

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

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NOVEMBER 2018



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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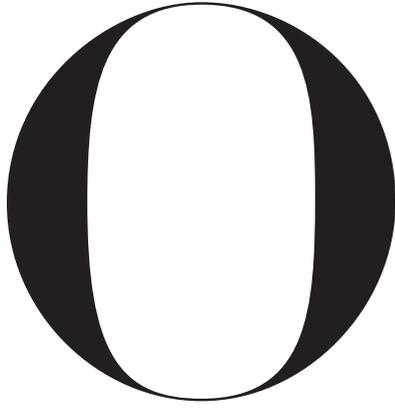
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Action and Protection Foundation</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Unity</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Brussels Institute</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>About the Report</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents — November 2018</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Hate speech</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Vandalism</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Further Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Community news and responses</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Official and civil responses</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>News and opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Other news</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Action and Protection Foundation legal actions</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>The Month's Chronicle</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Contact and Support</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Contributors and Publisher Information</b>	<b>30</b>



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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 four anti-Semitic incidents this month, two classified as hate speech and two as vandalism. In the first case we reported anti-Semitic posts shared publicly by Ádám Horváth, a candidate for the local by-elections in Budapest District 16. In March of 2017 the politician, who is a member of the governing party, wrote publicly sharing a Freemason-Jewish conspiracy theory. In the second case, public attention was drawn to a recording of a conversation in which the deputy group leader of the far-right party Jobbik bragged about hitting a woman, who in his opinion was probably Jewish, because she recognized him and called him a Nazi. Szávay later resigned from all his offices and finally gave up his seat in parliament as well. In the third case swastikas, male genitalia, and “*Hitler’s Gate*” was drawn onto the door of the Church of Ószőlő, with chalk. The local parish priest filed a complaint in the case. In the fourth case, unknown perpetrators broke the glass board of the Batthyány Square building belonging to the Jewish Congregation of Szombathely.

There is one news item for this month in the *Further Hate Incidents* section. Near the Carmelite monastery and church in Sopron an earlier concealed swastika was found, painted on a wall. Unknown persons drew a gift box onto the anti-Semitic graffiti.

This month, APF received a development in legal proceedings it had earlier initiated. The Criminal Division of the Police Headquarters of Szekszárd notified the foundation regarding a procedure it had initiated earlier. APF had filed a complaint on 26 May 2018, that a diagram very much like a swastika had been scratched by unknown persons onto the noticeboard on the entrance door to the Jewish Cemetery of Szedres. In August, the Police decided that no offense had been committed and the case was closed. The Foundation filed a complaint about the decision and so the case was reopened, but in November of 2018 the case was finally ended on account of the investigation not bringing any results.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

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

rance 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.

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## BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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.

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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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 incidents<sup>1</sup> 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—

<sup>1</sup> See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor's office—may be particularly beneficial.<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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)

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## METHODOLOGY<sup>3</sup>

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The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows<sup>4</sup> (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 people<sup>5</sup>
- 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 sentence<sup>6</sup> (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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

period<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> These are described in the *Methodology* section.

<sup>8</sup> The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

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 statistics<sup>9</sup>:

- 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.<sup>10</sup> In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

<sup>10</sup> These descriptions in particular are held to be a most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

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## ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS – NOVEMBER 2018

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APF identified three anti-Semitic hate incidents over November, belonging in the categories of hate speech and vandalism.

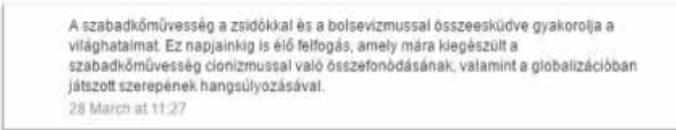
### HATE SPEECH

*Anti-Semitic stereotype in a post  
by future politician*

Sources: magyarhang.org;  
facebook.com

**10 November 2018** By-elections were held on 11 November in Budapest District 16, due to the passing of János Horváth, a representative in the Municipal government. One candidate, Ádám Horváth, wrote about Freemasonry in a March 2017 Facebook post – as reported by magyarhang.org.

Ádám Horváth, a young politician of the Youth Christian Democrat Alliance (Ifjúsá-



A szabadkőművesség a zsidókkal és a bolsevizmussal összeesküdvé gyakorolja a világhatalmat. Ez napjainkig is élő felfogás, amely mára kiegészült a szabadkőművesség cionizmussal való összefonódásának, valamint a globalizációban játszott szerepének hangsúlyozásával.  
28 March at 11:27

Source: magyarhang.org / facebook.com

gi Kereszténydemokrata Szövetség - IKSZ) ran for a seat in the municipal government of Budapest District 14 in the by-elections. In his post he wrote: “*Freemasonry dominates the world in a conspiracy with the Jews and Bolshevism. This is a tactic that has survived into our days and has been augmented by an entanglement with Zionism and an emphasis on its role in globalization.*”

Ádám Horváth was called to account for his words by a number of people, and he responded as follows, alluding to his readings: “*The way I put it may have been a bit rough. But when I read about Freemasonry a while back, this is how it had been formulated there. I did not mean to appear like an anti-Semite, and I am not one. I hope everyone knows this. I am a conservative Christian man. If I were an an-*

*ti-Semite, I would not be here in the x party, but in another youth organization.*”

The journal reports that after the article came out Ádám Horváth deleted his comment, without explanation. They added however that he could not delete the answers he received to his comment, and what he wrote can still be found among those replies.

*Jobbik Member of Parliament boasts about his anti-Semitism motivated violent offence*

Sources: hirtv.hu; origo.hu;  
facebook.hu; tev.hu; mandiner.hu;  
vs.hu; hirado.hu

**28–29 November 2018** Hír TV came into the possession of a sound recording on which István Szávay, deputy group leader of Jobbik bragged about knocking down a woman who was Jewish, because she “insulted him”.

In the recording István Szávay can be heard proudly recounting to fellow party members at the leadership elec-

tion congress of Jobbik what he had done the night before. The deputy group leader of Jobbik was partying at a downtown club, when according to his statement, a presumably Jewish woman recognized him and called him a Nazi.

“*She insulted me, saying that it stinks of Nazis. And I knocked her down, saying stinking Jew! Bang!*” – we can hear Szávay say on the recording. The politician did not stop there, and continued to brag, ridiculing his victim, with comments such as: “*she was a real, hook-nosed, rotter*” and that “*I bent her snout a little.*”

After the incident Szávay responded on Facebook. He wrote: he was only joking when he boasted about hitting the woman, and later admitted to his friends that he

had not struck the woman. The Member of Parliament nevertheless admitted that he had spoken about Jews in an offensive way, in his terms he apologized for the appalling style and comments, but did not speak about resigning.

*“Clearly, anti-Semitism and racism have not been made to stop in Jobbik”* – Slomó Köves, Executive Rabbi of EMIH said in the Hír TV program Magyarország élőben (Hungary live). In his opinion, the words caught on the recording appall any civilized person: *“It says a great deal about a social group if such bragging is held to one’s credit. It describes the atmosphere still prevalent in Jobbik behind the scenes”*, he added.

Kálmán Szalai, Executive Director of APF told Mandiner in an interview: *“We have been continuously saying for a while now regarding Jobbik that the drive to become a people’s party is only for appearance’s sake, to maximize votes. It is our conviction that there is no room in the Hungarian public space either for such statements, or people who make them. But it is our stance that beyond the political consequences, István Szávay should also expect legal consequences. We will therefore be filing a formal complaint in this case. If the investigating authorities find that Szávay’s statements fulfill the criteria of the criminal offense of assault on a member of a community, they can then apply for a waiver of his parliamentary immunity. The Parliament must then decide in relation to that.”*

Szávay’s words were unanimously denounced by all political parties, both those in government and those in opposition.

Anett Bósz of the party MLP (Hungarian Liberal Party) called upon the authorities to investigate the incident without delay, to clarify what actually happened, and then to indict the Jobbik politician, if it is found that he struck a citizen on account of their origin, their religion.

*“I cannot accept being in community with any Member of Parliament who gave such a statement either about a Jew, or about a woman. There is no room for such people in the national assembly, I would be pleased to see the MP re-*

*sign of his own accord”* – said Lajos Oláh, MP of DK (Democratic Coalition Party).

Márta Demeter of LMP (Politics Can be Different Party) also considers István Szávay’s words a disgrace: *“There is no question that any such statement is unacceptable. Obviously, he must apologize for this, which he has done – the rest is an internal issue for Jobbik.”*

The co-President of Párbeszéd (Dialogue for Hungary Party) also cautiously suggested that the consequences had been adequate. *“I do not know precisely what happened, but I consider it a positive development that the matter was not left without consequences. Jobbik has a difficult legacy that has been brought back to mind by these sentences.”*

*“Jobbik would do well to work out what kind of a party it is. The civilized people’s party they try to show themselves as, or a common Jew-baiting party of the likes of Szávay’s show. They ought to throw István Szávay out”* – said Balázs Bárány, member of the board of MSZP (Hungarian Socialist Party).

According to Ádám Mirkóczki, Jobbik spokesman, his fellow party member resigned from two important offices, which shows that the incident had consequences. The Party did not officially distance itself from Szávay’s statement.

On the day after the case came to light he announced – once again on Facebook – that he is resigning from the offices he holds as deputy leader of the Jobbik group and as Parliamentary Notary. Party President Tamás Sneider took István Szávay’s side. In his opinion it was right for his fellow party member to resign from all his parliamentary offices, but he thought that Szávay had suffered an undignified insult. The Jobbik President explained that there is a great need for Szávay’s work in the Hungarian Parliament. Nonetheless, on 3 December Szávay announced on his Facebook page that he would resign his seat in Parliament as well. He wrote: *“As one of its founders, I have been a member of our community for fifteen years, and sensing my responsibility for this community I wish to resign from my seat in Parliament as well.”*

## VANDALISM

*Signboard at the building of the Jewish Congregation of Szombathely vandalized*  
Source: ugytudjuk.hu

**16 November 2018** Unknown individuals broke the glass signboard at the Batthyány Square building of the Jewish Congregation of Szombathely – the news portal ugytudjuk.hu reported. They explained that the incident had occurred earlier, but as soon as they had registered the damages they filed a report with the police. They added that there were surveillance cameras nearby, so the two persons who could be linked to the vandalism soon came within range of the police, within 72 hours. The



Source: szoljon.hu

police began criminal proceedings, a citizen of Szombathely has already been interrogated as a suspect.

*Swastika drawn onto the gate of a church by unknown persons*  
Source: szoljon.hu

**31 October and 10 November 2018** Swastikas, male genitalia, and an inscription saying “Hitler’s Gate” was drawn in chalk onto the door of the Church of Ószőlő. Parish priest, Tamás Muzsik already registered a police complaint in the case.

The priest recounted that the police arrived on site on 5 November, but the inscription and drawings were not kept until then, they were washed of after photo documentation had been made. “*The police prepared a report. They were not too optimistic about finding the culprit*” said the pastor, adding that unfortunately there was no surveillance camera in the vicinity of the church, and certainly none at the church. “*On the basis of the chalk drawings and the ‘proficient’ inscriptions it may be conjectured that the perpetrators were children. We might perhaps be expected to show more leniency towards them, but actually we cannot. I fear that if we pretended that nothing had happened, the case would be repeated. By having filed the complaint I want to warn future culprits: their actions can have legal consequences!*”

He also said that sadly he did not find that the incident elicited too much response. “*Very few people have said that they disapproved of the graffiti. Not even a thousand surveillance cameras can solve a problem that is not important to people. And yet, if a community does not respond to an action, claiming that the problem is of no concern to it, it does not mean that the same will not happen to it.*”

The police station of Tiszaföldvár is meanwhile examining whether a legal offense had been committed in this case.

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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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In the course of its monitoring during November 2018, Action and Protection Foundation identified one incident that belonged in this category, which covers hate incidents that do not figure in the statistics either because they were insignificant, or the anti-Semitic intent was not absolutely clear.



Source: index.hu

*Concealed swastika found in Sopron*  
Source: index.hu

**26 November 2018** A correspondent for index.hu reported that an acquaintance had visited Sopron, and in particular the section of the city called Bánfalva, in which the famous Carmelite monastery and its church (Church for the Queen of the Heavens) can be found. The friend noticed in the street below the monastery that a swastika had been drawn and already camouflaged on the wall. Unknown persons had made a gift box out of the anti-Semitic graffiti. The author of the article noted that though there may be better ways to remove it, this would do as a quick fix.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*EU to take up the fight against anti-Semitism with Hungarian leadership*

Sources: APF; magyarhirlap.hu; echotv.hu; 888.hu; kormany.hu; 168ora.hu

**6 November, 12 November, 24 November, and 29 November 2018** APF (APF) to extend its activities to 28 countries with the support of the Hungarian government.

At a Brussels conference discussing the situation of European Jewry, Rabbi Slomó Köves, founder of APF announced that the organization would be established at a European level, to provide effective aid to combat rising European anti-Semitism. The Rabbi called upon other European governments to join the initiative of this European organization, set up in partnership with the Hungarian government.

The Brussels-based European Jewish Association (EJA), which represents the European Jewish community, organized a two-day conference in the Belgian capital with Israeli government support, focusing on the basic issues of concern to the Jewish community on the continent, considering the approaching European elections. The conference deals with the changing political landscape, relationship between radical parties and the Jewish community, modern, left-wing anti-Semitism, and the spread of anti-Israel sentiment.

EJA Chairman, rabbi Menachem Margolin and Ron Yishai representing the Israeli government, as well as EMIH Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves opened the Conference. In his opening speech Köves asserted: *“Even as we seek allies and bridge differences of world view, we must take action”*, and *“while building a united stance, replace the vague declarations with a professional assessment and the identification of concrete challenges, following it up with focused action.”* The rabbi gave an account of the situation of the Hungarian Jewish communities, and the challenges that motivated the formation of APF (APF) in 2012, as well as a brief overview of APF’s achievements over the last six years.

Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves announced on the first day of the conference that in cooperation with European Jewish organizations APF is opening an office in Brussels, a European Center for the monitoring, research and analysis of anti-Semitism and the protection of human rights. The new organization is to be established from the resources of the Jewish communities, with the supportive partnership of the Hungarian government. The rabbi called the action „historic” both from the perspective of Hungarian and European Jewish communities and as an open stance in support of the Jewish state, calling upon governments of the other EU member states to also step up soon to join the initiative with a similar commitment.

The rabbi pointed out three threats on which action must be taken: traditional extreme right-wing Jew hatred, the incitement to hatred and aggression that has intensified among unintegrated crowds of migrants with ties to extremist Muslim movements, as well as far-left anti-Semitism cloaked in anti-Israelism.

*“The approach where the fight against anti-Semitism is not focused expressly on the well-being and secu-*



Source: Action and Protection Foundation

rity of Jewish communities but is instead a sort of demonstration tool for the world view and advancement of human-rights universalism is rather well known in Europe these days. When certain politicians in Europe say that there is anti-Semitism in Hungary; in many cases their concern is not directed at the situation of the members of the Jewish community; but at the dissemination of an – otherwise important, but mostly nonetheless abstract – fundamentalism regarding basic human rights”, the rabbi clarified. In contrast, APF considers acting against anti-Semitism a security matter.

Dániel Bodnár, President of TEV said that the international organization being established will undertake regular public anti-Semitism monitoring and social prejudice surveys, with the media watch to also include Turkish- and Arabic-language media and community media. In addition, it is to formulate legislative proposals and give legal aid by consultation, while developing educational and awareness-raising programs compatible with existing European educational systems. The organization will carry on its



Source: Action and Protection Foundation

activities with a seat in Brussels and three offices set up in regional centers of Europe.

APF Executive Director Kálmán Szalai told the Conference: the new organization builds on the successful operational model and best practice of APF, developed uniquely in Europe to realize its actions properly grounded in the three fields, law-monitoring-education, in cooperation with the state and NGOs.

Participants attending the Brussels conference from western European countries

reported a steady rise of increasingly brutal violent crime, also filtering increasingly into the political mainstream. A representative of a Swedish youth organization for example recounted how anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish sentiment grows steadily more palpable even in university circles – Slomó Köves told the Hungarian daily Magyar Hírlap. “With the support of the Hungarian government for such an initiative it has become even clearer: it sets values by the struggle against anti-Semitism, and with this move, Hungary – as one of the most important friends of the State of Israel in Europe – places the responsibility of taking the next step on the other European governments.”

Furthermore, the rabbi stressed that the monitoring program will also track Turkish- and Arabic-language media and social networking platforms. Reports will result from this activity, which will be at the disposal of the leaders of the member states.

In the Echo TV program called Napi Aktuális (Topic of the day) the Executive Rabbi added: there is an ongoing shift in paradigm where anti-Semitism is concerned. Jews are not only harassed on the streets in Western Europe, but they are at times attacked in their own homes. APF is opening an office in Brussels due to such and similar incidents, with the aim of keeping track of violent offences perpetrated on Jewry across European countries.

Confirming the above in an interview he gave to 888.hu, Slomó Köves placed the struggle in a European context and spoke about how the nature of European anti-Semitic manifestations has changed in the recent past. Next to the 20th-century legacy of far-right anti-Semitism a new form of anti-Semitism has appeared, which is connected to migration. He added: many in the Benelux countries or France consider the current processes affecting the Jewish community ethnic cleansing. “If we want the Jewry which has lived in Europe over the past two-thousand years to have a future, not only a past, we cannot put action off any longer.” APF will continue its extended activity under the name of Action and Protection League of Europe, because of the model that already works in Hungary. The base of the organ-

ization will be provided by the Hungarian APF, which has experience and a praxis reaching back several years.

On 29 November, the government announced that a government decree now confirms that Action and Protection League of Europe (APLE) will receive 525 million HUF in 2019, and 500 million HUF in 2020. The budget allocation contributes to the establishment and operation of Action and Protection League of Europe, which will engage extensively in the fields of legislation, law enforcement, monitoring-research, and educational systems. Along with Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Sochnut – Jewish Agency for Israel, the Rabbinical Centre of Europe, the Dutch Chief Rabbi, as well as Jewish organizations in Belgium, France and Spain welcomed the initiative.

*Randolph L. Braham, Hungarian Holocaust researcher passes away*

Source: 444.hu; hirhatar.hu

**25 November 2018** An American historian of Romanian-Hungarian Jewish origin and one of the internationally most renowned researchers of the Holocaust, Randolph L. Braham, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the City College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and director of the New York Rosenthal Institute has passed away at the age of 96.

Braham authored more than sixty books about the Holocaust, most of them published in America. His most famous book, *The Politics of Genocide* (1981) – also published in Hungarian as *A magyar holokauszt* (The Hungarian Holocaust) – is one of the most significant historiographical works on the Holocaust, and a fundamental work of seminal importance in the international Holocaust literature. Along with fellow researchers, he was a founder of the first Holocaust Memorial Museum of the United States in 1979 in Washington.

Born to a Jewish family in Bucharest in 1922 as Adolf Ábrahám, he was raised in Dej, a town in Szolnok-Doboka County. His extended family was deported and murdered while he served in the compulsory Labor service of the Hungarian army at the

Ukrainian front. In 1944 he escaped and was captured by the Soviets in 1945, later reaching American-occupied Germany through Hungary and Austria. From 1948 he lived in the US researching the Holocaust, especially the genocides of Central-Europe.

*Slomó Köves: “Churches have a duty to cooperate with the government”*

Sources: 168 óra; hv.g.hu

**29 November 2018** Slomó Köves, EMIH’s executive rabbi, gave the journal 168 óra (168 hours) an interview about the establishment of the new Action and Protection League of Europe. He also spoke in this regard about the relationship between his congregation and the government. In his opinion there are two conflicting approaches: *“For one school of thought, the moral integrity of a particular organization is judged because of who their allies and partners in cooperation are, and whom the organization refuses to work with. According to the other theory, moral integrity is created by acting, that is, the active shaping of public life in line with concrete issues.”* He added that EMIH designates particular tasks as important in their value-system and then looks for allies to achieve them. *“And naturally, the government in power at any given time is also a potential partner.”* Köves supports the second of the two approaches outlined above, and for him the question is not whether EMIH has close ties to the government, but what the specific issues are on which they can collaborate with the government in power.

Regarding the Sargentini Report, the rabbi said the following: *“its entirely unfounded, mistaken references are no help to combatting anti-Semitism in Hungary, and nor is the report’s general objective of so-called democracy improvement.”*

Concerning the House of Fates – following Mazsihisz’s (Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities) withdrawal – Slomó Köves said that he would have considered running away from the task a breach of responsibility by EMIH. Finally, in response to widely held concerns that the rabbi may come under the sway of Mária Schmidt he said: *“It is our mutual responsibility to be able to cooperate. And we cannot act differently really.”*

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*Csaba Latorcai presents  
Robert Fisch's book  
Light from the Yellow Star  
Source: kormany.hu*

**19 November 2018** “*The tragedy of the Holocaust warns contemporary politicians and decision-makers of Hungary and Europe that our future, and the fate of generations to come are based on the moral integrity of the decisions made today;*” said Dr Csaba Latorcai, Secretary of State for Public Administration of the Ministry of Human Resources.

The state secretary addressed a workshop discussion at the Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary at the book launch of *Light from the Yellow Star* by Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor Robert Fisch.

In his talk titled “Laws, morals and administration,” the state secretary explained: “*Laws are ever-present in our daily lives (...). The law is an inherent part of how human communities exist, it is an objective need that individuals adjust their behavior to each other, and thus create a transparent and predictable system of cooperation.*” He added furthermore “*we must not forget that the law also provides the minimum in moral standards and therefore it is one of the basic requirements of social existence to follow the laws.*”

Csaba Latorcai has also mentioned that remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust is our moral duty, following this with an overview of change of legislation that helps penalizing public denial of the crimes of the National Socialist and the communist regimes, emphasizing the Government’s declaration of zero tolerance towards anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia.

Praising the book by the 93-year-old American pediatrician and artist, Csaba Latorcai stressed that this book was written by a man who had the faith and strength of character to learn from the tragedy, and even put it into words: “*even besides the memories of suffering, the strength of acts motivated*

*by human love is stronger than fear of brutality*”, the State Secretary quoted from the book.

*Hungarian government rejects accusations  
of anti-Semitism  
Source: MTI; kormany.hu*

**24 November 2018** Government spokesperson Zoltán Kovács has rejected a statement by the German newspaper *Handelsblatt* that government attacks on György Soros are characterized by anti-Semitism.

Zoltán Kovács published his letter on the English website of the International Communications Office of the Prime Minister’s Cabinet Office, in response to the newspaper’s editorial “*In vindication of Soros*”, published on 16 November. The spokesperson refers to a statement by the editor-in-chief asserting that “*Hungary spreads conspiracy theories about György Soros*” and tracing the origins of these theories back “*to the most despicable forms of European anti-Semitism.*”

Zoltán Kovács called attention to the fact that Viktor Orbán and his government never mentioned Soros’ Jewish origins. Soros himself usually stresses his American identity and rarely speaks about his Jewish roots. Kovács asserts that the editor-in-chief, along with defenders of Soros, “*play the anti-Semitism card to discredit those daring to stand up against the pro-immigration, anti-democratic politics of Soros*” and intentionally ignore the real issue at hand: respect for the will of the people.

He stressed that “*There is a difference between working to bring down a Communist regime as Soros foundations used to do and working against democratically elected governments as Soros and his network do at present.*”

*The Hungarian government supports the fight against global anti-Semitism - announced Szabolcs Takács at the plenary session of IHRA.*

Source: MTI

**29 November 2018** *“Unlike in several Western European countries where anti-Semitism is on the rise as a result of migration, in Hungary, members of any denomination, including members of the Jewish community, are safe to practice their religion,”* stated Szabolcs Takács, state secretary for European affairs at the plenary session of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) held in Ferrara.

Szabolcs Takács, leader of the Hungarian delegation, told MTI that one of the key issues discussed in the session was the worrying rise of European anti-Semitism. The state secretary has pointed out that this phenomenon must be examined as a serious social, moral, and security problem manifested in acts of violence that sometimes even result in fatalities. He also explained that this is a new breed of anti-Semitism linked, on the one hand, to anti-Israel feelings characteristic of anti-Zionist, anarchist groups of the extreme left, while connected on the other hand, to the anti-Semitism of radical Islam, which cannot be declared unrelated to illegal migration.

In his address, the state secretary has also announced that with the support of the Hungarian government, APF, with its headquarters in Budapest, is establishing a European level organization to give efficient support in confronting growing anti-Semitism. This organization will keep regular track of the intensity of anti-Semitism in European Union member states. Szabolcs Takács has requested member states of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance to cooperate with the research organization, which the government will support with an annual 1.5 million euros from 2019 onwards. The organization will have an office in Brussels and will cooperate with the European Jewish Association.

Szabolcs Takács also recounted that the future of the Budapest House of Fates was on the session’s agenda, and he informed participants that Budapest has had a government-supported Holocaust Museum and Memorial Centre for the last two decades. Therefore, there is no need to rush the opening of the House of Fates, it can be delayed until the controversies surrounding it subside. He added that once the concept for the content of the museum is ready, it can be made the subject of discussion, but asked that participants ought not to criticize a concept they cannot be familiar with, seeing that it does not yet exist.

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## NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

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*International media responds  
to scandalous book exploring  
the life of Iván Héjjas*

Sources: b1.blog.hu; jungle.world



**18 November 2018** “[T]he vice-president of the Hungarian Parliament has rehabilitated Iván Héjjas, Jew-hating murderer and robber,” wrote the jungle.world after László Domonkos’ book was launched in Kecskemét. Among other assertions, the book states that when the Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919 was defeated, Héjjas’ detachment was the only battalion fighting for the nation in accord with the rules. Sándor Lezsák spoke at the book launch and later posted on Facebook that this was the day justice was done by Iván Héjjas’ name.

The article points out that Héjjas’ detachment was tasked by the counter-revolutionary government with punishing communists and Jews during the autumn of 1919 around Kecskemét. The battalion carried out crimes of appalling brutality in Orgovány, with several murderous looting rampages to their account. Many of these incidents were brought to court, but only seven people were condemned and they merely for robberies. Horthy pardoned the commander.

*Al-Jazeera makes film  
about Hungarian far right*

Sources: hirtv.hu; aljazeera.com

**21 November 2018** Al-Jazeera made a film about far-right youths, with a focus on what motivates young Hungarians to turn to neo-Nazi movements. Following a global trend, a growing number of young Hungarians join violent far-right, neo-Nazi movements, and the channel aimed to por-

tray the reasons for this. Young people who joined the Outlaws’ Army (Betyársereg) also voiced their views in the film.

“Hitler’s program is a perfect political work of art,” was the opinion of a Hungarian boy in his late twenties. Adam, who had such praise for Hitler’s political program, is a member of the Outlaws’ Army, and explained that he feels Hungary is totally exploited by Jews. They created the world recession, so they are not good people, in fact he does not consider them human at all.

The filmmaker aimed to map the personality and motivations of the young people – as he explained in his article. The roots of Adam’s Jew-hatred are not immediately clear, but it was clear that he was still extremely upset about the consequences of the fall of Communism.

The film also introduced an 18-year-old who is still looking for a movement to join to fulfill his momentous ambitions of becoming a leading figure in the Hungarian far-right political spectrum. He feels he must fight for his nation against liberalism and multiculturalism.

These are just two stories, but Al-Jazeera set out to portray the radicalization that is clear not just in Hungary, but as a global trend. The channel asked a Hungarian political analyst Bulesu Hunyadi who is of the opinion that most of these youngsters do not join far-right, neo-Nazi organizations because they are obsessed with the ideology, rather they are drawn by the community. And, eventually, of course, they internalize the ideological background as well.

However, Miklós Tamás Gáspár points out, the perceived threat these organizations build on is a myth. He thinks that it is worthwhile to pay attention to Hungary, because to quickly understand what the world at large is going through, one need only look to this country.

*Netanyahu praises Viktor Orbán for his actions against anti-Semitism*  
Source: MTI; hirado.hu

**26 November 2018** In an interview given to CNN, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Viktor Orbán for his actions against anti-Semitism. The American news channel interviewed Netanyahu after an opinion poll had found that anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe, and the prime minister expressed his appreciation for Viktor Orbán's fight against anti-Semitism, highlighting that he had even set up an organization for this very purpose. Netanyahu was indirectly referring to the activity of the Action and Protection League of Europe, the center for combatting anti-Semitism.

Netanyahu pointed out that in addition to the old anti-Semitic prejudices against Jews, a new breed of anti-Semitism had appeared, one that denies the right of the state of Israel to exist, doesn't acknowledge the

right of the Jewish people to a state of their own, and promotes anti-Israelism. In addition to right-wing forces, this new form of anti-Semitism finds vocal supporters on the far left as well. The prime minister of Israel has called for a struggle against both forms of anti-Semitism.

Netanyahu has highlighted the responsibility of European leaders, and beside Viktor Orbán, also mentioned German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Milos Zeman as advocates of the fight against anti-Jewish and anti-Israel sentiments.

He emphasized the crucial role of education, especially since according to a study by CNN, one in twenty Europeans, and in France one in every five persons between the ages of 18 and 34 has not heard about the Holocaust.

This month's Report carries an account of the creation of the European Action and Protection League as well as the CNN study mentioned above.

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## OTHER NEWS

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*Sándor Szakály maintains his opinion  
about the Numerus clausus*  
Source: mandiner.hu

**7 November 2018; 20 November 2018** *“I do apologize to all those I offended with the phrase I used, but I will not replace the expressions used at the time for others, these are the facts,”* said historian Sándor Szakály to Mandiner. The interview started with a question that brought up a now famous statement from 2014 when he said that the first deportations of Jews to Kamenets-Podolsk in 1941 should be considered “police actions against aliens”.

*“As a historian, I have no right to make judgments,”* he said. *“I did not call deportations police actions against aliens, but also did not call the compulsory removals – that took place as a police action against aliens – deportations. I was condemned based on an altogether distorted argument. I have said and am still saying that there is no evidence that the authorities should have known what would happen a few weeks after the compulsory removal.”*

Sándor Szakály was also asked about his address at a Horthy memorial event last month. He said that historians disagreed on how the Horthy era should be esteemed. *“There are some who are of the opinion and propagate the view that Hungary in the interwar period was the ‘most evil country of the world.’ That everything began with the White Terror of 1919, and a direct line leads from the Numerus clausus to the Holocaust. I do not agree with this view. The Holocaust was not a Hungarian invention, and it was under German occupation that Hungarian Jewry came to face the atrocities that Western European Jews had had to experience much earlier. Despite some restrictions, the security of Hungarian Jewry’s property and life was more or less guaranteed until German occupation. Ghettoization also began after German occupation. That is not to say there were no abuses, no sufferings for Hungarian Jews. I only wanted to give more nuance to that picture (...).”*

He said that if he receives a request for a lecture on a subject of his expertise, it

is natural for him to accept the invitation. When asked by a journalist about Horthy he asserted that he does not consider Horthy a failed politician. Horthy came to be regarded as a failure because Hungary was on the losing side at the end of World War II. However, it was not Horthy who pushed Hungary into the war, but the Treaty of Trianon.

*New survey on the popularity of fake news,  
myths, and conspiracy theories*  
Source: 168ora.hu; 24.hu

**7 November 2018** Political Capital (PC), with the backing of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and in collaboration with Median, carried out a survey in September on the popularity of certain fake news, myths and conspiracy theories among Hungarians and the prevalence of these myths in social media. A representative sample of 1,200 participants took part in the appraisal of superstition levels in Hungarian society, which also delved into typical conspiracy theories that determine contemporary public discourse and may hint at several other social phenomena.

Nearly one-third (32 percent) of the respondents cannot be considered superstitious at all, and less than 10 percent is superstitious, while the social group in majority is still superstitious in some way, although their beliefs and the strength of their convictions vary greatly.

Political Capital’s study also aimed to reveal which political conspiracy theories Hungarians are likely to believe, or not give any credence to. The research found that those least receptive to conspiracy theories live in Budapest, have completed higher education, were high earners, or followed the teachings of a church and were religious. However, significant differences were registered when also considering respondents’ political party preferences.

Supporters of Jobbik and the Mi Hazánk (Our Home) Movement are well over the average in believing in conspiracy theories. Voters of the ruling party (Fidesz) are

slightly less likely than the average to accept these theories, while supporters of center left parties (all opposition parties except the two right wing parties) are slightly more likely than average to believe in them.

The research also found that when it came to conspiracy theories based on the typically negative stereotypes about Jews, the proportion of those considering it true was far higher, in all cases, than those who did not. In other words, Jewish stereotypes are rooted in society. For example, nearly one in two respondents tended to agree with the statement that Jews aspire to a decisive role in international financial institutions or that Jews want to extend their influence in the world economy.

16 percent of all respondents strongly believe in anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, while a much smaller (7) percent rejects them outright.

Conspiracy theory-based anti-Semitism is highly prevalent among supporters of right-wing opposition parties. 27 percent are strongly anti-Semitic, while only 4 percent reject Jewish conspiracy theories completely.

Among those who vote for the ruling party the figures were close to the overall average, with 18 percent acceptance and 6 percent rejection of such conspiracy theories, while among supporters of center-left opposition parties the proportion of believers is lower than average with the conspiratorial anti-Semites at 14 percent and rejecters of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories at 8 percent.

The most popular theory was that the migration crisis was deliberately created by American interest groups. 39 percent of respondents agreed with this statement to some extent while 24 percent opposed it.

One in three believes that the United States uses the EU to manipulate other countries (such as Hungary) to act in line with US interests, forcing its will upon them. A similar proportion is of the opinion that the 2014 revolution in the Ukraine was set in motion by the CIA and György Soros to plant their own people in positions of power.

Overall, the study has found that a significant proportion, between one quarter to one

third of the people are susceptible to such conspiracy theories. However, experts have pointed out that a similar proportion categorically reject these theories, while most people have no views on the subject or do not wish to take a position on such questions.

*CNN survey finds substantial anti-Semitism in Hungary:*

Source: 444.hu; edition.cnn.com

**27 November 2018** *“One in 20 Europeans surveyed has never heard of the Holocaust. More than a quarter believe Jews have too much influence in business and finance. One in five believe anti-Semitism is a response to the everyday actions of Jews.”* These were some of the findings of the CNN survey of seven European countries, according to which anti-Semitic stereotypes are alive and well in Europe.

In the seven countries on average one in ten Europeans admitted to being anti-Semitic, but in Poland the number of those willing to openly declare their anti-Semitism rose to 15 percent, while in Hungary it was 20. About 5 percent of Europeans in the countries CNN surveyed has never heard of the Holocaust, even though it is only 73 years since the end of World War II. This percentage rises to 12 percent among young people in Austria and in the general population, 40 percent admit to “knowing very little” about the Holocaust. And even among those who have heard about it, one third of Europeans think that Jews use the Holocaust to advance their own goals. A quarter of Hungarians guessed that over 20 percent of the world’s population is Jewish, in other words, that 1.45 billion Jews inhabit the world. Their guess is off by a factor of 100, with the global Jewish population at 14–15 million.

For the survey carried out by the opinion research company ComRes for CNN, 7,092 people were interviewed between 7 and 20 September 2018, in seven European countries, with about a thousand people each in Austria, France, Hungary, Poland, Great Britain, Germany, and Sweden. There were 1,019 respondents in Hungary.

However, based on its own research, APF (TEV) considers the markedly high-

er levels of anti-Semitic attitude unrealistic. Based on years of research material in the Foundation's possession it can be declared that anti-Semitism is not at the levels described by CNN on the basis of its survey. Moreover, the method of the CNN research was unreliable, because of the online data collection employed, which is an unreliable tool for representative surveys in Hungary.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

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*Decision to terminate proceedings*  
Source: Action and Protection

**7 November 2018** The Criminal Division of the Police Headquarters of Szekszárd has notified the Foundation about a procedure it started earlier.

On 26 May 2018, APF reported to the police that – at some uncertain point prior to this date – someone scratched a picture strongly resembling a Nazi swastika on the English information board of the Jewish cemetery in Szedres. The decision says that the police collected data and searched for witnesses but came across no relevant information about the perpetrator or the crime.

The decision also explained that based on the enclosed photograph “*although the symbol resembles a forbidden totalitarian symbol, it actually differs from it on numerous points,*” and according to their research findings, the symbol is “*used in many cultures and religions (...) and in the majority of cases, it has a positive meaning.*” They added that they were unable to find the perpetrator, and thus the motive also remained unknown. Therefore, the authority concludes that no offense was committed so the proceedings were stopped.

In August, after receiving this decision, APF published a statement declaring that it was unacceptable for authorities not to regard a swastika painted on a Jewish cemetery as a totalitarian symbol, on the grounds that it was painted in reverse. The Foundation filed a complaint against the decision and so the procedure was resumed – on orders from above.

In November 2018, the procedure was once again ended. This time – as justified in the decision – a search for witnesses was carried out, but no one to find the perpetrator was found, and “*no anti-Semitic or neo-Nazi groups in the village involved or the wider neighborhood*” could be identified. In the justification of the decision it was explained that although similar, “*the symbol actually differs from the symbol known as the swastika on many points,*” repeating that in their verdict “*in the majority of cases, it has a positive meaning.*”

APF finds it regrettable that in Hungary today, when a swastika is badly, but recognizably drawn onto the noticeboard of a Jewish cemetery, no discriminatory motive is recognized. The justification used by the police that swastikas are characteristic in neo-Nazi, anti-Semitic circles is not only regrettable, but also a sign of ignorance.

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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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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.	31 <sup>st</sup> of October; 10 <sup>th</sup> of November	Swastika drawn onto the gate of a church by unknown persons	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalizm
2.	6 <sup>th</sup> ; 12 <sup>th</sup> ; 24 <sup>th</sup> ; 29 <sup>th</sup> of November	EU to take up the fight against anti-Semitism with Hungarian leadership	Community News and Responses
3.	7 <sup>th</sup> ; 20 <sup>th</sup> of November	Sándor Szakály maintains his opinion about the Numerus clausus	Other News
4.	7 <sup>th</sup> of November	New survey on the popularity of fake news, myths, and conspiracy theories	Other News
5.	7 <sup>th</sup> of November	Decision to terminate proceedings	APF Legal Actions
6.	10 <sup>th</sup> of November	Anti-Semitic stereotype in a post by future politician	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
7.	16 <sup>th</sup> of November	Signboard at the building of the Jewish Congregation of Szombathely vandalized	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalizm
8.	18 <sup>th</sup> of November	International media responds to scandalous book exploring the life of Iván Héjjas	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
9.	19 <sup>th</sup> of November	Csaba Latorcai presents Robert Fisch's book <i>Light from the Yellow Star</i>	Official and Civil Responses
10.	21 <sup>st</sup> of November	AlJazeera makes film about Hungarian far right	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
11.	24 <sup>th</sup> of November	Hungarian government rejects accusations of anti-Semitism	Official and Civil Responses
12.	25 <sup>th</sup> of November	Randolph L. Braham, Hungarian Holocaust researcher passes away	Community News and Responses
13.	26 <sup>th</sup> of November	Concealed swastika found in Sopron	Further Hate Incidents
14.	26 <sup>th</sup> of November	Netanyahu praises Viktor Orbán for his actions against anti-Semitism	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
15.	27 <sup>th</sup> of November	CNN survey finds substantial anti-Semitism in Hungary.	Other News

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	28-29 <sup>th</sup> of November	Jobbik Member of Parliament boasts about his anti-Semitism motivated violent offence	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
17.	29 <sup>th</sup> of November	Slomó Köves: “Churches have a duty to cooperate with the government”	Community News and Responses
18.	29 <sup>th</sup> of November	The Hungarian government supports the fight against global anti-Semitism – announced Szabolcs Takács at the plenary session of IHRA.	Official and Civil Responses

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## 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](http://www.tev.hu/forrodrot)  
The Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany](https://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**

Contact details for Action and Protection Foundation

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<http://www.tev.hu>

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29

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