

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

OCTOBER 2018

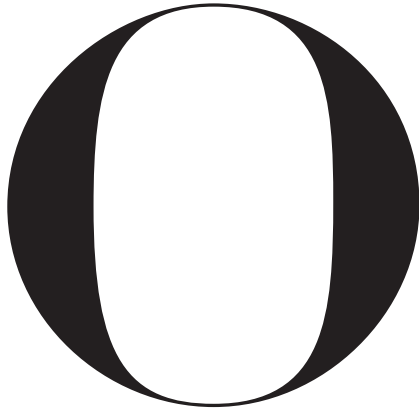


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 crimi-

nal. 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 two incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during October monitoring. We were notified about an anti-Semitic writing shared in a Facebook post. According to the post, unknown individuals painted the following text over an ad with the picture of a woman at a bus stop on Attila út (Castle District, Budapest): “*YOU ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ÁGNES HELLER BECAUSE SHE IS UGLY, EVEN FOR BEING A JEW*”. The other case involved a swastika and a “HEIL HITLER” caption painted on the fence of a privately-owned house near the border of Budapest. Thousands of people could see the symbol and the caption daily as they were painted along the Vác-Budapest railway line and were visible from the train.

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

APF did not initiate any new legal proceedings this month and no progress was achieved regarding previous legal cases.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

The phenomenon of anti-Semitism is by no means new to Hungary. The hate speech encountered earlier has however become increasingly dominant in public life. The situation is further aggravated by the Jobbik Party, which openly declares anti-Semitic and racist views, having forty-three members of parliament making hate speech far more ever-present in both Parliament and other organized events. These circumstances brought Action and Protection Foundation into being. Among the forms of civil association offered by Hungarian law, Action and Protection Foundation chose the form of foundation; it was registered in November 2012. The Foundation seeks to provide an alternative to the ineffectual legal steps taken against deteriorating standards of public 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 – OCTOBER 2018

Action and Protection Foundation identified two anti-Semitic hate crimes over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of October. One of the incidents was classified as damage to property, the other one falls into the category of hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Anti-Semitic writing at a bus stop in Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; facebook.com

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Anti-Semitic graffiti near the Jewish cemetery in Vác

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

17 October 2018 APF was notified that unknown individuals painted a swastika and a “HEIL HITLER” caption onto the fence of a privately-owned house in Vác. As the fence is next to the track of the Vác-Bu-



Source: facebook.com

15 October 2018 We received a notification about a Facebook post sharing a picture of an ad with anti-Semitic writing on it. The post reported that unknown individuals wrote the following text on an ad with a picture of a woman placed at a bus stop on Attila út (Castle District, Budapest): “YOU ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ÁGNES HELLER BECAUSE SHE IS UGLY, EVEN FOR BEING A JEW”. The person who had posted the photo submitted a comment underneath their post and explained that they meant to raise awareness by posting the picture and expressed their sorrow over the fact that such thing could happen today.

When colleagues of APF went to the scene, they could not see the writing as it had been removed by then.



Source: Action and Protection Foundation

dapest railway line, the graffiti could be seen by thousands of people every day.

After we were notified, colleagues of APF left for the scene and removed the symbol and the text praising Hitler using an industrial cleaning equipment.

The case was video-recorded, and the footage was posted on APF’s website and on YouTube, too.

FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

During October 2018 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified no incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime which are classified as hate crimes, but we would not include them in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature or the lack of clear anti-Semitic motive.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Slomó Köves sat down to talk about the House of Fates project

Source: magyarnarancs.hu; magyarhang.org; fuhu.hu; 168ora.hu

4 October 2018 After the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) takes it over, Mária Schmidt will play no role in the House of Fates – this is what Slomó Köves talked about in Bálint House on 4 October. The religious leader had a debate about the House of Fates project with chief rabbi of the Dohány Street Synagogue Róbert Frölich, and Magyar Narancs was covering their talk.



Source: 168ora.hu

Frölich believed that the exhibition for children is based on memories of people who did not actually experience or understand a series of events. Those who were children at the time of WWII are not aware of certain pieces of information which are rather relevant when presenting the Holocaust, and therefore the concept of the exhibition should not exclusively be based on them. Frölich also thinks that personal narratives on their own cannot give credible historical accounts adequately. The rabbi himself finds the Director-General of the House of Terror Museum controversial, too, who grants *“no guarantee that the House of Fates will present the history of the Holocaust genuinely.”*

Slomó Köves again repeated that emotional involvement was important, and it could be achieved more easily through stories told by children. He stated as an example that *“if we read Fateless, we do not get to*



Source: 168ora.hu

know everything about the Holocaust, but its drama and tragedy are presented rather well”. The Executive Rabbi of EMIH described the planned exhibition. They had created a 50-hour long video material of interviews taken with about seventy Holocaust survivors and visit to the exhibition will be about 50 minutes. There will be a part after the video interviews which unfolds *“deeper layers of the Holocaust”* presenting the universal history of anti-Semitism and modern-day Hungary. Based on this, the context so many people are missing will also be exhibited.

With regards to concerns in connection with Miklós Horthy, the Executive Rabbi said he believed there was no doubt about the Horthy system and the state’s responsibility because anti-Semitism was an internal part of the regent’s decade-long politics. Slomó Köves promised that when the new concept of the House of Fates is developed, he will make it public and it will be a subject of public consultation. He also mentioned that among criticism of the House of Fates, he has found issues to be considered and he will definitely take those into account.

The original plan of the organizers was a debate between Slomó Köves and chairman of the Federation of the Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) András Heisler but the chairman of Mazsihisz turned down the talk reasoning that with Slomó Köves, there is no dialogue.

“De ki az a Héjjas Iván?!” (But who is Iván Héjjas?!) – Action and Protection Foundation also read the book about Héjjas’s life

Source: tev.hu

18 October 2018 APF read the book – and we published an opinion piece about it on our website. Tibor Pásztor wrote that *“Throughout the whole book – sometimes even inconsistently – there seems to be an intention to clear Héjjas’s name. According to the author of the book, Héjjas did not commit any cruelty, but at some parts of the book he does mention Héjjas kept lists of people who were unpatriotic during the Communism and the Romanian occupation and they were to be murdered. But, of course, Héjjas is blameless, and the Association of Awakening Hungarians, of which he was co-chairman, was not a racist and anti-Semitic organization, but the patriotic association of a few officers, who were later joined by some true Hungarians. Anyone who says otherwise is only doing so because “snarling hatred shall all be thrown up on Héjjas”.*

The genre of the book is difficult to be identified. There are biographical parts, history, documentaries, heroic epos, folktale and even literary critique (a whole chapter on Jókai’s literary merits) in it. Yet, it lacks some scientific precision, source criticism and logical stream of thoughts. Domonkos had a manuscript available to him written by Héjjas’s brother, Jenő, entitled: The real Iván Héjjas. So, the most cited reference of the book is a writing that has not been seen by anyone else, whose impartiality is dubious and whose inaccuracies are pointed out even by Domonkos. Literarily the book is weak, its ideology is not eligible, and the author’s antipathy towards the Jews is demonstrable, so we do not recommend reading it. Luckily, there are scientific publications, essays from Béla Bodó and summaries from Gábor Kádár or Zoltán Vági for example, which one could read if they wanted to know about the real Iván Héjjas.

Dániel Bodnár: “In certain western countries, life is a security policy challenge for the Jewish community”

Source: MTI; magyaridok.hu; origo.hu

31 October 2018 *“The security of Jewish communities is obviously not increased if there are large numbers of poorly integrated groups of Muslim heritage in the society: With regards to Europe’s future, the essential question is whether it can preserve its basic values and community schemes and assimilate a mass of people mainly immigrating for economic interests at the same time”* – said APF Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dániel Bodnár in an interview.

Dániel Bodnár, who is also a board member at the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH), talked about the roots of the European identity crisis and the possible alternatives of identity policies at the EPP’s Intercultural Dialogue with Churches and Religious Institutions conference held in Ericeira, Portugal.

Bodnár said that the largest Jewish communities of Europe live in the United Kingdom and in France and every day-life is a security policy challenge for both of these communities.

He added that as opposed to this, in Eastern Europe and therefore in Hungary, too, the major issue is not physical security but the coexistence and cohabitation of mainstream society and the Jewish community, their centuries-old, rather diversified and unclear history and dynamics define public discourse.

Bodnár said that the proportion of the Jewish community to the population in Hungary is about the same as it is in France. *“Anti-Semitic atrocities in France in 2017 were around 1,800 and half of these were physical atrocities, while there were 37 incidents identified in Hungary; none of which were physical atrocities”* – said Bodnár.

“Hate speech, denial of the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes or anonymous threats are all phenomena whose spread challenges the reasons behind unrestricted freedom of speech, especially through some sad lessons learnt from certain cases. Anti-Semitic and racist hatred more and more often degenerate into physical atrocities.” – explained Bodnár.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

László Trócsányi cancelled his attendance at a conference

Source: kormany.hu; origo.hu; 24.hu

15 October 2018 Minister of Justice László Trócsányi was invited to take part in the international symposium entitled “*Controls and Hospitality: Towards Migration Policies Which Strengthen Contemporary Democracy*” organized jointly by the University of Louvain located in Louvain-la-Neuve and the Saint-Louis University, Brussels. A number of renowned university professors and international experts gave presentations at the event.

A few days before the conference, a Belgian organization issued a statement on their website stating they were “*shocked to find out that ‘a xenophobic, racist and anti-Semitic Hungarian minister’ was also invited*” to the above-mentioned international conference. The statement was published by multiple other Belgian newspapers. Considering the background and in order to avoid further conflicts, László Trócsányi felt obliged to cancel his attendance – wrote kormany.hu.

According to the communication published by the ministry, Trócsányi is far from such labeling, “*as Minister of Justice, he has demonstrated his sympathy towards the Jewish community and has focused on the importance of respecting the Jewish culture and victims of the Holocaust*”.

The Minister decided to bring proceedings before the competent Belgian court for a token sum by way of compensation for his non-material loss. Trócsányi’s legal representative is François Jongen, professor at the University of Louvain and lawyer specialized in media law.

Colleagues of APF have participated in the amendments and codification work of a number of laws under the supervision of Minister László Trócsányi. We find the accusations against him as unfair and groundless defamation, and its impact on the Hungarian Jewish community is immensely harmful.

Hungarian Minister of Interior and Israeli Ambassador delivered Medals for Bravery

Source: kormany.hu;

18 October 2018 Minister of Interior Sándor Pintér and Israeli Ambassador Yossi Amrani delivered Medals for Bravery for helping Jews during the Holocaust to Hungarian citizens who had previously been presented the Righteous Among the Nations Award.

Deputy State Secretary for Human Re-



Source: MTI

sources András Zsinka said in his speech that it has been a tradition since 1995 that Hungarians who receive the Righteous Among the Nations Award are also presented the Medals for Bravery for their heroic and courageous conduct. The Deputy State Secretary said that the Righteous Among the Nations Awards were bestowed to Hungarians again who had stood up courageously for the persecuted, had not felt intimidated and had refused to become accomplices by not doing anything in a rather dreadful era. He added that the life-savers had shown an example, still valid today, to current and future generations, too. Zsinka said that hatred, racism and anti-Semitism are unacceptable, and it is the government’s duty to act against every effort that threatens democratic society, human rights and civil liberties.

Based upon a law launched by the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, in 1953, the Yad Vashem Institute of Jerusalem presents the Righteous Among the Nations Award to those who saved Jews during the Holocaust. A commission of public figures is headed

by a judge of the Supreme Court of Israel, and they are in charge of establishing that life-savers voluntarily acted and risked their freedom, their safety and their lives without compensation in areas occupied by the Germans or their allies.

*Hungary is committed to
the European Jewish-Christian legacy*
Source: kormany.hu;

26 October 2018 *“Hungarians and Jews are connected through their attachment to traditions and national identity, and the lesson of 1956 is still valid today, i.e. it is always worth fighting for freedom and national independence”* – said Szabolcs Takács in Tel Aviv, at the commemoration ceremony held at the Hungarian Embas-

sy to mark the anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

The State Secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office highlighted that the Hungarian Jewish community is one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe, which the Hungarian government greatly values and is committed to enable them to practice their identity, religion and culture in peace and safety.

Takács also mentioned that Israel can count on Hungary’s friendship, support and understanding in addressing the challenges of the 21st century, especially in the cases of counter-terrorism, security and border protection. Takács added that the Hungarian government has a policy of zero tolerance against anti-Semitism.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Spiegel: "There is zero tolerance against anti-Semitism in Hungary, yet the government pays tribute to anti-Semitic individuals"

Source: MTI; mandiner.hu

12 October 2018 The independent German news portal Spiegel Online published an article about the Hungarian politics of memory. Keno Verseck, author of the article entitled "*Hatred of Jews criticized, haters of Jews glorified*" highlighted that Prime Minister Viktor Orbán "*proclaimed zero tolerance against anti-Semitism*", but the politician and his party pays tribute to "*admittedly anti-Semitic*" people at the same time.

The author of the article explained that "*Hungarian far-right supporters*" are unsuccessfully claiming "*one of their greatest idol's*", Iván Héjjas's "*legal rehabilitation*", but Viktor Orbán's party, Fidesz has granted him "*ideological rehabilitation at least*" when Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Sándor Lezsák, "*one of the most well-known hardliners*" of the party, praised Héjjas – who

had been convicted in absentia for torturing and murdering 73 people in 1947 – as a hero and a freedom fighter.

Verseck added that "*even in line with official Hungarian standards, it is unacceptable that one of the most prominent representatives of the country praise a convicted anti-Semitic murderer*" because zero tolerance against anti-Semitism is not some "*old chestnut*". However, "*tributes like that paid to Héjjas is becoming part of a new and dominant culture characterized by deep historical revisionism*" – wrote Verseck.

The author also wrote that "*although the Hungarian head of government is more interested in football than in history and is not anti-Semitic*", he opened his party's door all the way to the "*far-right end of the ideological spectrum in order to force out all other powers*".

We read the book written about Iván Héjjas's life and wrote an opinion piece about it. The section titled Community News and Reactions contains further information about this.

OTHER NEWS

Mihály Takaró may become head of the Petőfi Literary Museum

Source: hvg.hu; atv.hu; 168ora.hu

4 October 2018 Hvg.hu learnt from multiple sources that literary historian Mihály Takaró may become the new head of the Petőfi Literary Museum. Referring to governmental sources, ATV wrote the same. Emmi has not yet confirmed the information. Hvg.hu managed to get in touch with Takaró but reported they were not able to cite from the phone conversation. Former head of the institution Gergely Prőhle will



Source: MTI

depart from his position on 31 October.

APF has written about Mihály Takaró before. Now, HVG also mentioned a few examples of Takaró's previous expressions. One of his former colleagues wrote in a Facebook post – not accessible any more – that Takaró called Nyugat (Hungarian for West, an important Hungarian literary journal in the first half of the 20th century) a “small-circulation Jewish journal” and he had a talk in Echo TV about whether Imre Kertész was Hungarian at all. Takaró also said about György Spiró once that “*this man, György Spiró, let's call him a man this time...*”.

In 2016, Takaró gave a glorifying presentation about regent Miklós Horthy. He called Horthy a nation-saver and by referring to the similar opinion of a Jewish banker, commented that “*so much for Horthy's anti-Semitism*”. HVG highlighted that the strangest thing was that Takaró had

probably wanted to praise Horthy when mentioning how good opinion the regent had had about Hitler.

Takaró has a number of honors, he was presented the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary (Civilian) in 2014, and new Minister of Human Capacities Miklós Kásler awarded him with the László Németh Prize.

Talks about Miklós Horthy

Source: nepszava.hu

6 October 2018 “*Our experience is that certain people do not want to process but make history*” – said József Sebes, chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Association, when trying to reason why there should be a debate about the Horthy era. Director of the memorial center on Páva street Szabolcs Szita, director-general of VERITAS Research Institute for History Sándor Szakály, author of a book written about the era Dávid Turbucz and historians talked about the rule of law, Horthy's anti-Semitism and his role played in the Holocaust at a forum held in Kossuth Klub.

“*Miklós Horthy considered himself an anti-Semite. His anti-Semitism later became selective: he differentiated 'good' and 'bad' Jews*” – said Turbucz when talking about the responsibility of the Holocaust. “*He did not support the physical extermination of the Jews, it was not among his political goals. On the other hand, he could imagine that as a result of sacrificing the Jews, the Germans would leave the country. Horthy knew what would happen to the deported*” – highlighted Dávid Turbucz.

“*I am wondering whether I could add something here because this is when I am usually reported for Holocaust denial*” – asked Sándor Szakály ironically and tried to explain why he presented the 1941 deportation of Jews to Kamianets-Podilsky as a “*relocation procedure*”. According to Szakály, it is still not clear when and what Horthy knew about the fate of deported Jews. Szakály also referred

to a letter never sent by the regent, in which Horthy expressed he wanted to talk to Hitler about the treatment of the Jews.

Szabolcs Szita concluded they were lagging behind in unfolding the truth and they, as historians, still have a lot of work to do.

*Interview with author of the book
about Iván Héjjas*

Source: magyaridok.hu

8 October 2018 Magyaridok.hu published an interview taken with László Domonkos, writer of the book entitled “*A Héjjas-nyárfa árnyékában*” (In the shadow of the Héjjas-populus). We presented in our September report that Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Sándor Lezsák praised the book and Iván Héjjas himself, too.

Domonkos wrote in his book that Héjjas “*was one the most legendary figures of 20th century Hungarian history and whose reputation was destroyed the most outrageously. I believe Iván Héjjas should merely be presented in his true self, with absolute objectivity and according to eternal human truth. Or it should be tried at least.*”

The author also added that in his opinion, Héjjas was defamed by the “*insanely hateful propaganda, primarily the Bécsi Magyar Újság (Viennese Hungarian Journal) and the dumb and ignorant Western press, which was constantly provided with munitions by the former*”. According to Domonkos, these newspapers exaggerated events, “*made up various perverted lies and embellished certain events that sometimes took place here and there as reactions to the Red Terror – but which atrocities were much fewer in number and were more moderately ‘implemented’ than presented, and in many cases their circumstances and perpetrators are still unknown. Considering these incidents, Iván Héjjas would only be one among Miklós Horthy and his ‘accomplices’, but since Héjjas was an esteemed leader of the voluntary corps, his character is lied about greatly.*”

As a response to a journalist’s question whether Héjjas was anti-Semitic, the author did not give a direct answer but vaguely said that “*Iván Héjjas’s role in such incidents is unclear, it is in many cases unproven, yet it is very often simply falsified. ‘Evidentiary’ materials of people’s court proceedings after 1945 make it*

clear Héjjas could not be accused of incitement, let alone any criminal offences. Not to mention the motives, circumstances, and special reactions to the exceptional nature of the general situation.”

With regards to sources used to write the book, Domonkos said he had mainly used information received from Héjjas’s family.

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.

We also read the book written about Iván Héjjas’s life and wrote an opinion piece about it. The section titled Community News and Reactions contains further information about this.

Pew Research: Hungarians are more hostile to Muslims and Jews than people from Western Europe

Source: index.hu; pewforum.org

31 October 2018 People from Western and Eastern Europe have significantly different views about a number of issues. According to recent research conducted by Pew Research, people from Central and Eastern Europe, and therefore Hungarians as well, are more antipathetic towards Muslims and Jews and are more against same-sex marriage than people from Western Europe are. In other questions however, we are similar to Western Europeans – for instance, the majority of the population is less likely to say they are certain of their belief in God here as well.

In certain cases, opinions radically differ between the two parts of Europe. For

example, less than a quarter or fifth of the population in Eastern and Central Europe would welcome Muslims into their families. While over half of Western Europeans say they would accept a Muslim as a member of their family. As a comparison: 20% of the Hungarians and 88% of the Dutch are open to Muslim family members. Hungarians are more accepting towards the Jews: 57% would accept if they had a Jewish family member.

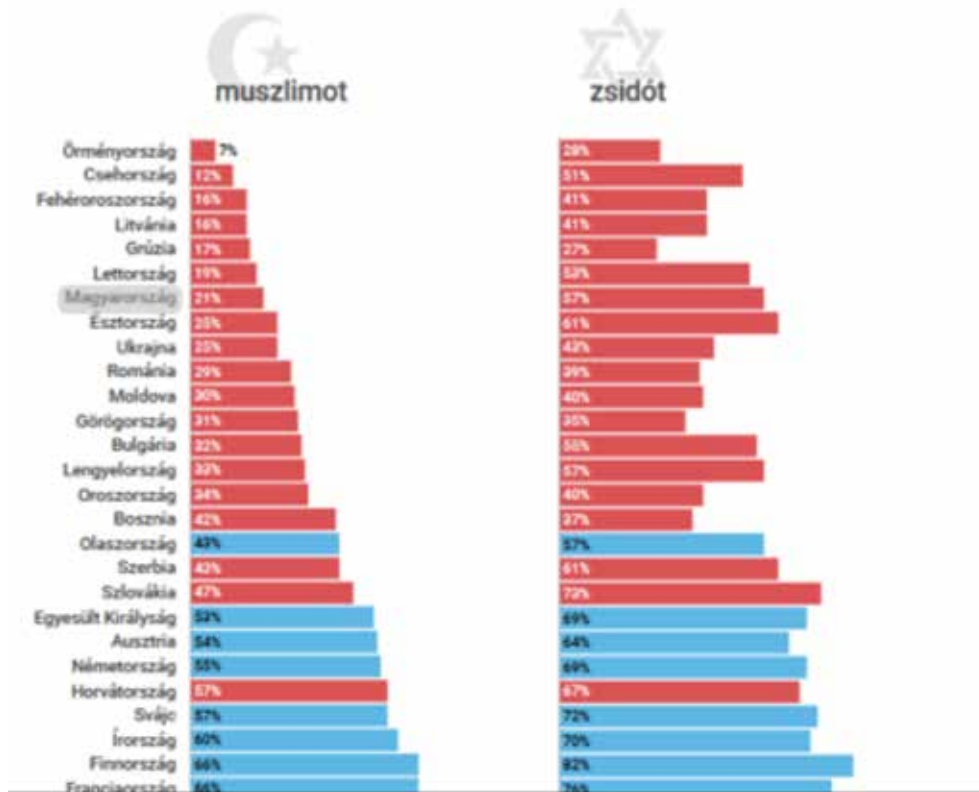
The research report of Pew Research highlights that in countries which are centrally located in the continent, attitudes are mixed, and they may align with popular opinion in the East and the West, too.

Hungarians, for example, have a typically Eastern European view of national identity, we say that only those are true Hungarians who were born in our country and have Hungarian ancestry. Yet, we also reflect Western European attitudes, as only about six-in-ten Hungarians believe in God, and we consider religion a lot less important in our every day-life than people from countries more towards the East do.

Pew Research Center published the report on their website¹¹, their research was conducted as part of the project called *Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures* analyzing changes in religion and its impact on societies globally.

A nyugat-európaiak inkább, a közép- és kelet-európaiak kevésbé fogdanának el egy muszlimot vagy zsidót családjukban

% , aki azt mondja elfogadna egy muszlimot/zsidót a családjá tagjaként



Source: index.hu

¹¹ <http://www.pewforum.org/2018/10/29/eastern-and-western-europeans-differ-on-importance-of-religion-views-of-minorities-and-key-social-issues/>

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

APF did not initiate any legal proceedings this month and no progress was reached in previous cases either.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	4 th of October	Slomó Köves sat down to talk about the House of Fates project	Community News and Responses
2.	4 th of October	Mihály Takaró may become head of the Petőfi Literary Museum	Other News
3.	6 th of October	Talks about Miklós Horthy	Other News
4.	8 th of October	Interview with author of the book about Iván Héjjas	Other News
5.	12 th of October	Spiegel: "There is zero tolerance against anti-Semitism in Hungary, yet the government pays tribute to anti-Semitic individuals"	News and Opinions about anti-Semitism of Hungary
6.	15 th of October	Anti-Semitic writing at a bus stop in Budapest	Anti-Semitic hate Crimes – Hate Speech
7.	15 th of October	László Trócsányi cancelled his attendance at a conference	Official and Civil Responses
8.	17 th of October	Anti-Semitic graffiti near the Jewish cemetery in Vác	Anti-Semitic hate Crimes – Damage to property
9.	18 th of October	"De ki az a Héjjas Iván?!" (But who is Iván Héjjas?!) – Action and Protection Foundation also read the book about Héjjas's life	Community News and Responses
10.	18 th of October	Hungarian Minister of Interior and Israeli Ambassador delivered Medals for Bravery	Official and Civil Responses
11.	26 th of October	Hungary is committed to the European Jewish-Christian legacy	Official and Civil Responses
12.	31 st of October	Dániel Bodnár: "In certain western countries, life is a security policy challenge for the Jewish community"	Community News and Responses
13.	31 st of October	Pew Research: Hungarians are more hostile to Muslims and Jews than people from Western Europe	Other News

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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