book added to the National Library

Source: MTI; hvg.hu

8 September 2017 Government commissioner Imre Kerényi gave an interview to a weekly newspaper entitled *Demokrata* (Democrat) in August. During the interview, Kerényi announced he wanted to add one of publicist Zsolt Bayer's books to the National Library.³⁴ The aim of the National Library project is to collect the best pieces of Hungarian culture in a single series. As the website of the National Library says, the primary decisive factor when selecting works is readability, the second is variability and the third is the capability to strengthen Hungarian national self-esteem.³⁵

Kerényi announced in the Parliament on 8 September which books were added to the National Library. Zsolt Bayer, Albert Wass and József Nyírő were among the new authors of the series.³⁶

Zsolt Bayer became well-known through his political publications that have pushed the boundaries of free speech multiple times. The last time Bayer was included in our monthly monitoring report was in May, because he wrote about Jewish conspiracies in one of his works.³⁷

In the series of the National Library, Bayer's *1100 év Európa közepén* (1100 years in the heart of Europe) was included. Kerényi justified his decision by saying that travelogues are a popular and traditional genre of Hungarian literature – nine such pieces were added to the National Library so far –, and Bayer's book fitted well in the series. It was Director-General of the House of Terror Museum Mária Schmidt who suggested to include Bayer's book in the series.³⁸

Hitler cover reported to the police, measures taken

Source: nepszava.hu; hvg.hu

10 and 27 September 2017 In the morning of 10 September 2017, chairman of the *Európai Baloldal – Munkáspárt 2006* (Workers' Party of Hungary 2006) Attila Vajnai was shopping in the market hall on Klauzál tér when he noticed a disc cover with a picture of Adolf Hitler in uniform with a swastika among the merchandise of a junkman. According to Vajnai's account, the junkman was not willing to put away the cover with the totalitarian symbol and therefore Vajnai notified the police. "*It is especially outrageous to sell Nazi relics on Klauzál tér, in the middle of the former ghetto*" said Vajnai. The police, however, told him they did not think it was necessary to take measures. Vajnai went home, then returned to the market hall and started to paint "*stop nazism (sic)*" on the pavement, for which he was reported to the police and measure were taken against him. Vajnai said that police officers were aggressive with him, he was taken to the ground and handcuffed. According to information received from the Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK), Vajnai did not present his ID and he was unwilling to cooperate with the police, that is why such measures were taken against him. BRFK also stated that the picture reported by Vajnai was actually the cover of a disc portraying Hitler, and "*marketing the disc is not classified as an offense*". Vajnai filed a complaint and pressed charges for the assault he suffered.³⁹

In relation to the case, Lajos Oláh of the political party called *Demokratikus Koalíció* (Democratic Coalition) asked Prime Mi-

34 mno.hu: Bayer Zsolt bekerült a Nemzeti könyvtár sorozatba, 20 millióval drágább lesz (Zsolt Bayer in the National Library series that will cost 20 million more), <https://mno.hu/belfold/bayer-zsolt-bekerul-a-nemzeti-konyvtar-sorozatba-20-millioval-dragabb-lesz-2412571> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

35 See: <http://www.nemzetikonyvtar.hu/> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

36 hvg.hu: Bayer Zsolt tényleg bekerült a legnagyobbak közé (Zsolt Bayer is among the greatest), http://hvg.hu/itthon/20170908_bayer_zsolt_tenyleg_bekerult_a_legnagyobbak_koze (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

37 See our May 2017 monitoring report, <http://tev.hu/wp-content/uploads/TEV-2017-05-HU.pdf> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

38 hvg.hu: Bayer Zsolt tényleg bekerült a legnagyobbak közé (Zsolt Bayer is among the greatest), http://hvg.hu/itthon/20170908_bayer_zsolt_tenyleg_bekerult_a_legnagyobbak_koze (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

39 nepszava.hu: Leteperték, majd bilincsbe verték Vajnai Attilát (Attila Vajnai taken down and handcuffed), <http://nepszava.hu/cikk/140081-letepertek-majd-bilincsbe-vertek-vajnai-attilat---foto> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

nister Viktor Orbán whether it was allowed to sell pictures of Hitler in Hungary. On behalf of the Ministry of Justice, State Secretary Pál Völner responded Oláh's question. Völner believes it was only possible to decide whether the sale of a memorabilia with Hitler's portrait, or any other Nazi or Communist memorabilia was legal if one knew the exact circumstances of the incident. It is fact, he said, that the use of totalitarian symbols is classified as an offense, but a portrait of Hitler is not classified as a totalitarian symbol. In this respect, the State Secretary highlighted that the Penal Code enlists what is classified as a totalitarian symbol. He also added that the sale and distribution of such symbols and memorabilia could be sanctioned out of criminal law.⁴⁰

*Historian András Gerő
spoken up against Jobbik*

Source: mandiner.hu; hirado.hu;
magyaridok.hu

19-21 September 2017 Chairman of Jobbik was guest of the Szeretem Magyarországot Klub's (SZMK – I love Hungary Club) debate night this month. Historian András Gerő objected the idea in a circular mail, mentioning the much talked-about anti-Semitic racism in relation to Jobbik.



Forrás:
Szolnok.jobbik.hu

András Gerő's letter and reasoning was published by Mandiner.

The historian said that *“anti-Roma and anti-Semitic racism is an internal part of Jobbik's radical ideology, which has not changed despite the fact they have become more moderate and peaceful, and from burning the flag of the EU, they have come to demanding EU-level salaries”*.⁴¹ Gerő added that Vona has recently said that if it turned out he was Jewish, he would resign. The historian thinks the chairman of Jobbik is still an “intolerable politician”. Later, he said on M1 that “a civil society that is not racist should not legitimize racism appearing in politics and public life”.⁴²

The club, however, did not withdraw the invitation and Gábor Vona was guest of the debate night. In response to hirado.hu's question, Vona said the conversation held was informal but he did not share further details. According to Gerő, many confronted Vona with his previous racist and anti-Semitic statements. The historian detailed that Vona had to explain himself a number of times, and the Jobbik politician said he did not mean his statements the way they were presented to him. *“Gábor Vona now says what the left-wing liberal community wants to hear in order to gain voters”* added Gerő. He believes the party's aim to become a people's party is just a „political bluff”, as neither the Jewish nor the Roma communities received real apologies from Vona.

Later, Gerő also explained in the program entitled Vasárnapi Újság (Sunday paper) on Kossuth Rádió that if a club whose members are not racists invites the chairman of a racist party for conversation, they are then intellectually and morally legitimizing the ideology of that party. The historian said that there is great controversy around this among members of the I love Hungary club. Gerő thinks it is right that any public figure could be invited to their debate nights and sometimes invitees have different opinions than members of the club but a common ground is they are not racists. Jobbik, however, calls their ideology national radi-

⁴⁰ hvg.hu: Kormány: lehet Hitler-portrét árulni Magyarországon (Portraits of Hitler could be marketed in Hungary), http://hvg.hu/inton/20170927_Kormany_lehet_Hitlerportret_arulni_Magyarorszagon (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

⁴¹ András Gerő: Vona Gábor vállalhatatlan (Gábor Vona is intolerable), http://mandiner.hu/cikk/20170919_gero_andras_vona_gabor_vallalhatalan (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

⁴² hirado.hu: Gerő András történelmszerűen vállalhatatlan a Jobbik zsidóellenes rasszizmusa (Historian András Gerő thinks Jobbik's anti-Semitic racism is intolerable), <https://www.hirado.hu/2017/09/20/gero-andras-tortenesz-szerint-vallalhatalan-a-jobbik-zsidoeellenes-rasszizmusa/> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

calism, which includes anti-Romaism and anti-Semitism. *“The party has not proved that they have distanced themselves from such ideologies and therefore they could rightly be reckoned as racists”* added Gerő.⁴³

Gerő also talked about the case and shared his opinion in detail on ATV⁴⁴. He does not think the Hanukkah greetings from Jobbik could be genuine, as they have not distanced themselves from and apologized for their previous anti-Semitic statements. The historian said it was difficult to decide how Jobbik could prove the change in their attitude towards the Jewish community, but it would definitely be a step forward if in stark contrast to their previous activities the party talked positively about the values of the Hungarian Jewish community (instead of their negative rhetoric that could still be heard). In that case, a Hanukkah greeting would come with no surprise. The largest credibility gap was that at the end

of 2016, Vona’s greetings were rather bizarre – reasoned Gerő. He also said that the media should report about Jobbik because of the large number of votes they received at the elections, but civil societies should act differently and their decisions should be value-based when inviting guests to their programs.

News portals wrote that the I love Hungary Club is a group of mainly left-wing liberal opinion formers established in 2006, which regularly organizes debate nights behind closed doors. Their events are not open to the press, the debates are generally not reported. Among members of SZMK, there are public figures such as Eszter Babarczy, Péter Bárándy, Gabriella Jakupcsek, Péter Kolosi, Mihály Kökény, Szilvia Krizsó, Csaba László, Péter Sziámi Müller and Tamás Sárközy. Among guests invited to their events, there were János Lázár, Ferenc Gyurcsány and Sándor Demján.

⁴³ Egon Rónai talked with András Gerő in ATV’s program entitled *Egyenes beszéd* (Straight talk). <http://www.atv.hu/video/video-20170920-gero-andras> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

⁴⁴ Egon Rónai talked with András Gerő in ATV’s program entitled *Egyenes beszéd* (Straight talk). <http://www.atv.hu/video/video-20170920-gero-andras> (downloaded on 19/10/2017)

⁴⁵ At the end of December 2016, Gábor Vona sent greeting cards to leaders of Jewish communities on the occasion of Hanukkah.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Action and Protection Foundation did not initiate any legal actions this month. There was no progress reached in 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.

Sorszám	Dátum	Esemény	Kategória
1.	7 September	Charges against György Gyula Zagyva	Official and civil responses
2.	8 September	Ripost article about anti-Semitic comments of Jobbik	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
3.	8 September	British author talks about emerging fascism in Hungary at an event in London	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
4.	8 September	Zsolt Bayer's book added to the National Library	Other News
5.	10 September	Hitler cover reported to the police, measures taken	Other News
6.	11-19 September	Anti-Semitic remark on Római-partért Egyesület's Facebook page	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate speech
7.	14 September	APF notified of anti-Semitic graffiti	Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate speech
8.	18 September	Péter Szijjártó held talks with American Jewish organizations in New York	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
9.	19-21 September	Historian András Gerő spoken up against Jobbik	Other News
10.	21-22 September	House of Fates on the brink of demise	Community News and Responses
11.	25 September	Financial Times believes the new campaign against Soros has undertones of anti-Semitism	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary

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 10 00 00

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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