

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

JUNE 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 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 three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during June monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech. APF was notified that a bus driver made anti-Semitic comments while driving a public transport bus in Budapest. In the spirit of freedom of speech, the bus driver wished the Jews went to gas chambers because some people inquired about the location of the synagogue. Zsolt Bayer wrote an opinion piece about how the Greek crisis was managed and that according to an article in *Der Spiegel*, how much Germany gained from this. Bayer finished his article with an anti-Semitic joke whose punch line said that anyone who conducts business with Jews will always fare badly. The third case also involved Bayer. He wrote an open letter to the Embassy of Germany in which he stated that by taking in migrants – who are associated with dirt, filth and sin –, Germany is committing a bigger crime than they did at the time of the Holocaust.

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

APF received a notice this month in relation to some proceedings we had previously initiated. On 27 May 2013, APF filed charges against the Jobbik Committee in Üllés for open denial of the crimes committed by the National Socialist regime. The free monthly publication of the Jobbik Committee issued an article titled “Holocaust – jigsaw” in its May 2011 volume, the article questioned whether the Holocaust happened. The article was distributed in Üllés and therefore it was accessible and available to a large public. The article was published also on further websites. The statute of limitations for criminal liability of the previously suspended proceedings has now expired and therefore the investigation authority decided to terminate the investigation.

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

– JUNE 2018

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

HATE SPEECH

*Discriminating opinion pronounced
by a bus driver in Budapest*

Source: Action and Protection
Foundation

14 June 2018 APF was notified that a bus driver made anti-Semitic comments while driving in Budapest. According to the notifier, in the spirit of freedom of speech the driver of bus no 9 said at the Astoria stop that he wished the Jews went to gas chambers after some people asked him about the location of the synagogue. The incident took place on 13 June at around 2 pm.

We contacted the notifier personally, who said they did not want to further deal with the incident as it was a private conversation in which the bus driver shared his views and he later apologized.

*Zsolt Bayer illustrated the Greek crisis
with an anti-Semitic joke*

Source: magyaridok.hu; b1.blog.hu

26 June 2018 Zsolt Bayer reacted to a Der Spiegel article by writing a piece on the Greek crisis to magyaridok.hu. He wrote that according to the German news magazine, Germany has earned 2.9 billion euros in profit through the Greek crisis. When asked by The Greens, the German government told that since 2010, Germany has made 2.9 billion euros in interest from the Greek crisis. Bayer said he was not surprised at all that “*incredible amounts of money were made by people who have allegedly tried to fix the Greek crisis, who have »helped« and*

who would actually benefit from a never-ending Greek crisis, because if for some reason the Greek crisis was overcome at a point, they would no longer be able to earn these ridiculous amounts”. Bayer closed his opinion piece with an anti-Semitic joke about Aaron having to borrow money from Kohn who in the end cons Aaron out of his money. This is a classic anti-Semitic joke: doing business with Kohn is a bad idea, he is materialistic and always wins while the poor Hungarian (or Székely) always loses. The punchline of the “joke” was that Aaron was contemplating on not having any money, being in debt, losing his axe but still thinking that everything was alright. Bayer continued drawing an analogy and finished his piece by stating that “*this is what happens nowadays, but this is what everyone will have enough of sooner or later.*”

APF believes Bayer reinforced an existing prejudice about Jewish people, in a rather primitive way. The aim of the joke was to defame the Jews.

*Zsolt Bayer thinks Germany is now
committing a bigger crime than they did
at the time of the Holocaust*

Source: magyaridok.hu; 444.hu

12 June 2018 Zsolt Bayer wrote an open letter entitled “Crime and punishment” to the German Ambassador in Budapest. In his letter, Bayer said the Germans were “*frustrated and sick*”. In his opinion, “*because of their bad conscience for the Holocaust, the Germans silently tolerate that a fearsome mass of people who do not belong here, that is Africans and Far Easterners, exploit the social system and welfare society, create dirt, smell, filth and unbearable conditions and do not work.*”

Bayer believes the German bureaucracy has “*become its own parody, it has rotten to the circumstances*”, and the Germans “*lead themselves out of existence*” when they look away and say that “*no ethnic groups could be associated with sin and racism is forbidden anyway.*”

By criticizing the German immigration policy, Bayer concluded that the Germans are becoming nation killers in the present situation and “*are committing a bigger crime now than the crimes they great-grandparents committed, whom they always refer to when they are doing what they are doing.*”

Bayer’s letter contains collective prejudice about the Germans, the Africans, the

Far Easterners, and therefore we believe it is hate speech. We have included it in our report on anti-Semitism because of its Holocaust relativization. Based on the results of APF’s annual research on anti-Semitism, the more and more common and dangerous form of anti-Semitism is when someone does not openly deny the Holocaust but minimizes its significance.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

Action and Protection Foundation identified no incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during June monitoring, which we would not include in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature or the lack of clear anti-Semitic motive.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

“We do not see anti-Semitic motives behind criticizing Soros”

Source: magyarhirlap.hu

4 June 2018 Secretary of APF Kálmán Szalai gave an interview to Magyar Hírlap. The interview was about the left-wing press’ criticism of Israel, the situation of international Jewish communities, and about anti-Semitism in Hungary and



Source: magyarhirlap.hu

abroad. In relation to the latter, the interview also dealt with the LIBE report, which APF had also reported on previously. *“We approach this issue from a professional point of view, in line with international professional trends and methodologies. On the one hand, surveys on prejudice of recent years have showed that one third of the population can be considered anti-Semitic, and the proportion of moderately anti-Semites among them have decreased in the past two years as the number of strongly anti-Semites has grown. On the other hand, the number of atrocities has decreased in recent years, there were 48 incidents registered in 2016 and 37 last year. Unfortunately, the trend is reverse in the West.”* To the journalist’s question according to which, George Soros is still topical in Hungarian public life, Kálmán Szalai shared his views that *“on the whole, the criticism of Soros’ vision may be justifiable in public speech. We do not see anti-Semitic motives behind this. Our survey*

revealed that only two percent of the respondents thought of Soros when hearing the word »Jewish« and thought of the word »Jewish« when hearing Soros’ name. Therefore, the debate with him is not adding to or reassuring anti-Semitic attitudes.”

“We need another two thousand years for them not to hate us”

Source: fuhu.hu

19 June 2018 Chief Rabbi of the Dohány Street Synagogue Róbert Frölich gave an interview to fuhu.hu. The interview started with a discussion about the fact that Frölich had resigned from being chief rabbi of Hungary because he could not identify with some of the new processes inside the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz). His particular problem was that *“religious diversity has been drawn into neology”*. To the question whether the campaign against Soros had an anti-Semitic overtone to it, the Rabbi’s answer was a definite yes. *“Absolutely, and I cannot find a better word. When a smiling Jew is put on a billboard presented as the enemy, this cannot not have an anti-Semitic overtone. The fact that people in Israel are against Soros is a completely different story. There, (...) people are against Soros for supporting the Palestinians”*. The former chief rabbi of Hungary also added that *“the aim of the campaign against Soros may not have been to fuel an anti-Semitic campaign, but it did have an anti-Semitic overtone, without doubt”*. In his opinion, anti-Semitism has not grown but become louder, which is – among other things – a result of the internet and the anonymity it guarantees. Frölich believes that the topos that Jews are accumulating a lot of money, fill all the positions for intellectuals, etc. still exists today. *“Basically, the training on how to hate the Jews has been on for two thousand years. People need at least another two thousand years to learn how not to hate them. The problem is we do not have that much time.”*

Comprehensive research on the identity of the Hungarian Jewish community

Source: MTI

26 June 2018 With initiation and support from APF and other organizations, a new and comprehensive sociological research was conducted on the Hungarian Jewish community. The results of the research conducted in 2016 and 2017 were launched in Budapest in a volume entitled “Jews and Jewish communities in Hungary in 2017”.

Editors of the volume were sociologists András Kovács and Ildikó Barna. The results of the research give an accurate picture of the Jewish community in Hungary: the number of people in the community, their economic and social relations, their religiousness, identities, political and world views, whether they have experienced anti-Semitism and their relationship to Jewish



organizations and Israel.

In the past few years, the Jewish community's attachment to their traditions has strengthened but at the same time, a growing number of them consider themselves as Europeans. The last time a comprehensive research was conducted on the Hungarian

Jewish community was in 1999-2000, but its results are now outdated. In 1999, 45 percent of the respondents said they had given up their traditions or had distanced from them, while 16 percent of the respondents said the same last year. Since 1999, the number of respondents who consider themselves primarily Europeans, instead of being Jewish or Hungarian, has significantly risen.

Respondents could choose from the following options both in 1999 and 2017: they consider themselves as Jewish living in Hungary, Hungarian with Jewish heritage, Hungarian and Jewish, or European. Compared to 1999, the number of answers to each option decreased, it was only the number of respondents who consider themselves Europeans that increased, from 10 to 30 percent. The answers to questions regarding anti-Semitism were surprising. Although the number of respondents who have personally suffered or witnessed anti-Semitic incidents of physical attacks has definitely decreased, the number of respondents who believe anti-Semitism is widespread or very widespread in Hungary has significantly risen. Personal experience and perception do not, therefore, seem to overlap – commented the researchers.

The volume was published by the Jewish political and cultural magazine entitled Szombat, and it processed 1879 ninety-minute long personal interviews.

Common monitoring system to fight anti-Semitism

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

29 June 2018 Action and Protection Foundation (APF) organized an international conference entitled “European anti-Semitism, the fight against anti-Semitism” on 27 June 2018. The conference was held at the seat of the European Jewish Association in Brussels, talks were about establishing a center that would analyze anti-Semitic phenomena with a common professional methodology in the V4 countries.

APF and its Slovakian and Polish partners would like to establish a human rights center to monitor, research and analyze



Source: Action and Protection

anti-Semitism with common professional methodology and practice and to be able to provide consistent and high-quality support in the V4 countries to the fight against verbal and physical incidents with anti-Semitic motives.

The program is led by APF, which was established by the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) and whose target system and operation are unique in Europe as we are carrying out activities in the triad of research, education and advocacy based on professional methodologies defined by OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe). With the contribution of Polish, Czech and Slovakian partners, the program prepares future professionals to conduct analytical tasks related to monitoring and to acquire skills necessary for advocacy.

As a result of this program and based on real data collected in the Visegrád countries, a common monitoring report will be

published on anti-Semitism by the end of the year.

Ambassador of Hungary in Brussels Zoltán Nagy, chairman of the European Jewish Association – participating in the program and providing the location of the conference – Rabbi Menachem Margolin, European Commission Coordinator on combating anti-Semitism Johannes Börmann, Slovakian partner of the cooperation and leader of the Chabad of Slovakia Rabbi Baruch Mayers, and head of department at the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ádám Szesztay gave speeches at the conference.

Representatives of the partners participating in the V4 countries' cooperation were present at the conference and representatives of multiple ministries of foreign affairs also took part as observers.

The project initiated by APF was supported by the Visegrád Fund.



Source: Action and Protection

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Péter Szijjártó: “Zero tolerance against anti-Semitism”
Source: kormany.hu

1 and 4 June 2018 On 1 June, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó held talks with CEO and Vice President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) Robert Singer. The Minister said that establishing



Source: kormany.hu

a balanced approach to Israel in the international community was in the focus of Hungarian foreign policy. He added that the relationship of the two countries has never been as good as it is now, and that Hungary continues to see Israel as a strategic partner. He also mentioned that Hungary has promoted zero tolerance against anti-Semitism, and in relation to this, the Minister recalled that the biggest Jewish community in Central Europe lives in Budapest and the Hungarian government will continue to do everything in order for Europe to preserve its Jewish-Christian heritage.

Péter Szijjártó also presented his above views regarding anti-Semitism and Israel to representatives of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in New York. The Minister stressed he was proud to state there is still zero tolerance against anti-Semitism in Hungary and that the Hungarian government makes efforts in order to help Jewish communities not only in Hungary but also

abroad. A good example of this would be the funding of the reconstruction of the Subotica(Szabadka) Synagogue.

Government spokesman objects to playing the anti-Semitic card
Source: MTI; hirado.hu

6 June 2018 Government spokesman Zoltán Kovács argued against an article published on 1 June in the Canadian newspaper Globe and Mail, which stated that non-Christian minorities seem to be in danger in Hungary.

Author of the article Erna Paris raised the question whether the Hungarian Jewish community should pack their things and leave Hungary. According to Paris, Viktor Orbán has marginalized the Jews in Hungary without actually naming them, the anti-Semitic figures of speech he has applied could have been taken out of some late 18th century or pre-1945 German sources. The author of the article also believed that the basis of Fidesz’s election campaign was built on demonizing George Soros.

The Hungarian government spokesman reacted to the article in a short piece addressed to the editorial of the Canadian newspaper. Kovács stated that it was during Viktor Orbán’s administration that a Holocaust museum was decided to be established in Hungary, Holocaust Memorial Day was introduced, and the constitution was modified in order to recognize the Hungarian Jewish community as an inalienable part of the nation. Strict laws were adopted to punish Holocaust denial and the use of hatred inciting symbols, and zero tolerance was promoted against anti-Semitism. “*Stop playing the anti-Semitic card, please, it is over-used, cynical and offends many people*” – wrote the spokesman.

*Man convicted in first instance
for Holocaust denial*

Source: origo.hu; index.hu

8 June 2018 According to the indictment of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Budapest districts 5 and 13, in January 2016, a 69-year-old man submitted a comment denying the Holocaust to an article shared by someone else on a social networking site. The man stated the Holocaust was in reality not planned and decided by representatives of the National Socialist regime but by Jewish leaders. He concluded that therefore the Holocaust, as genocide committed by the Nazis, never happened.

This comment was against the law as it questioned the crimes committed by the National Socialist regime in front of a large public.

Such acts may be punishable by imprisonment of up to three years. The District Prosecutor's Office filed an indictment against the man in December 2016 and proposed suspended prison sentence. In January 2017, the Pest Central District Court imposed a penalty order and declared the man guilty, but he was fined only 225,000 forints. Both the District Prosecutor's Office and the accused requested trial – the former in hope of a more severe, the latter in hope of a less severe sentence. In a trial held on 5 June 2018, the court found the man guilty but reduced the fine to 150,000 forints.

The decision is not final, the District Prosecutor's Office brought an appeal for suspended imprisonment, the accused and his attorney brought an appeal for reduction of sentence.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

*Annual report published by FRA,
the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency*

Source: fra.europa.eu; 24.hu;
euronews.com; fidesz.hu

6-7 June 2018 Some improvements have been made regarding the equality of sexual minorities, but discrimination is still present in societies, stated the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in its 2017 annual report.

Multiple parts of the Vienna-based organization's report discussed the situation in Hungary. Based on their survey, over one third of the Hungarian respondents have experienced negative discrimination because of some protected characteristics, such as their race or age. Anti-migrant, anti-gay attitudes and racism were also studied in the research.

With regards to anti-Semitism, it was highlighted that it may be present in various forms and even events that are not considered anti-Semitic by all parties could incite concern and fear in Jewish communities. It was also mentioned that the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) called upon Viktor Orbán to end the campaign against George Soros, reasoning that these toxic messages harm Hungary.

Fidesz launched a statement following the publication of the report. *"The report of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights contains the very same lies about Hungary that had been previously spread by the Soros network"* – said communications director of Fidesz Balázs Hidvéghi. *"Everyone knows it was never Soros' origin we had problems with – he is of Hungarian origin –, but his activities and support of immigration"*, stressed the pro-government politician.

Hidvéghi drew attention to the fact that George Soros made his money by speculation, he ruined other people's lives or put

a strain on them, this is where his wealth comes from, which he now wants to use to support migration. *"We, however, refuse this and along with the Italians, want him to keep his filthy money for himself"* – said the politician.

*According to Likud's contact person,
Hungarian Jews are living a good life
in Hungary*

Source: mandiner.hu

18 June 2018 Southern Europe is at the moment much safer to Jewish people than Western Europe – said international relations coordinator of the Likud Party Tamir Wertzberger to Mandiner. According to Wertzberger, who has been living in Budapest and has been working on the Hungarian-Israeli relations for years, the relationship of the two countries has been going really well. He added that *"both countries and nations have contributed to one another's culture. Other common grounds are democracy and western values."*



Source: mandiner.hu

In relation to George Soros, Wertzberger said that *"it is important to understand Soros is not a representative of Jewish people. He is a private individual who makes his own decisions, some of which are not only criticized in Hungary or Israel, but also in the US. In my*

opinion, if someone gets in the ring of politics, they cannot just scream out at a point that ‘hey, you can’t touch me’. Soros has a plan, he works hard to carry out his plan, and even though the campaign against him did not look too well, it was not anti-Semitic and at the level of politics, it was completely legitimate” – he added.

Wertzberger also told Mandiner that he has been living in Hungary for quite a while, but he has never felt threatened in any ways. “Southern Europe is at the moment much safer to Jewish people than Western Europe”. In relation to this, he also mentioned that today “a great deal of French words could be heard on the streets of Israel, as so many Jews have fled there. There is a problem in Western countries, but not here in Hungary. When I speak to Jews here, many of them say that they live in a new golden age. I do not know what one expects from this government but what I see is that they reconstruct synagogues and rabbi houses and they support the culture.”

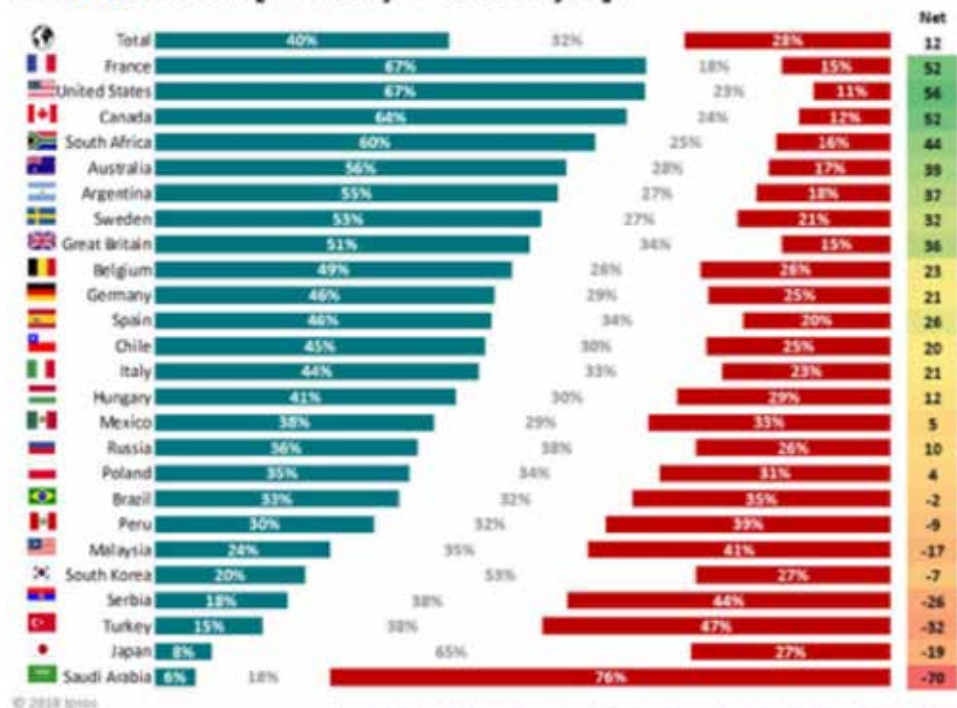
Hungarians are outstandingly prejudiced

Source: index.hu; 168ora.hu; twitter.com

25 June 2018 The prestigious market research company of the UK, Ipsos MORI has conducted a large-scale survey on the attitudes to minority groups in the world, from European countries through Saudi Arabia to Japan and Argentina. Not only are Hungarians prejudiced against the Muslims – rather significantly at an international level –, but also against Jewish people.

On the imaginary scale of hatred, Jews are between Muslims and gay or lesbian people. Hungarians are prejudiced against the Jews, above the international average. According to 29 percent of the Hungarian respondents, Jewish people are not real Hungarians, and only 41 percent of the respondents consider them Hungarians. 30 percent of the survey participants said they could not decide on this.

Is a Jew a Real [Country's Demonym]?



Source: twitter.com

OTHER NEWS

Kuruc.info was temporarily accessible in the Parliament
Source: index.hu

13-14 June 2018 The homophobic, anti-Semitic, xenophobic and anti-Roma portal kuruc.info has for years been blocked on the computers of the Parliament and the representatives' office building (the White House). On 13 June, however, the website was again accessible. Colleagues of Index were notified of this by someone working there. In 2013, it was Director General of the National Assembly György Such who banned the site, according to information received from Népszabadság at the time.

Following the news published on Index, the Parliament informed the internet portal that it was by accident, “*due to a conflict of software coming from different providers and having different functions that some of the blocked websites – including kuruc.info – became temporarily accessible on the computers of the National Assembly.*”

László Toroczkai establishes a new political party after Jobbik
Source: nepszava.hu; 444.hu

23 June 2018 László Toroczkai's new political movement was established in Ásotthalom on 23 June. The name of the new platform is “Mi Hazánk Mozgalom” (Our Country Movement). Along with Toroczkai,



Source: 444.hu

the Novák-Dúró couple and a few regional directors quitting Jobbik also joined the extremist movement.

“Instead of a political wallow, we will provide a positive vision to the people of our country” – this is how Toroczkai attracted supporters disillusioned from Jobbik to Ásotthalom. In his speech, Toroczkai said their program was to be released for public debate the following month and on 20 August, the movement would officially turn into a political party. He mentioned as a broader aim that Hungary would become a great power in Europe. *“We would like to have a Hungary that remains a white island in Europe.”*

According to reports, about a thousand people participated in the event.

The new US Ambassador presented his credentials to János Áder
Source: MTI; Magyar Idők

25 and 30 June 2018 The new US Ambassador to Hungary, David B. Cornstein, presented his credentials to President János Áder in the Sándor Palace.



Source: MTI

Billionaire businessman from New York David B. Cornstein – whose grandmother was born in Hungary – had previously worked in the government sector and for charity organizations. He used to be Chairman of the New York State Olympic Games Commission, served as Board Member

of Battery Park, and has been honored as “Man of the Year” by a chemotherapy and also a diabetes foundation.

At the Senate hearing prior to his appointment, the Ambassador said his objectives would be strengthening the relationship between the US and Hungary, advancing the US’ economic interests in Hungary, promoting democratic values and halting the rise of anti-Semitism.

A few days later the Ambassador gave an interview to Magyar Idők and said he was also trying to find a common solution with

the Hungarian government regarding CEU. Ambassador Cornstein said he saw an unprecedented consensus regarding the issue back in the US, and he believed both Hungary and Budapest would suffer a tremendous loss if the institution left the country. The diplomat does not think leaders of the Hungarian government are anti-Semitic, but he said it was unfortunate that a legislative package bore George Soros’ name. He said he would be happy to see Viktor Orbán talk not only about Christian traditions, but Jewish-Christian traditions instead.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Termination of investigation

Source: Action and Protection
Foundation

26 June 2018 The Investigation Department of Szeged Police Station sent Action and Protection Foundation a decision of terminating investigations regarding one of our earlier cases.

On 27 May 2013, APF filed charges against the Jobbik Committee in Üllés for open denial of the crimes committed by the National Socialist regime. The free monthly publication of the Jobbik Committee issued an article titled “Holocaust – jigsaw” in its May 2011 volume, the article questioned whether the Holocaust happened. The article was distributed in Üllés and therefore it was accessible and available to a large public. The article was published also on further websites.

Due to the suspect’s permanent and severe illness, and his severely limited communication abilities, he was not able to take part in the proceedings. As significant improvements of his health conditions were not to be expected in the future, investigations were suspended.

It was revealed that the majority of the websites where the article was published

were automatic link collectors and all their blogposts are deleted once they are deleted from the original website.

With regards to uploading the article to the original website, investigations revealed that a D. M., resident of Pécs, logged in to the website at the time of the upload. D. M. was interrogated by Pécs Police Station on 10 October 2013, but it could not be established beyond doubt that it was him who uploaded the article, which was subject of the proceedings. He could not be linked to ulles.jobbik.hu or none of the other websites either, and therefore, Szeged Police Station terminated the investigations due to lack of proof.

In the cases of some other websites, the hosting provider and user of the domain names was identified. Investigations revealed that the online storage spaces were offered to anonymous users and that user data were not kept. The service was free of charge. Since the offender could not be identified, this part of the investigations was also suspended on 11 June 2015.

APF received the present notice because the suspended investigations were now terminated as no further evidence had been found and the statute of limitations for criminal liability expired.

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.	1 st and 4 th of June	Péter Szijjártó: "Zero tolerance against anti-Semitism"	Official and Civil Responses
2.	4 th of June	"We do not see anti-Semitic motives behind criticizing Soros"	Community News and Responses
3.	6 th of June	Government spokesman objects to playing the anti-Semitic card	Official and Civil Responses
4.	6-7 th of June	Annual report published by FRA, the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency	News and Opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary
5.	8 th of June	Man convicted in first instance for Holocaust denial	Official and Civil Responses
6.	12 th of June	Zsolt Bayer thinks Germany is now committing a bigger crime than they did at the time of the Holocaust	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
7.	13-14 th of June	Kuruc.info was temporarily accessible in the Parliament	Other News
8.	14 th of June	Discriminating opinion pronounced by a bus driver in Budapest	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
9.	18 th of June	According to Likud's contact person, Hungarian Jews are living a good life in Hungary	News and Opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary
10.	19 th of June	"We need another two thousand years for them not to hate us"	Community News and Responses
11.	23 rd of June	László Toroczkai establishes a new political party after Jobbik	Other News
12.	25 th of June	Hungarians are outstandingly prejudiced	News and Opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary
13.	25 and 30 th of June	The new US Ambassador presented his credentials to János Áder	Other News
14.	26 th of June	Zsolt Bayer illustrated the Greek crisis with an anti-Semitic joke	Anti-Semitic Hate Crimes – Hate Speech
15.	26 th of June	Comprehensive research on the identity of the Hungarian Jewish community	Community News and Responses
16.	26 th of June	Termination of investigation	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions
17.	29 th of June	Common monitoring system to fight 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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