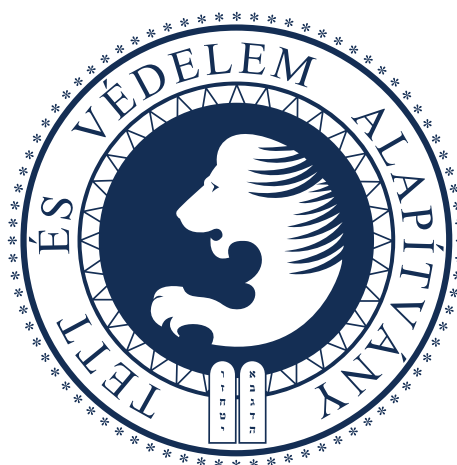


ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

AUGUST 2018

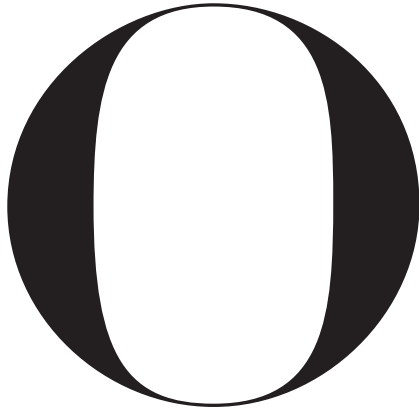


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 impor-

tant 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 three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during August monitoring. APF classified the incidents as vandalism and hate speech. APF was notified that discriminatory text was written in a bus stop of bus no. 68 in Budapest. Unknown individuals wrote “George Soros and Migrant Mohamed to gas chambers” on the green-colored side wall of the bus stop. APF received another notification this month informing us that an individual called Károly R. submitted a number of anti-Semitic and Jewish/Zionist conspiracy theory-based comments on privatbankar.hu, regardless of the content of the articles published on the site. The third notification we received was about an anti-Semitic book being sold online on several sites, including the webshop of libri.hu. Author of the book is Zoltán Bosnyák and his book is entitled “Fight against the Jewish threat!”.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents includes no incidents this month.

APF received communications this month in relation to two of our previously initiated cases. The first one informed us that Szekszárd Police Station terminated investigations due to lack of criminal offence because, in their opinion, the symbol strongly resembling a swastika that was painted at the entrance of the Jewish cemetery was different from the Nazi symbol and in certain cultures it has positive meanings. The other notice communicated that a second instance verdict acquitted the offender who, following kuruc.info’s encouragement, harassed a journalist reporting on the portal’s anti-Semitic billboard campaign.

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 discour-

se, 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. It is civil organizations that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs—

¹ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

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 organ-

izations 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 prejudice can be proven as a motivating factor. When identifying hate incidents, various indicators recorded during the monitoring

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 Chakrabarti 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.

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.

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.

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 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 – AUGUST 2018

Action and Protection Foundation identified three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of August. The incidents fall into the categories of vandalism and hate speech.

VANDALISM

*Bus stop vandalized
by unknown individuals*
Source: facebook.com;
Action and Protection
Foundation

9 August 2018 APF was notified that someone posted a photo on Facebook depicting a bust stop of bus no. 68 in Budapest. The photo showed that unknown individuals wrote *“George Soros and Migrant Mohamed to gas chambers!”* on the green-colored side wall of the bus stop.



Source: facebook.com

again brought under Turkish rule, could continue with anyone but the Jews.” Under an article about the pension fund, he commented: *“A never-ending theme. If we do not have a personal pension fund, we ought to have one. If we have one, we ought to leave the pension scheme – but then our savings will go into the pockets of one of the Jewish banks, (...)”* The well-known topos reappeared under another article on financial speculation: *“This is the great economic development in the Zionist way; the crypto-currency. If bitcoin wasn’t developed by the FED, it was invented by me. Real goods for virtual money? I smell a Jew here.”*

APF reported the case to the website operator and requested the hate content be removed.

Notification about an anti-Semitic book
Source: Action and Protection
Foundation

13 August 2018 APF was notified that an anti-Semitic book was sold online on several sites, including the webshop of libri.hu. Author of the book is Zoltán Bosnyák and his book is entitled *“Fight against the Jewish threat!”*. After World War II, Zoltán Bosnyák was sentenced to death and executed for such and similar works, for his life’s work. The author himself did not define his philosophy as anti-Semitism but as “anti-Judaism”, which – based on his own account – is much more and much deeper than anti-Semitism.

Besides libri.hu, the book was also sold on ekonyv.org and the website operator sells a number of other anti-Semitic books online. These “works” are grouped into categories such as anti-Judaism or anti-Semitism on the site. APF wrote a letter to the CEO of the company operating the online shop and requested the openly anti-Semitic and hate-inciting books be removed from the selection of the site.

HATE SPEECH

Notification about an anti-Semitic commenter
Source: Action and Protection
Foundation; privatbankar.hu

10 August 2018 APF received a notification this month informing us that an individual called Károly R. submitted a number of anti-Semitic and Jewish/Zionist conspiracy theory-based comments on privatbankar.hu, regardless of the content of the site’s articles. The notifier also contacted the editorial of privatbankar.hu and asked them to moderate anti-Semitic and discriminatory comments.

APF read through the above-mentioned individual’s comments, which included sentences like *“My thinking is my own, it is not characterized by Jewish notions or clichés. It means that I think with my own head and am not misled by the media”*. Or: *“I hope that we will be once*

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During August 2018 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified no incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime which are classified as hate crimes, but we would

not include them in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature or the lack of clear anti-Semitic motive.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

David B. Cornstein talks about positive experiences

Source: szombat.org

29 August 2018 The US' new Ambassador to Hungary David B. Cornstein gave an interview to the Jewish political and cultural magazine called "Szombat" ("Shabbat"). The Ambassador talked about his past, his Jewish identity, his goals in Hungary and



Source: szombat.org

the experiences he has had so far. The Ambassador said he was a committed promoter of democracy, he believed in the rule of law, individual freedoms, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and press.

Cornstein also stated that had he witnessed that the freedom of any individual

or institution was put in danger, he'd be the first one to raise concerns. The Ambassador stressed that he has had very good experiences over the last two months. In meetings with religious and business leaders and heads of NGOs, nobody told him that *"this is bad or terrible, please intervene, help us"*. He has met people who were satisfied, he has not witnessed any infringement of freedoms. The Ambassador also mentioned he has met a number of rabbis and none of them said *"there are terrible things here, anti-Semitism is terrible"*. Cornstein also said he met several business leaders, and no one complained about corruption.

The new Ambassador noted that Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu *"are good friends, Hungary is the member of the European Union and if there is a serious negative development for Israel, Hungary will intervene"*. He also remarked he is proud of his American Judaism and as an American Jew, he considers both American ideals and Jewish history and people important.

Slomó Köves believes friendship with Israel is beneficial for the fight against anti-Semitism

Source: 168ora.hu

31 August 2018 168ora.hu wrote about Netanyahu and Orbán's meeting in Israel. The newspaper conducted an interview with journalist and editor of "Szombat" János Gadó and executive rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves. Both of the interviewees believe that the relationship between the two countries is really good right now. In relation to the good relationship with the Jewish state, the issue of anti-Semitism in Hungary was also discussed. Gadó stated that *"the government has basically monopolized anti-Semitism, they silence it and use it to their advantage. They use it as they wish, as the campaign against Soros demonstrates"*. Gadó also added that



Source: IGBora.hu

the friendship with Israel is basically used as a kosher certificate, it is an acquittal from charges of anti-Semitism.

Slomó Köves, on the other hand, believes that the good relationship has a moral impact and is also beneficial for the fight against anti-Semitism. The executive rabbi stated that the communications of ruling parties have strong social impacts. *“What the head is doing strongly impacts social attitudes. If a right-wing government has pro-Israeli opinions, it may have favorable impacts on anti-Semitism in the society as a whole.”*

Rabbi Köves did not agree with the statement about the kosher certificate. He does not think it matters how the Hungarian government is presented in Western press. *“If it was moving closer to Israel that could remove anti-Semitism from the political community and political identity the Prime Minister is leading, it would in itself be a positive process, and it should be supported”* – he noted.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Zsolt Semjén: “We have to take up the gauntlet against anti-Semitism”
Source: hetek.hu

3 August 2018 At the event of the ruling party held in Tusványos, Deputy Prime Minister and president of KDNP Zsolt Semjén gave an interview. In relation to the preceding visit to Israel, Semjén said that calling the occasion “*historic was not a rhetorical expression but the truth. A Hungarian Prime Minister in office has never paid an official visit to the state of Israel before*”. The Deputy Prime Minister noted that Hungary and Israel shared common historical destiny and values, and he also talked about that the US moved its Embassy in Israel. As he explained, the decision sparked strong Pan-European outrage – yet, in his opinion, the European Union has nothing to do with how two non-member states handle such situations. With regards to anti-Semitism, Semjén said that “*history has exceeded the belief that solely historical right-wing or extreme anti-Semitism should be countered*”. In Semjén’s opinion, anti-Semitism has two new trends, which should be countered, “*one of them is the anti-Israelism of the Western European left-wing (...). We have to take up the gauntlet against this. And the other one, which has appeared with the mass Islamic migration, is Islamic anti-Semitism. This has to be countered, too, and cannot be taken as marginal*”.

Commemoration held on the occasion of the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Totalitarian Regimes
Source: MTI; kormany.hu

23 August 2018 The commemoration started off with speeches, which were followed by a memorial walk from Kossuth Lajos Square to the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial and to the House of Terror Museum. A few speeches were given at the latter location. A number of people carried Hungarian and European Union flags with them.



Source: MTI

Minister of Human Resources Miklós Kásler said that “*our full sovereignty, capacity for action and clout should be ensured at all costs because only with these can we guarantee the peaceful future of our fellow countrymen, families and nation. This is how it could be prevented that anti-human ideologies and dictatorships emerging from them could once again threaten physical, material and spiritual life in Europe and in Hungary*.”

The Minister recalled that Hungary, Poland and Lithuania all suffered from Communism and Nazism and it was the initiation of these counties that since 2011 victims of the two totalitarian regimes are commemorated every year on 23 August.

Director-General of the House of Terror Museum Mária Schmidt also spoke at the event. She said that Communism and Nazism come from the same roots, they are results of the same poison: man’s wickedness. “*Their essence is to reject everything that is human, free and democratic*” – she said. “*It is difficult to understand how dictatorships can deceive so many thoughtful people*” – noted Mária Schmidt. The Director-General believed the heroes who confronted oppressive structures should also be commemorated.

Scientific Deputy Director-General of the Research Institute and Archives for the History of the Hungarian Regime Change Sándor M. Kiss said that “*dictatorship is dictatorship, and murder is murder, regardless of the notion in the name of which it is committed*”.

Cultural programs made the commemoration more varied and colorful. State Secretaries and Ambassadors were also present at the event, including for example Parliamentary Secretary of State for Public Administration and Justice Bence Rétvári and Secretary of State for Health Care Anikó Nagy. Each participant placed a white rose at the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial and at the end of the event, participants lit candles at the House of Terror Museum.

23 August, the anniversary of signing the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in 1939 is proclaimed in Europe as the day of remembrance for victims of totalitarian regimes.



Source: MTI

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

According to The Washington Times, accusations of anti-Semitism against the country are exaggerated

Source: webradio.hu; hirado.hu; washingtontimes.com

14 August 2018 Several Hungarian press organs reviewed the American daily newspaper The Washington Times, which published an opinion piece by American historian Daniel Pipes about Viktor Orbán and Hungary. Pipes wrote that the Hungarian head of government received a lot of criticism because “[n]o European head of government talks remotely like Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban. (...) Mr.

Orban has undermined a continent-wide consensus (...). Pipes added that of course, the Hungarian PM received relentless criticism, some of which is deserved, but others are “exaggerated and unfair”. He also wrote that “(...) local Jews complain of increased hostility; but anti-Semitic incidents have declined, and Hungary is the safest place in European public for observant Jews”. With regards to the campaign against George Soros, Pipes drew a parallel and wrote that Orbán’s “intense attacks on George Soros, an anti-Zionist and questionable Jew, are no more anti-Semitic than those of, say, David Horowitz (...) Hungary has Europe’s best relations with Israel.”

OTHER NEWS

Tibor Szanyi compared the border barrier to Auschwitz

Source: mandiner.hu

25 August 2018 Between 24-26 August, an event called Left-wing Sziget Festival was held in Horány. Socialist MEP Tibor Szanyi was among the invited guests of the festival. Besides the current political situation in Hungary, migration was also discussed at the event.

Szanyi noted in his presentation that climate change and global migration were caused by national big capital. He said Europe was not in the position to treat asylum-seekers inhumanly after the European Union received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. *“A Nobel Peace Prize laureate Europe cannot shoot migrants into the sea. We have to treat everyone humanely, even criminals!”* – stated the MEP, as he believed criminals could be punished but they should still be treated humanely. Szanyi also acknowledged, however, that Europe will not be able to help every single refugee.

In relation to the situation at the border between Hungary and Serbia, Szanyi said the conditions were inhuman. In his opinion, it makes no sense to build barriers because *“every barrier has so far been swept away by the first major tension”*, Szanyi mentioned Hadrian’s Wall and the Great Wall of China as examples. *“This barrier is basically an Auschwitz-lite”* – said Szanyi. In his opinion, the barrier was pointless at the time of its construction.

Tibor Szanyi’s statements are not classified as anti-Semitic but the politician’s thinking and his choice of words tell us that he considered the phenomenon a soft version of the Shoah, which is not in close proximity with the reality and is therefore relativization, such views are also an insult to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

News of the fake museum became international – protests and closing

Source: izraelinfo.blog.hu;

merce.hu; magyarnarancs.hu

29 & 31 August 2018 Izraelinfo.blog.hu reported that at the location of the former ghetto, next to the Dohány Street Synagogue, the fake museum about which APF filed complaints at the end of January is still open.

As we presented in our January report, a place called the “Shoah Cellar Museum” on Wesselényi Street in Budapest district 7 is operated by an Israeli citizen called Ayner Friedman. According to Friedman, the first female Israeli paratrooper Hannah Szenes was executed there, and this is why he established the “museum” at that location. The flyer advertising the establishment noted that it was the one and only Shoah museum in the world, located in an authentic Nazi underground bunker. Ayner also stated that an office of Adolf Eichmann and a torture chamber were also to be found in the museum. Another ad of the museum said that founder of the Zionist movement Theodore Herzl was born there. Following a site visit and based on historical facts, APF filed a complaint at competent government agencies and the consumer authority for misleading the public and consumers.

The case was discussed in Israel, too. Following a proposal made by member of the Knesset Mirav Ben-Ari, Hungary was asked to close the museum.

A group of outraged civilians began to protest against the museum, they used flyers and balloons at its entrance to draw tourists’ and passersby’s attention to the scam. They also requested authorities to proceed against the establishment, which had not completed the standard licensing procedure. According to participants’ accounts, the manager of the Shoah Center attacked one of the protesters. Police of-

fficers arriving on the scene checked the manager's identity, and as it turned out he did not have a valid residence permit, he was taken to the police station.

Soon after the incident, it was revealed that colleagues of the municipality checked whether the Shoah Center operated orderly.

The cellar, which had been rented for storage purposes, was taken back and the rental rights of the Israeli ex-lawyer were withdrawn. The facility was locked and sealed, and the following notice was placed at its entrance: *"unauthorized opening or closing of the premises will entail legal proceedings"*.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Termination of proceedings

Source: Action and Protection
Foundation

6 August 2018 The crime unit of Sze-
kszárd Police Station notified APF in rela-
tion to a previously initiated case.

APF filed a complaint on 26 May 2018 be-
cause at an unknown time, before 26 May, a
symbol strongly resembling a swastika was
painted on the English language notice
board at the entrance of the Jewish ceme-
tery in Szedres. The police decision stated
they had collected data and searched for
witnesses but found no relevant informa-
tion about the offender or the incident.

The decision also noted that based on the
photo attached to the complaint, “*although
the symbol looks like a forbidden totalitarian
symbol, it actually differs from it on numerous
points*”. Based on research conducted, the
symbol is “*used in many cultures and reli-
gions (...) and in the majority of cases, it has a
positive meaning*”. In addition, the offender
could not be identified and therefore their
motive remains unknown. Consequently,
the authority believed there was no crime
committed and proceedings were termi-
nated.

APF issued a statement after receiving
the decision: we find it unacceptable that
when a swastika is painted reversely on the
information board of a Jewish cemetery,
authorities believe it is not a totalitarian
symbol. APF filed a complaint against the
decision.

Harasser incited by kuruc.info acquitted at second instance

Source: Action and Protection
Foundation

17 August 2018 Budapest-Capital Re-
gional Court acquitted the individual who,
after having been encouraged by kuruc.
info, harassed Index journalist András
Dezső. According to APF, the Hungarian
justice system should not legalize the wick-
ed practice of the far-right news portal, i.
e. publishing the private phone numbers
and email addresses of public figures, poli-
ticians, judges, lawyers and journalists and
asking readers – explicitly or implicitly – to
harass and threaten these individuals.

Index journalist András Dezső wrote an
article entitled “*Kuruc.info advertised on a
billboard*” in 2013. After this, kuruc.info
published a hate piece entitled “*Our news
portal’s ad visible on a billboard – and an In-
dex Jew will have it removed*”, in which An-
drás Dezső’s private number is made public
and readers are asked to harass him. In the
following days, the journalist was called al-
most a thousand times, he received numer-
ous text messages with mainly anti-Semitic
and defamatory content.

Against this backdrop, Action and Pro-
tection Foundation wanted to provide le-
gal protection for András Dezső. APF filed
charges and investigations began, but the
police could only identify one offender
over the course of a year and a half. This
individual phoned András Dezső twelve
times, sent him an anti-Semitic text mes-
sage. He or she admitted the acts.

However, the public prosecutor’s office
did not indict the offender but terminat-
ed the investigation reasoning that twelve
phone calls and a text message could not be
established as harassment. APF continued
to represent the journalist who now act-

ed as a substitute private prosecutor. The court proceedings highlighted that readers of kuruc.info had acted similarly a number of times before, and the offender was aware that he or she would join a sequence of events with the calls that would for days make the victim's life rather unbearable. Therefore, he or she was an accomplice of all the other unidentified offenders.

Yet, Budapest-Capital Regional Court acquitted the accused in June and declared

the act was not a criminal act. The regional court reasoned the offender did not know the other callers and therefore he or she could only presume he or she was not the only one calling. Furthermore, András Dezső did not answer all the thousand phone calls and therefore there is no evidence that the callers wanted to harass him.

APF believes, the justice system thereby legalized the extremist news portal's harassing practice.

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.	3 rd of August	Zsolt Semjén: "We have to take up the gauntlet against anti-Semitism"	Official and Civil Responses
2.	6 th of August	Termination of proceedings	APF Legal Actions
3.	9 th of August	Bus stop vandalized by unknown individuals	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Vandalism
4.	10 th of August	Notification about an anti-Semitic commenter	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
5.	13 th of August	Notification about an anti-Semitic book	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
6.	14 th of August	According to The Washington Times, accusations of anti-Semitism against the country are exaggerated	News and Opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary
7.	17 th of August	Harasser incited by kuruc.info acquitted at second instance	APF Legal Actions
8.	23 rd of August	Commemoration held on the occasion of the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Totalitarian Regimes	Official and Civil Responses
9.	25 th of August	Tibor Szanyi compared the border barrier to Auschwitz	Other News
10.	29 th of August	David B. Cornstein talks about positive experiences	Community News and Responses
11.	29 and 31 st of August	News of the fake museum became international – protests and closing	Other News
12.	31 st of August	Slomó Köves believes friendship with Israel is beneficial for the fight against anti-Semitism	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 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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