

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

DECEMBER 2018

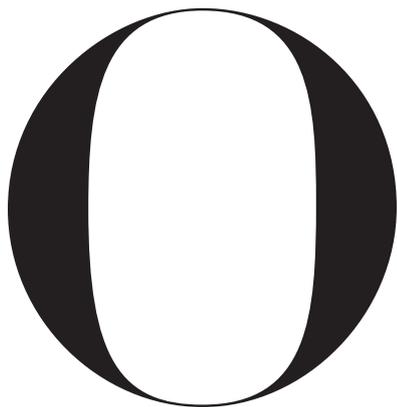


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	5
Action and Protection Foundation	6
Unity	6
Brussels Institute	6
About the Report	7
Methodology	9
Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents — December 2018	12
Hate speech	12
Vandalism	12
Further Hate Incidents	13
Community news and responses	14
Official and civil responses	16
News and opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary	19
Other news	20
Action and Protection Foundation legal actions	22
The Month's Chronicle	23
Contact and Support	24
References	24
Contributors and Publisher Information	26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



One of the most important requirements for the struggle against anti-Semitism is an investigation of the actual prevalence of anti-Semitism. One of the aims of Action and Protection Foundation is to eliminate ignorance of this issue. Instrumental in achieving this objective is the continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes that occur public life. The community cannot really be protected unless current information on anti-Semitic acts and other hate crimes are collected and analyzed. Results of the monitoring are published, monthly by the Foundation.

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: anti-Semitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report refers to both types of behavior as "*hate incidents*". An anti-Semitic hate crime is distinguished from other hate crime by possessing an anti-Semitic motive. Anti-Semitic hate crime is a violation of criminal law, yet not all hate-motivated acts are regarded as criminal. Never-

theless, 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 found two incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during December. One incident is classified as hate speech, the other falls into the category of damage to property. The first case involved Chelsea supporters singing a song defaming Tottenham during the MOL Vidi FC vs Chelsea match. The song was clearly audible in the stadium, Chelsea supporters referred to supporters of Tottenham (a football club of Jewish roots, similarly to MTK Budapest FC in Hungary) by the 'y' word (yids), which was without doubt anti-Semitic discrimination against Jewish communities. The other incident was a theft, unknown individuals stole the menorah from in front of the Holocaust memorial in Szombathely. Charges were pressed against unknown perpetrators.

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

APF did not start any new legal proceedings this month and no progress was achieved about 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 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.

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

– DECEMBER 2018

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

HATE SPEECH

Anti-Semitic chants at a football match
Source: 24.hu; bbc.com

13 December 2018 On 13 December, MOL Vidi FC played with already-qualified Chelsea in the Europa League – Group L stage game. Towards the middle of the second half, Hungarian fans noticed that the area for guest supporters was surrounded by security guards.

BBC.com reported on what happened in the Groupama Arena. Press Association journalist on the scene Matt McGeehan told BBC Radio 5 Live that guest supporters were singing offensive songs about Tottenham and that the chanting could be heard clearly in the stadium.

Chelsea supporters referred to fans of Tottenham (a football club of Jewish roots, similarly to MTK Budapest FC in Hungary) by using the 'y' word (yids), which was without doubt anti-Semitic discrimination against Jewish people. Chelsea supporters were angry because four fans had been suspended the previous Saturday, after Raheem Sterling had been racially abused during their match against Manchester City.

Manager of Chelsea, Maurizio Sarri expressed his disapproval and condemned the incident. Chelsea spokesperson said that *“Anti-Semitism and any other kind of race-related hatred is abhorrent to this club and the overwhelming majority of our fans. Any individuals that (...) are found to have shamed the club by using anti-Semitic or racist words or actions will face the strongest possible action from the club.”*

UEFA waited for the referee's and inspector's reports, then decided to open an investigation into the incident, their findings are expected to be revealed in mid-January.

VANDALISM

Menorah of Szombathely Synagogue stolen
Source: ugytudjuk.hu; nyugat.hu

28 December 2018 The Holocaust memorial in Szombathely was placed in front of the synagogue (called Bartók Terem – Bartók Room today) on Batthyány Square. On the morning of 28 December, members of the community noticed that the menorah, the seven-lamp lampstand, had disappeared from in front of the commemorative plaque.

Ugytudjuk.hu wrote that for the last 73 years, the menorah had stood undisturbed in front of the commemorative plaque honoring the 4,228 Holocaust victims from Szombathely. The motive of the incident has not been found but the portal wrote that *“the heavy candelabrum was made of metal so the incident could have been committed by scrap metal collectors, but it could have been an act of desecration as the plaque commemorated Holocaust victims from Szombathely.”*

Charges were pressed against unknown perpetrators. There is a video surveillance camera opposite to the memorial so it is hoped that the perpetrator(s) will be found – similarly to another incident of damage to property happened in November, which we presented in our November report.

The empty place of the menorah:



Source: nyugat.hu

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During December 2018 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified no incident 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

APF statement about the Szávay case

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

4 December 2018 Action and Protection Foundation (APF) was relieved to hear that deputy group leader of Jobbik István Szávay resigned as Member of Parliament on 3 December.

A few days prior to this, an audio recording was made public in which István Szávay boasted of a violent, anti-Semitic hate incident he had committed and in relation to which APF had started legal proceedings and requested the case be investigated. At best, the resignation of Szávay means that Jobbik finds it unacceptable that the party's members propagate anti-Semitic sentiments.

We will only be convinced that this is the case if Jobbik consistently acts against all anti-Semitic expressions pronounced by its members. If Jobbik would indeed like to distance itself from politics inciting hatred in the name of consistency, the MP who had called in the Hungarian parliament for Jews to be registered in lists would also be dismissed.

A few years ago (on 26 November 2012) Márton Gyöngyösi said that *"I think such a conflict makes it timely to tally up people of Jewish ancestry who live here, especially in the Hungarian parliament and the Hungarian government, who, indeed, pose a national security risk to Hungary. I believe such a list is owed to Hungary."*

These words were not captured by a secret audio recording but were uttered during a speech in the Hungarian parliament, which makes it clear that not only do boastful comments, but the party's politics also try to poison members of parliament with anti-Semitism. If consistent actions are to be taken against anti-Semitism, the next step would have to be the dismissal of Gyöngyösi. If Jobbik does not tolerate Szávay's Jew-baiting, they cannot condone Gyöngyösi's statement either. On the other

hand, if they think drawing up a list of Jews is permissible, then the resignation of the MP who had boasted of beating up a Jewish woman does not mean a thing either.

Kálmán Szalai: "APF extends its best practices to the whole of Europe"

Source: mandiner.hu

15 December 2018 APF Secretary Kálmán Szalai gave an interview to Mandiner. Anti-Semitism itself, a survey by CNN and the future of APF were discussed – topics which were presented in detail in our November report.

Szalai told Mandiner that APF was established in 2012 *"with the aim of providing a new alternative to fighting anti-Semitism in ways more effective than previous community actions had been."* In relation to this, Szalai said that APF has three main types of activities, the first includes research and monitoring. *"In order to be able to take effective action against anti-Semitism, we need to understand the nature and driving forces of Hungarian phenomena."* The other two types of activities are legal actions and education. APF has been successful in both areas as for example, *"there is uniform judicial practice regarding the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes and Holocaust denial, and courts penalize Holocaust denial commonly expressed even in slang"*.

With regards to the development of researching anti-Semitism in Europe, Szalai said that the objective was to *"establish an advocacy and educational center in Europe that monitors, researches and analyzes anti-Semitism and is able to take credible action against incidents motivated by anti-Semitism based on a standard methodology."* APF's Secretary also added that one of the reasons behind the need for this was the growth of anti-Semitism in Europe, the increase in anti-Semitic incidents and the fact that local communities do not usually have any means to counter these hate incidents. *"The foundation will*

open a central representative office in Brussels, in the heart of European decision-making. Monitoring reports about anti-Semitic incidents will be compiled in regional centers. We will co-operate with local organizations in dealing with local anti-Semitic incidents and will work jointly with local law firms to provide legal assistance. In addition to this, we have operated a toll-free hotline number since 2019, which is available throughout Europe. Education projects will be implemented by co-operating with local partners and in line with common strict standards and coordination. The objective is to create a European network that produces scientific reports which are comparable, provide information to nation leaders and deliver us a faithful picture of the situation.” Szalai highlighted that now reports are not compiled according to a common method in the European Union. On the other hand, APF’s work in the past six years has constituted a significant help to exploration and analysis of local trends and this is what we would like to implement throughout Europe.

In relation to this, Szalai mentioned that the various surveys – even that of the CNN - are to measure the prevalence and tolerance of anti-Semitic prejudice. Szalai believed that CNN’s research also showed that *“ignorance around issues concerning the Jewish communities is rather high and at the same time anti-Semitic prejudice is common in society.”* He added that although the propor-

tion of extreme and moderate anti-Semites have changed in the past few years, the proportion of those accepting anti-Semitic prejudice has been 35-38 percent of the Hungarian society for years. *“As opposed to CNN’s research, however, we claim that such attitudes do not necessarily result in actions taken because even though 38 percent of the population in Hungary agree with negative prejudice about Jewish communities, the number of hate crime incidents in our country is significantly lower than the European average.”*

Different forms of anti-Semitism were also discussed during the interview. Szalai said that there are significant differences in the motivation of western and eastern European anti-Semitic phenomena. Anti-Semitism has three main and two subcategories: the main categories are traditional continental anti-Semitism from before 1945, anti-Judaism and anti-Zionism. The latter category is divided into two subgroups spreading fast: new, left-wing, anti-Israel anti-Semitism and anti-Israellism propagated by radical Islam. *“This is why having a common measurement methodology is crucially important to be able to compare processes and develop the most efficient responses to certain phenomena. When it comes to the question which incidents are considered as being motivated by anti-Semitism, a completely new approach is needed in order to apply the classification recommended by the OSCE.”*

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

István Tarlós: “No real anti-Semitism is centered in Budapest”

Source: MTI; 24.hu

2 December 2018 On the first day of Hanukkah, a candle-lighting service was held on Nyugati Square, Budapest. Mayor of Budapest István Tarlós, Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves and Ambassador Yossi Amrani gave speeches at the event.

Before lighting the first candle on the Chanukiah, István Tarlós highlighted in his opening speech that it is self-evident nowadays that every community living in the Hungarian capital can practice their religion freely and observe their celebrations undisturbedly.

The mayor also added that our Jewish citizens, who are proud to call themselves Hungarian, have given a lot to Budapest in all aspects of life, and these are of special

en European countries and the US. APF presented the results of this poll in our November report. The Executive Rabbi mentioned that Hungary “stands out” in only one aspect, i.e. for the lack of knowledge about Jewish communities. Köves stressed that the darkness embodying ignorance could only be overcome by light. Therefore, a chanukiah was set up for the first time on Nyugati Square in 1998, Jewish and non-Jewish friends were invited to the event to observe Hanukkah together and get familiarized with the festival and the traditions.

President of Hungary János Áder greeted the participants in a letter. He wrote that at the eight-day event, which has become a tradition, “we reaffirm year by year that we would like to live in a country where every citizen can practice their religion freely and express their attachments to the culture of their ancestors.”

According to Israel’s Ambassador to Budapest Yossi Amrani, the warmth of the chanukiah brings us closer not only to the celebration and the history of the Jews, but also to the Jewish community itself. Thanks to these candles, “we may get closer to our family members, friends and even our enemies” – said the Ambassador.

Fight against anti-Semitism on National Assembly’s agenda

Source: webradio.hu

2 December 2018 Politician of the ruling party, László Böröcz asked in the Parliament how the government fights anti-Semitism. In his speech, Böröcz highlighted that organizations with anti-Semitic sentiments could on several occasions march under Socialist governments, such governments only spoke against inciting hatred. He recalled that Márton Gyöngyösi (Jobbik) called for a list of Jews, Gergely Kulcsár (Jobbik) spat in the shoes commemorating victims of the Holocaust on the Danube bank, and István Szávay (Job-



Source: 24.hu

value. “We shall not forge these, and we are very grateful for them” – said the mayor.

Slomó Köves said that “it has nearly been 30 years that the Hungarian Jewish community has not only felt safe physically, but they have been able to live their identity freely”. These 30 years “come with responsibilities, too” – said the Rabbi. He noted, however, that there are still some Jewish children in Budapest who do not know what Hanukkah is. Slomó Köves also talked about the survey on the growth of anti-Semitism conducted by CNN in sev-

bik) held anti-Semitic views based on an audio recording.

Böröcz talked about the establishment of Action and Protection Foundation and said that in 2017, according to APF, there was not a single incident in Budapest when Jewish people were attacked because of their identity.

Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás said that the Hungarian government made it clear several times that there is zero tolerance against anti-Semitism in Hungary. The Minister added it was important that no one is unduly accused of anti-Semitism, but in case of well-founded accusations, proper conclusions shall be drawn. Gulyás drew attention to the facts that the Jewish community in Budapest can indeed live peacefully today and that Jewish people have not fallen victims of physical atrocities in Hungary in recent years.

Minister of Justice believes there is no anti-Semitism around Soros

Source: hvg.hu;
jewishnews.timesofisrael.com

6 December 2018 *“There isn't any anti-Semitism around Soros, there is only an ideological debate about topical issues”* – said the Hungarian Minister of Justice in an interview in Israel to Jewish News (a news portal of The Times of Israel), the interview was reviewed by hvg.hu.

László Trócsányi stressed that *“everybody is looking for their identity in the 21st century; Jews, Hungarians, and Hungarian Jews alike”* and identity is of heightened importance in today's changing world where we face migration and several other issues. The Minister said Soros was a *“controversial figure”* even in Israel. *“It is only natural that someone who is rich and takes part in politics becomes subjected to criticism”* – added Trócsányi.

In response to the fact that a June survey presented that two thirds of Hungarian Jews consider anti-Semitism a serious problem, the Minister said he had a lot of Jewish friends, but has not heard from any of them that they are concerned about anything in Hungary. *“The Jewish community may feel safe; they are safe in Hungary.”*

EU Ministers of Justice meet in Brussels

Source: kormany.hu

8 December 2018 Hungarian Minister of Justice László Trócsányi attended the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 7 December 2018 in Brussels. During the working lunch, the ministers discussed the punitive measures against anti-Semitism. László Trócsányi stressed that Hungary does not tolerate any manifestations of anti-Semitism.

“We pay special attention to protecting the Hungarian Jewish community, which is one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe. Straight after the liberation from Communist rule, the Constitutional Court set the standards of restrictions on the freedom of expression rather high. Then, after the consolidation of democratic institutions, Hungary has developed a complex legal protection system – through the Fundamental Law, the Criminal and the Civil Codes – against anti-Semitism and hate crime”. – said the minister.

László Trócsányi believed that the legal framework of punitive measures against anti-Semitism are appropriate. The Minister believed that besides assuring a more harmonious administration of justice, training and sensitizing investigators, prosecutors and judges, the effectiveness of actions taken could be improved by education, establishing memorials, introducing commemoration days focusing on the preservation of memory, and by raising awareness among society as a whole.

Viktor Orbán: “People who want to live here, cannot be anti-Semitic”

Source: MTI; oe24.at

23 December 2018 MTI reported that the Prime Minister gave an interview to an Austrian newspaper and the interview was reviewed by most of the Hungarian media. Besides political issues, border protection, migration, George Soros and CEU were discussed during the interview.

With regards to the approaching elections to the European Parliament, the Prime Minister said he hoped people who would like to keep and protect their national iden-

tities and Christian traditions would have a louder voice. He added that in his opinion, “we have a culture, we have religions and values and people who would like to live here, have to accept this, they cannot be anti-Semitic.”

In relation to the anti-Soros campaign, Viktor Orbán said that George Soros was a “talented Hungarian compatriot”, yet he

noted that they do not think highly of one another. At the same time, they both belong to the same nation and “we Hungarians do not discriminate anyone based on their religion” – replied the Prime Minister to a question about the Soros campaign, whose criticism even included accusations of anti-Semitism.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Netanyahu about Hungary
Source: hetek.hu

6 December 2018 Hetek journalist could pose their questions to Benjamin Netanyahu at a press conference held in Jerusalem. The head of the Jewish state said at the event that his own experiences with Hungary were good. *“I was advised that Viktor Orbán established a new institution in order to fight anti-Semitism, which is extremely important (European Action and Protection League – editor). When I visited Hungary, Viktor Orbán openly condemned the actions of Hungarian fascist leaders. He said these were terrible mistakes in the history of Hungary. This was a courageous step on his part. I pay attention to what actions they take, what they say at home and at European levels. We have debates with a few European countries on certain issues, for example on questions concerning the Palestinians, but the majority of European governments, including the Hungarian, condemn and counter anti-Semitism”* – said the Prime Minister.

*FRA published their
most recent survey on anti-Semitism*
Source: tev.hu; 444.hu;
nepszava.hu; fra.europa.eu

10 December 2018 The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) conducted a survey on anti-Semitism by interviewing 16,400 self-identified European Jews. The survey was reviewed by several Hungarian press organs. The survey was conducted in 12 EU member states: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

The survey wanted to explore what Jewish people’s experiences of discrimination, hate crime and anti-Semitism are. Researchers also compared the results of their research with results of an earlier survey conducted six years ago.

90 percent of the respondents feel that anti-Semitism increased in their country in the five years before the survey. In Hungary, seven in 10 respondents feel the same, which is a 21 percent decrease compared to the 2012 survey. 29 percent of Hungarian Jews are concerned about physical violence and verbal harassment. Not only is this the smallest proportion among the countries surveyed, but it is also significant that it proves a 37 percent decrease compared to 2012. Hungary is the only one in the 12 countries where fewer people fell victims of anti-Semitic attacks and threatening comments in 2018 than in 2012 – states the research report.

While on average, 85 percent of respondents considered anti-Semitism to be a ‘very big’ or a ‘fairly big’ social and political problem in the country where they live, only 77 percent of Hungarian respondents thought this was the case in their country. 96 percent of Hungarian respondents identified government corruption as a problem, and only 18 percent of them considered immigration to be problematic.

At the press conference held on the occasion publishing the report, first Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans expressed his concerns about the growth of anti-Semitism in Europe. According to Timmermans, *“there is no Europe if Jews don’t feel safe in Europe”*. In response to a journalist’s question, the Vice-President shared he believed the campaign against George Soros in Hungary led to anti-Semitic reactions.

OTHER NEWS

Anti-Semitic accusations because of weekly newspaper's front page
Source: magyarnarancs.hu;
izraelinfo.com; fuhu.hu

2, 6 & 12 December 2018 Chairman of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (MAZSIHISZ) András Heisler was on the cover of Figyelő at the end of November. The issue of the business magazine had a four-page article about the project called House of Coexistence, for which MAZSIHISZ has received a 3-billion-forint grant, and which will open next year in the Rumbach Street Synagogue. The article talked about the lack of publicly available plans of the House of Coexistence. The front page depicted the portrait of the chairperson of MAZSIHISZ surrounded by falling banknotes and a title saying, "Accountability problems".

In relation to the front page, certain mediums – including Israeli journals like Haaretz and the Times of Israel – believed it was anti-Semitic and called for Hungary to condemn the cover. President of the Jewish World Congress Ronald S. Lauder asked Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to express his disapproval of the incident publicly. The Prime Minister's reply said abiding by this request would limit the freedom of the press.

Magyar Narancs contacted APF Secretary Kálmán Szalai, who said that "We have not published any communications in relation to the issue because we do not think its content demonstrates anti-Semitic motivations, nor does its layout. I have to say we do not agree with the negative campaign and the presentation, but we do not consider it having anti-Se-

mitic motivations. We think the same about Magyar Narancs' February issue, whose cover depicted Slomó Köves' portrait and the title »Business and Jewry«, and HVG's (2011, KAA) front page with Andy Vajna, who is well-known to be Jewish, with hundred-dollar bills around him and a title saying »Dollarpapa.«.

Despite all this, APF is concerned about these front pages because the pretentious nature of the visual representation and the symbolism of the underlying messages strengthen theories about the Jewish communities that are sometimes the very roots of anti-Semitism ("rich and influential Jews with unclear finances").

It received great media coverage that Israel's Ambassador phoned the Chairman of MAZSIHISZ András Heisler and ex-



A Similarly to Figyelő's front page at the end of November, Magyar Narancs used a picture of Rabbi Slomó Köves with religious symbols and a title saying "Business and Jewry Slomó Köves's billions from the government" on its cover.

pressed his personal concerns and shock about Figyelő's front page. With regards to this, Secretary of APF said that the reason why other organizations and the media saw anti-Semitic motivations behind the cover "could only be explained by them, and only they could make it clear what differences they see between the front covers of Figyelő and the other two weekly newspapers".

*Anti-Semitic individual operating
in Hungary convicted*
Source: MTI

18 December 2018 The Berlin District Court sentenced the man who operated an illegal web shop selling firearms to Germany named “*Migrantenschreck*” (Migrants’ fright) to two years and ten months imprisonment. The decision is not binding, the defendant may appeal against the judgement. We presented the case in our March 2018 report. The webpage often published xenophobic and anti-Semitic contents, too.

Although the court said Mario R. admitted his guilt, the advertisements enticing hatred on *Migrantenschreck* were consid-

ered aggravating circumstances. Among other things, the defendant was promoting firearms as goods with which “*asylum seekers could be taken down*”.

The man was detained in Hungary at the end of March, following a European arrest warrant. The German Prosecutor’s Office said the man is also subject of proceedings for suspicion of incitement to hatred.

At the end of March, the German public service broadcaster ARD’s news portal, tagesschau.de, published that evidence has also been recovered during the proceedings against the suspect that he was behind various websites enticing hatred, with extremist content denying or relativizing the Holocaust.

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

APF did not start 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.	2 nd of December	István Tarlós: "No real anti-Semitism is centered in Budapest"	Official and Civil Responses
2.	2 nd of December	Fight against anti-Semitism on National Assembly's agenda	Official and Civil Responses
3.	2, 6 and 12 th of December	Anti-Semitic accusations because of weekly newspaper's front page	Other News
4.	4 th of December	APF statement about the Szávay case	Community News and Responses
5.	6 th of December	Minister of Justice believes there is no anti-Semitism around Soros	Official and Civil Responses
6.	6 th of December	Netanyahu about Hungary	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
7.	8 th of December	EU Ministers of Justice meet in Brussels	Official and Civil Responses
8.	10 th of December	FRA published their most recent survey on anti-Semitism	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
9.	13 th of December	Anti-Semitic chants at a football match	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
10.	15 th of December	Kálmán Szalai: "APF extends its best practices to the whole of Europe"	Community News and Responses
11.	18 th of December	Anti-Semitic individual operating in Hungary convicted	Other News
12.	23 rd of December	Viktor Orbán: "People who want to live here, cannot be anti-Semitic"	Official and Civil Responses
13.	28 th of December	Menorah of Szombathely Synagogue stolen	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalizm

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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