

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2018

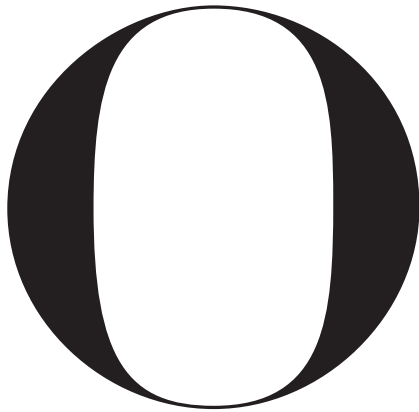


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime during September monitoring. APF classified the incident as an assault. Sometime after 8 pm on 6 September, a man loudly insulted two members of the local community in the center of Miskolc. According to witness accounts, the individuals were assaulted because of their clothing and kippahs.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents includes three incidents this month. There were two events held to commemorate Miklós Horthy and one to honor head of Rongyos Gárda (Ragged Guard) Iván Héjjas. All three events were attended by political figures.

This month, APF received additional information regarding an ongoing criminal case. The Crime Unit of Szekszárd Police Station repealed an order they made in earlier proceedings. Our August report details a crime in which someone painted a symbol strongly resembling a swastika on a notice board at the Jewish cemetery in Szedres. The police first ended the investigation because *“although the symbol resembles a forbidden totalitarian symbol, it actually differs from it on numerous points”*, and based on their research, the symbol is *“used in many cultures and religions (...) and in the majority of cases, it has a positive meaning”*. APF filed a complaint against the decision, the Public Prosecutor’s Office has upheld our appeal and therefore investigations are going to be continued.

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

– 2018. SEPTEMBER

APF identified one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of September. The incident falls into the category of assaults.

ASSAULT

Musician's kippah knocked off his head

Source: szantograf.hu;

Action and Protection Foundation

15 September 2018 On 6 September, an incident motivated by anti-Semitism and resulting in physical violence took place in Miskolc. Sometime after 8 pm, a man loudly insulted two members of the local community in the center of town. Based on witness accounts, the two individuals were attacked because of their clothing and wearing kippahs.

Following the incident, APF contacted the local community and found out that one of the victims was a well-known Klezmer musician. APF has offered legal assistance to the musician but he decided not to file charges for the incident.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During September 2018 monitoring, APF identified three 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. All three cases involved commemorations of historical figures whose actions harmed Jewish communities (and the whole Hungarian population). As far as we are concerned, however, anti-Semitic expressions were not uttered at these events.

Commemorating Horthy

Source: [index.hu](#); [szoljon.hu](#); [atv.hu](#); [mandiner.hu](#)

02 September 2018 A foundation established in memory of Miklós Horthy (Horthy Miklós Emlékére Alapítvány) and the municipality of Kenderes held a memorial day with an ecumenical church service, wreathing, a photo exhibition and a scientific conference in honor of the regent born in Kenderes.

Director of VERITAS Historical Research Institute Sándor Szakály gave a speech at the event. In 2014, Szakály sparked a nationwide scandal when he presented the 1941 deportation of 18 thousand Jews as a relocation procedure. A commemoration speech was also given by Fidesz MP Sándor Kovács, while István Horthy paid his respects and remembered Horthy's reburial from 25 years ago at the mausoleum of the Horthy family.

In his speech, Szakály said Horthy had not made mistakes, he was just naive. The director of Veritas also stated that the Jewish laws passed when Horthy was regent did not deprive the Jews of their rights, only introduced some legal restrictions. Szakály tried to justify his argument by mentioning the example of labor camps – in his opinion, it was only a legal restriction that

Jews could not perform military service in the army and despite the restrictions, the safety of life of the Jewish community was basically ensured until 1944.

A number of news sites reported that the choice of date was also rather unfortunate as it was the anniversary of the murder of 24 thousand Hungarian Jews in Kamianets-Podilsky. The sites also noted that another Horthy memorial day planned to be held January was canceled – the Keresztény Értelmiségek Szövetsége (Christian Intellectual Alliance) wanted to honor and pray for Horthy in Budapest's Inner City Parish Church on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. As a result of the outrage caused by the idea, this event was not held in the end.

Sándor Lezsák praises

Iván Héjjas at a book launch

Source: [keszin.hu](#); [varosikurir.hu](#)

17 September 2018 Vice President of the Hungarian National Assembly Sándor Lezsák gave a speech at a book launch held in Kecskemét. The aim of the event was to present László Héjjas' book written about Iván Héjjas, entitled "A Héjjas-nyárfa árnyékában" (In the shadow of the Héjjas-populus)

Domonkos said at the event that when the Hungarian army was routed during the Hungarian Soviet Republic, Iván Héjjas' voluntary corps was the only troop serving Hungary at the time and it was the last organized military group operating through internal rules in the country. Sándor Lezsák highlighted that "*history is always written by victors. And the victors incited and paid those who destroyed the reputation of certain figures: dominating victors determined who were not suitable to become heroes.*"

[Merce.hu](#) wrote that in Jan 2017, Bejársereg (Army of Highwaymen) paid



Source: [varosikurir.hu](#)

tribute to Iván Héjjas – their so-called role model – on the 127th anniversary of his birthday.

APF sent a letter to Vice President Sándor Lezsák and drew his attention to the fact that his position should not be so controversial in the question of standing up for such a disputed character. For his information, APF sent Lezsák the collection of anti-Jewish laws depriving Jews of their rights, which were approved by the Horthy system.

After the fall of the Soviet Republic and during the White Terror in Hungary, Iván Héjjas organized retaliatory actions around Orgovány and deported both Hungarian Jews and non-Jews who were then murdered on 6 June 1920 in the Orgovány forest.

Between 1927 and 1931, Héjjas was MP for Kunszentmiklós with the openly far right and supremacist Hungarian National Independence Party's political program. In 1938–1939, he was squadron leader of Rongyos Gárda (Rugged Guard) responsible for guerrilla actions taken in Zakarpattia Oblast – in the shadow of ambitions striving to avenge the Treaty of Trianon. Héjjas also terrified the local Jewish community in Upper Hungary with some particularly ruthless methods of his invading troops.

*Horthy statue inaugurated
in Hajdúböszörmény*

Source: magyarnarancs.hu

19 September 2018 A Horthy statue was inaugurated in Bodaszőlő, belonging to the administrative region of Hajdúböszörmény. A bust of bishop of the Reformed Church Dezső Baltazár was unveiled along with the statue of the former regent. Ferenc Zetényi-Csukás posted two dozen pictures on his Facebook page covering the event. The pictures show that may-



Source: magyarnarancs.hu

or of Hajdúböszörmény Attila Kiss spoke at the event, he “*honestly praised the models of both statues*”. Kossuth Prize laureate pianist and composer, grandson of Dezső Baltazár, Tamás Vásáry also gave a speech at the event.

The reason why the inaugurations took place in Bodaszőlő was that the house of bishop Baltazár used to stand there. Also, Miklós Horthy visited the bishop's home on 3 June 1927, after having attended the cornerstone laying of the University of Debrecen – named after Count István Tisza at the time –, later that day the former regent also inaugurated a memorial for the victims of WWI erected in Hajdúböszörmény.

Following the publication of an article about the event, President of the Miklós Horthy Society Ferenc Zetényi-Csukás informed Narancs.hu in a letter that the inauguration had not been initiated by Fidesz, but the statues had been erected by his society and the Történelmi Vitézi Rend (Knightly Order of Vitéz).

“*The statues were erected on a private property, and therefore it was the respective owner's decision who were invited to the event. Mayor Attila Kiss did not inaugurate any statues, he only gave a short welcome speech. He did not speak on behalf of Fidesz, the name of the ruling party did not even come up during the event, the party has nothing to do with our ceremony*” – wrote Zetényi-Csukás in his letter. He also highlighted that the host's inauguration speech did stress the event merely paid respect to ancestors and “*had no relation to today's political or individual interests*”. The newspaper, however, believes that if a public figure affiliated with a certain political party gives a speech at the inauguration of a statue, the act is not taken as a private individual. In addition, Zetényi-Csukás' report also showed Kiss ‘praising’ Horthy.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

House of Fates to open in 2019

Source: kormany.hu; nepszava.hu; mandiner.hu; hirtv.hu

7, 14 & 17 September 2018 *“The House of Fates will open its gates in 2019, on the 75th anniversary of the Hungarian Holocaust”* – announced Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office Gergely Gulyás. *“The government decision also includes the fact that the owner of the Holocaust museum will be the Jewish community, something which is unique in Europe”* – the Minister added.

The government will be establishing the House of Fates in cooperation with the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH), headed by rabbi Slomó Köves, and the Public Foundation for the Research of Central and Eastern European History and Society, directed by Mária Schmidt. The owner of the museum will be the EMIH.

Minister Gulyás explained that *“The terrible acts committed by the Nazi and Communist dictatorships of the 20th century can never be forgotten”*. *“The fact that in Hungary the organized, mass transportation of Jews to death camps only occurred following the German occupation on 19 March 1944 does not mask the responsibility and guilt with relation to the fact that following this the state did not protect its citizens. There is no collective guilt, but there is state responsibility”* – the Minister declared. He added that *“The task of the memorial site*

will be to present personal fates through which people can not only learn about the era, but also understand what happened, and particularly from the perspective of the child victims of the Holocaust”.

At the press conference held at the Holocaust Memorial established at the station in Józsefváros, Rabbi Slomó Köves – who is himself a decedent of Holocaust survivors – said that the Holocaust, the Jewish community and anti-Semitism are often spoken about today, but the quantity of these words does not transform into quality. *“Not only the majority society, but young Jews too are characterized by apathy, and there are only around 2-3000 Holocaust survivors still with us today. We must somehow find a different way of talking about the Holocaust”* – said the Rabbi.

“The Holocaust is not an internal Jewish matter, but an issue for all society, affecting human morals and the lowest depths of the human soul. There are those who choose the easier path, that of protest and resentment, and there are those who cooperate. One must look at what is created, and not at who creates it. The gesture represented by the fact that the state is establishing a Holocaust museum that it then entrusts to the Jewish community is an invitation to work jointly” – stated Slomó Köves.

Rabbi Köves told Magyar Nemzet that *“the government has made an unprecedented gesture by establishing the House of Fates”*. The Rabbi also told reporters that he felt sorry about the current situation and he found it hard to accept that *“in some circles a certain interpretation of political life has created a certain general mental state which produces a lot of frustration”*.



Source: kormany.hu

*Opinions differ about
the House of Fates project*

Source: nepszava.hu; mandiner.hu;
hirtv.hu; szombat.org;
magyarnarancs.hu

14-21 September 2018 The Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (**Mazsihisz**) has issued numerous statements in which they have criticized EMIH's collaboration with the government and accused the organization and its Executive Rabbi with betrayal. Mazsihisz President **András Heisler** said at a press conference that *"Holocaust Remembrance should be withdrawn from the buffer zone. We need social consensus and authentic people, and the current hosts of the House of Fates are not authentic."*

Slomó Köves gave numerous interviews about the issue. In response to Heisler's statements, the Rabbi said he would ask everyone that this *"topic related to a lot of pain, grievance and open wounds (...) shall not go up in flames because of disagreements in a Jewish community"*. He also asked that people *"try to disregard their personal problems"* and added he was very happy to see more and more institutions dealing with the Holocaust. The Rabbi also highlighted that *"this issue was not the issue of EMIH or Mazsihisz, but it shall be the issue of everyone"*. He also said their goal was that *"everyone was able to draw the conclusions and learn from the lessons of the human tragedies of the Holocaust, regardless of one's religious, national or family ties"*.

European Jewish Congress (EJC) President Moshe Kantor said in relation to the House of Fates that EMIH *"had no tradition and no historical roots in Hungary"*. In response to this allegation, **Chief Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves** said that Kantor was willing to trample on the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and interfere with Hungarian Jewish affairs. Köves also noted that *"he came from a renowned family, with an illustrious six-generation Hungarian legacy; he is the grandson of Holocaust survivors and a rabbi with a PhD degree in Hungarian Jewish History"*.

Head of the Brussels-based **European Jewish Association Rabbi Menachem Mar-**

golin defended EMIH and wrote that Kantor's statement shows how far the EJC is removed from the community and realities on the ground.

Dr. Robert Rozett, Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries and expert on Hungarian Jewry in the Holocaust said to a reporter of Jerusalem Post that the museum advances a narrative in which only the Germans and Arrow Cross were responsible for the murder of Hungarian Jewry. *"In other words, visitors to the House of Fates are to be shown and taught, except for a tiny, criminal and fanatic minority, the citizens of Hungary were essentially blameless for what was inflicted upon their Jewish neighbors"*.

Rabbi Köves said in response that the House of Fates advances a complete historical narrative presenting the history of the Hungarian Holocaust with perfect historical credibility. He also called upon Yad Vashem to assist EMIH in achieving this aim, and for a meeting with Chairman of Yad Vashem **Avner Shalev** to discuss the matter and cooperate on the museum. This would be important, Köves believed, because Yad Vashem and its experts are not aware of EMIH's plan and position about the project.

Published in Magyar Narancs, **Rabbi Köves** explained that *"he talked about the issue with leaders of EMIH and people whose opinion he respects"*. In response to the reporter's question about whether he thought it was problematic that the project only focused on a part of the Hungarian Holocaust, he said he didn't think so. *"The fact that the main exhibition focuses on just part of the Holocaust does not mean that the rest of the story or its context are to be concealed. The whole context will be shown by a temporary exhibition and an educational program."*

*The safety of Hungarian Jewry is
not threatened – Slomó Köves to Mandiner*
Source: mandiner.hu

17 September 2018 In an interview given to mandiner.hu, besides the issue of the House of Fates, Slomó Köves talked about anti-Semitism in Hungary. The Rabbi said that *"based on standards developed by the*

OSCE, APF publishes a monitoring report every year presenting how many anti-Semitic atrocities take place in Hungary and classifying them into seven different categories. According to these reports, one can see that approximately forty-fifty of such – mostly verbal – atrocities have happened in the past few years. This is clearly a lot, and it is especially devastating that these opinion polls – commissioned by APF – show that about one third of the Hungarian population agrees with some anti-Semitic attitudes. However, anti-Semitism in Hungary is not a security policy issue. Unfortunately, this is not true of Western European countries. This is why I have suggested that similarly to APF's monitoring, a comprehensive monitoring report covering all European countries should be prepared. In that case, we would be able to see the situation clearly; we could differentiate between anti-Semitism in different countries and could counter it at particular places with adequate measures.”

Péter Weisz: “Today, Hungary is one of the safest countries”

Source: magyarhirlap.hu

26 September 2018 Secretary General of the Hungarian-Israeli Friendship Society Péter Weisz gave an interview to Magyar Hírlap. Weisz was contacted in connection with the Sargentini Report, or rather with the accusation of anti-Semitism that appeared in the debate on the report in Strasbourg. He said that “As opposed to other big cities in Europe, one does not have to worry about wearing a kippah anywhere in Hungary, and our synagogues do not need to be guarded either.” He also said he rejected “this nonsensical and trumped up charge. The Hungarian government is not anti-Semitic, nor is Hungary”. In Weisz’s opinion, there is prejudice in Hungary, but its extent is minimal. One can live freely and peacefully, can practice their religion, and Jewish cultural and social life is thriving.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Péter Szijjártó: “Jewish organizations can count on Hungary in the fight against anti-Semitism”

Source: MIT; kormany.hu; tev.hu

27 September 2018 *“Hungary has maintained zero tolerance against anti-Semitism, it will continue to counter it in the future and will represent this stance in international organizations, too.”* – said Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó in New York.



Source: MTI

Péter Szijjártó held talks in New York with representatives of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (CPMAJO), the National Coalition Supporting Soviet Jewry (NCSEJ), the B'nai B'birth organization, the World Jewish Congress (WJC), the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The Minister assured them that they could count on Hungary in the fight against anti-Semitism.

“Hungary believes Europe could only remain strong in the future if it protects its Jewish-Christian legacy” – said Péter Szijjártó in

his speech given at the conference organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

He said that Hungary does not tolerate anti-Semitism at all. Holocaust denial has been included in the Hungarian Penal Code and if someone commits such acts, they have to face severe consequences and punishment.

“Hungary is the home of the largest Jewish community in Central Europe, and the community is thriving.” – said Mr. Szijjártó at the conference, which António Guterres (UN Secretary General) also attended.

Péter Szijjártó confirmed that Hungary is going to host the European Maccabi Games, an important sporting event of the Jewish community. He also said that Hungary considers Israel an important strategic partner, and in international organizations, including the UN, they take a fair and balanced approach in issues concerning Israel, they have never supported unfair and politically motivated orders and decisions.

The Hungarian government also initiated a mutual agreement in the UNHCR about the fight against anti-Semitism, which was supported by 25 countries – highlighted the Minister. He added that this has been the first document of its kind on the subject.

Szijjártó mentioned that the document focuses on the importance of education in the fight against anti-Semitism – and the same has been the first topic raised at the UNESCO conference as well.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

*Sargentini Report criticizing
Hungary approved*

Source: hirtv.hu; 444.hu; mandiner.hu

10-11 & 17 September 2018 The European Parliament has approved that proceedings against Hungary are to be launched for breach of European values.

In May 2017, on the initiation of four factions (the socialist, liberal, green and radical left) the European Parliament's relevant commission, on behalf of the LIBE Committee responsible for protecting civil liberties, Dutch MEP Judith Sargentini drafted a report on the state of democracy in Hungary. The report identified twelve issues on which it investigated democracy, rule of law and the application of human rights in Hungary, such issues included the operation of the constitutional and electoral systems, corruption, equal treatment and the rights of people belonging to minorities – including Roma and Jews.

With regards to the latter, the report stated that intolerance against Gypsies, Jews and sexual minorities is still present in Hungarian society. Acknowledging the Hungarian government's several measures against anti-Semitism, the report noted that anti-Semitism is manifested as hate speech and violent acts committed against Jewish individuals or properties.

The approval of the report has attracted a great deal of Hungarian and international attention. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán rejected the accusations in his speech given at the European Parliament, he said the report was not criticizing the Hungarian government but the country itself.

Before the plenary to debate the Sargentini report, MEP for Fidesz György Schöpflin sent a letter to fellow MEPs. He started his letter by saying that *"I write as someone*



Source: MTI

who lived through the Holocaust". Schöpflin explained that the report made serious allegations against the Hungarian government. In his opinion, the accusation of anti-Semitism is impossible to refute, and it automatically assigns guilt to those accused, ignoring the presumption of innocence. The MEP acknowledged the fact that there are anti-Semites in Hungary but referring to some non-identified surveys he stated there are only few of them and such attitudes are associated with the Jobbik party. The Fidesz government has maintained zero tolerance against anti-Semitism, stressed Schöpflin. He conceded that during the parliamentary election there was a negative focus on the role of George Soros, but he did not think Soros was criticized for his background, the criticism concerned the political role he played. In the light of this, accusations of *"coded anti-Semitism"* are nothing more than insinuation.

According to Schöpflin, the Hungarian government has successfully established the complete security of the Jewish community, whereas this is not the case in several Western European countries. He added that Hungary has exceptionally good relations with Israel and this would be inconceivable if the Hungarian government really was anti-Semitic.

In an interview given to Magyar Hírlap, Chief Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves said that *"in Western Europe and especially in*

left-wing public opinion, talking of democratic deficit has basically been combined with mentioning the notion of anti-Semitism. It should finally be defined, however, what are the most threatening forms of such attitudes. Anti-Semitism could manifest in many different forms and based on that, actions taken against these forms may and should also be different. In Hungary for example, this is rather an issue of education policy and culture”.

In a radio interview, Viktor Orbán stated that modern anti-Semitism is represented by Brussels and Judith Sargentini since “the European Commission funds those fake civil society organizations which conduct anti-Semitic campaigns against Israel in Israel.”

OTHER NEWS

APF did not identify any news or events this month which would be included in this section.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

*Investigation continued in the case
of swastika previously branded
by authorities as “positive symbol”*

Source: Action and Protection
Foundation

20 September 2018 APF received a communication informing us that the Crime Unit of Szekszárd Police Station has repealed an order they had made in earlier proceedings. In the justification of their decision, they state that the Crime Department of Hungarian National Police Headquarters (ORFK) has reviewed the proceedings and ordered Szekszárd Police Station to continue the investigations.

We presented in our August report that APF filed charges on 28 May 2018 because a symbol strongly resembling a swastika was painted on the English language notice board of the Jewish cemetery in Sze-

dres. Based on their decision, Szekszárd Police Station collected data and searched for witnesses but found no relevant information about the offender or the incident.

The police decision stated that based on the photo attached to the complaint, “*although the symbol resembles a forbidden totalitarian symbol, it actually differs from it on numerous points*”, and based on their research, the symbol is “*used in many cultures and religions (...) and in the majority of cases, it has a positive meaning*”. In addition, they were not able to identify the offender and therefore their motive is also unknown. Consequently, the authority believed there was no crime committed and proceedings were terminated.

After receiving the police decision, APF issued a statement and filed a complaint against the decision. As a result, the investigation is now continued.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	2 nd of September	Commemorating Horthy	Further anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
2.	7; 14 & 17 th of September	House of Fates to open in 2019	Community News and Responses
3.	10-11 th & 17 th of September	Sargentini Report criticizing Hungary approved	News and Opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary
4.	14-21 st of September	Opinions differ about the House of Fates project	Community News and Responses
5.	15 th of September	Musician's kippah knocked off his head	Anti-Semitic hate Crimes – Assault
6.	17 th of September	Sándor Lezsák praises Iván Héjjas at a book launch	Further anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
7.	17 th of September	The safety of Hungarian Jewry is not threatened – Slomó Köves to Mandiner	Community News and Responses
8.	19 th of September	Horthy statue inaugurated in Hajdúböszörmény	Further anti-Semitic Hate Incidents
9.	20 th of September	Investigation continued in the case of swastika previously branded by authorities as "positive symbol"	APF Legal Actions
10.	26 th of September	Péter Weisz: "Today, Hungary is one of the safest countries"	Community News and Responses
11.	27 th of September	Péter Szijjártó: "Jewish organizations can count on Hungary in the fight against anti-Semitism"	Official and Civil 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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