

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

JANUARY 2019

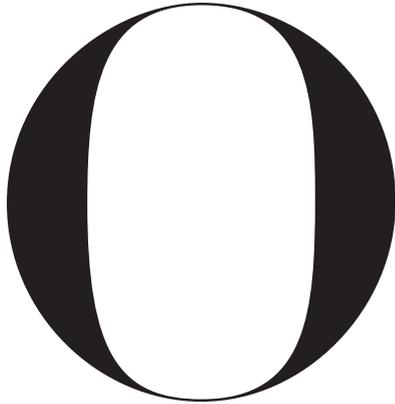


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: anti-Semitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report refers to both types of behavior as “*hate incidents*”. An anti-Semitic hate crime is distinguished from other hate crime by possessing an anti-Semitic motive. Anti-Semitic hate crime is a violation of criminal law, yet not all hate-motivated acts are regarded as criminal. Nevertheless, a record of both types of hate incidents is necessary in order to gain a general overview.

For the monitoring to have the widest possible scope, it is required that a variety of sources are used simultaneously. Apart from registering the incidents, it is impor-

tant to record their particular characteristics. Data recorded includes the incident’s location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

This month our Foundation found four anti-Semitic hate incidents, categorized as hate speech and vandalism. In the first case, Pál Péter Walter, leader of Youth of Our Homeland (youth wing of Our Homeland Movement) posted a photo of his table company posing with Nazi salutes. In the second case, writer Miklós Vámos posted about an anti-Semitic incident involving him on his community page. Unknown perpetrators painted Stars of David on posters advertising his most recent book. In the third case, incidents involving Jobbik president Tamás Sneider hit the news. At his wedding two years ago, Tamás Sneider’s wife twice posed with a Nazi salute for photographers, and on a voice recording from 2015 Sneider joked that it would have been better for someone to convert to the Muslim faith than to be a Jew. In the case of vandalism, unknown perpetrators wrote an anti-Semitic inscription on one of the posters of Maimonidesz Secondary School. The inscription is a quote from the Hungarian translation of Woody Allen’s film *Annie Hall*, using the Hungarian anti-Semitic term “biboldó”: “*Ne oldószert hozzon, érti? Ne oldószert! **Biboldószert!***”.

One incident fell in the category of “*Further Hate Incidents*” this month. Nazi symbols had lined the wall fence of a grammar school in Pestszentl rinc, close to a popular hiking place and an old playground. However, local politicians have now painted over and removed them.

This month no new legal proceedings were started by Action and Protection Foundation (APF), and no progress was made in previous 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 organizations 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 “contemprible 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 – JANUARY 2019

Four anti-Semitic hate incidents were found through the monitoring activity of Action and Protection Foundation that fell under the category of hate speech and vandalism.

VANDALISM

Anti-Semitic graffiti on a poster advertising a secondary school

Source: Action and Protection

7 January 2019 It was reported to our Foundation that unknown perpetrators had painted an anti-Semitic inscription on a poster of Maimonidész Secondary School. The inscription is a quote from Woody Allen: “*Ne oldószert hozzon, érte? Ne oldószert! Biboldószert!*” containing the anti-Semitic term “biboldó”. The poster was located on the corner of Dob Street and Teréz Boulevard. Our Foundation notified the owner of the advertising space asking for a poster replacement, carried out the next day.



Source: Action and Protection Foundation

HATE SPEECH

Nazi salute by members of the extremist Our Homeland Movement

Source: veszpresso.hu; atv.hu

5 and 9 January 2019 A newspaper in Veszprém wrote that Pál Péter Walter, leader of Youth of Our Homeland (youth wing of Our Homeland Movement) posted a photo of his companions posing with Nazi salutes. The article notes that Walter quickly took the picture off his site.



Source: veszpresso.hu / facebook.com

After the release, Dóra Dúró, vice-president of Our Homeland, sent a letter to the editorial office. She wrote that due to the ominous incident, the presidency of Our Hungarian Homeland Movement had recalled Pál Péter Walter from his position as national

organizer even before the article was published. She also added that the young people shown in the picture were not members of Our Homeland Movement, although they had sent their application to the party earlier, the national presidency had rejected them.

László Toroczkai confirmed on ATV's Straight Speech Kontra program that Vivien Sarnyai, elected by the presidency for a six-month period, had replaced Walter. Balázs Gulyás remarked during the show that she had been the person who had a fun time at the Reichsparteitag (Imperial Party Days) in Nuremberg, sharing a photo in "nostalgic mood" from Nuremberg.

The president also said that the youth leader was recalled from his post, János Lantos's position was terminated, but since the photograph that depicted him in Arrow Cross-like uniform was taken eight years ago, he could remain a member of the youth organization. He added that the others were not members, they submitted their application, but the presidency rejected them.



Source: atv.hu

The President of Our Homeland was also confronted with a photo showing him with a Nazi salute at a football game. He said he shared that picture years ago and added: "In Rome, this greeting is not a Nazi greeting, but is used in stadiums to support your team." As an example, he brought up Silvio Berlusconi, former Prime Minister of Italy, who used a similar "Roman salute" with a raised arm, and later the mayor of Rome also greeted the Romans the same way.

Torockai also mentioned that when they began the foundation of Our Homeland, an idea from Dezső Szabó was selected for their main motto: "every Hungarian is responsible for every Hungarian." "Dezső Szabó, who rejected Nazism, also had the courage to say that Jewish arms dealers and suppliers shared responsibility for the war. This kind of confrontation with political correctness is characteristic of us" he added.

Anti-Semitic graffiti on a poster promoting reading

Source: facebook.com

8 January 2019 Writer Miklós Vámos published a post on an anti-Semitic incident on his community page. On posters advertising his new book, the author appears together with Zsuzsa Koncz. Unknown perpetrators painted David stars over their faces on one of the posters. In his Facebook post he wrote:

"Well, people. Today, this is what you get for being on a poster. Koncz, descendant of a peasant family from Pély, and me half-Slavic (my mother's name is Ribárszky). But my father's side was indeed Jewish, until they were fully exterminated. For their sake, I will be all the more Jewish, and protest. But I guess the culprits don't even know what they're doing. Upon their instigators (those unworthily promoted, name-callers lashing at Soros, those wishing to make a new culture here) I pronounce the most severe curses. And here is my message: This country is mine too, let them get out. And if they still have the



Source: facebook.com

nerve to incite hatred and bait Jews in 2019, then let them get what is coming to them. This is unforgivable.”

At the request of our Foundation, the advertising campaign management said that the campaign was supposed to end by 15 December 2018, but one poster was overlooked and remained out on Baross Street in Budapest. Before the anti-Semitic inscription could have been cleaned up, it had disappeared. Local municipal politician, Ferenc Miklós Camara-Bereczki reported the incident on his own community site as well, commenting: *“I felt obliged to remove the hateful scribbles! It is sad and at the same time outrageous that in Hungary, people can still find themselves faced with such incidents again, more and more often in recent years.”*

Tamás Sneider’s anti-Semitic statement in the news

Source: hirtv.hu; 444.hu; figyelo.hu

20 and 22 January 2019 In January, Jobbik president Tamás Sneider’s two actions hit the news.

According to the recordings received by Hír TV, some footage about the wedding of the current Jobbik president was published. In the wedding video made two years ago, Sneider Tamás’s wife posed for photographers with a Nazi salute in two instances. After the first salute, she implied to her



Source: hirtv.hu

audience that she did not regret the move, and she repeated it twice sitting on her husband’s shoulders. According to the recording, some racist and homophobic jokes were made. The leading figures of the party were

also present at the event, including former president Gábor Vona, parliamentary leader Ádám Mirkóczki and secretary general Gábor Szabó.

Instead of Sneider's first name, the seating card of the groom at the wedding showed his nickname. The president of Jobbik had the name ‘Roy’ as a skinhead, and party members still call him by that name. Sneider was a member of the skinhead movement in Eger, and he was given a suspended custodial sentence for beating up a Roma man in 1992.

“My wife made several movements with her arm on the cut recording. She did not show beauty queen signs because she thought she was a beauty queen, nor did she make any Hitler salute-like gestures because she thought she was a Nazi”, the MP responded to questions from 444.hu. Sneider labeled the disclosure of the recording a propaganda move to discredit him. Tamás Sneider threatened Hír TV and any other media airing the recording with a lawsuit.

“There must be a clear demarcation between Jobbik and any political party or non-governmental organization. A party that proclaims neo-Nazi slogans like Jobbik cannot be a permanent actor of Hungarian public life” said Kálmán Szalai, secretary of Action and Protection Foundation. In his view, a clear stance must be expected from those civilians and parties who are currently looking for opportunities for cooperation with Jobbik. *“Their actions contradict what they say. Last time this proved to be true for the politicians who were bragging about beating up a Jewish woman, and now for their president, who does not have an impeccable past to begin with. We think it is a much bigger problem that this event happened when this man was Deputy*



Source: hirtv.hu

Speaker of the Parliament. And Jobbik's high command was all present at the event. We do not consider this an isolated case, but essential to Jobbik. And we will not be surprised if nastier skeletons fall out of the cupboard soon" noted Kálmán Szalai. He added that if Jobbik did not account for and apologize for its previous anti-Semitic actions, the party could not be taken seriously.

András Heisler, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary (MAZSIHISZ) told Hír TV that in their experience, even if Jobbik had ambitions to become a people's party, the only thing that had changed in the party's politics was its rhetoric, the party's base remained anti-Semitic and racist.

Political parties – Fidesz, DK, MSZP, LMP – condemned the Hitler salute incident.

Two days later, *Figyelő* reported that a voice recording had been added to Vigyazo.blog.hu in 2015. Sneider talked about the Balkan War veteran Zsolt Dér, member of the Army of Outlaws (extreme right-wing group called Betyársereg), who converted Muslim faith at the time. Jobbik's current president expressed the opinion that it was still a better scenario than if Dér had converted to Judaism. *"Oh well, it doesn't bother me particularly that he converted to the Muslim faith, he has the right to do so. It is still much better than if he had converted to Judaism"*, Tamás Sneider said.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of its monitoring activity during January 2019, Action and Protection Foundation identified one incident that is a hate incident, nevertheless it could not be included in the statistics, either because its date and time was unknown, the anti-Semitic intent was not beyond doubt, or the incident simply did not carry enough weight.

Totalitarian symbols were removed

Source: nepszava.hu; [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

29 January 2019 *Népszava* reported that Nazi symbols lined the firewall of a grammar school in Pestszentlőrinc, close to a

popular hiking place and a playground. The symbols were not visible from the road or the school courtyard, however, the painted swastika and arrow cross were seen by hikers in the nearby woods and families on their way to the playground.

Member of local government, Dániel Kassai stated to the newspaper that he became aware of the symbols on the wall of the Kapocs Street school about three years ago. He visited the wall fence covered by the painted swastika and arrow cross on the Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. *“As a preliminary solution, I covered the swastika with cardboard paper, but today we came prepared*

and removed the symbols along with painted arrow crosses and the iron cross revived by Hitler on the first day of the Second World War.” wrote Kassai on his Facebook page.

The totalitarian symbols were finally painted over and removed by opposition politicians.



Source: nepszava.hu

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Slomó Köves: Szakály's statements are unacceptable

Source: zsidó.com

9 January 2019 Sándor Szakály, Director of Veritas Institute, gave an interview to *Magyar Hírlap* in January, in which he still considered the first deportation to Kamenets-Podolsk in 1941 a foreign policy and immigration procedure. The interview is reported in the Other News section of our monthly report.

Slomó Köves, Executive Rabbi of EMIH (Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation) referred to these statements as unacceptable in an interview on Klubrádió (Club Radio). He points out that Szakály keeps on adopting an approach that distances the question from subject. *"You may name the murder of 20 thousand people a foreign policy and immigration procedure, you may state that the numerus clausus law was not anti-Semitic, because the law's main body did not specifically*

refer to Jews, and you may forget to add that the procedural decree on the other hand, did stipulate Jews, and you may do away with the whole issue as if it was an instrumental issue, but it is not the case," said the rabbi. Then, he added that in this law Jewishness appeared as a nationality, which was a step back compared to 19th-century emancipation, and furthermore, it reinforced the anti-Semitic misconception that the Hungarians of Jewish decent harbored aspirations for national autonomy.

Slomó Köves recalled that, subsequent to earlier statements to this effect, the anti-Jewish laws of the 20s and 30s had been collected and published by Action and Protection Foundation. *"It is important to take the necessary steps to repair the damage in such cases,"* he said. To the reporter's inquiry, the EMIH Executive Rabbi confirmed that, regarding the statements made by Szakály, there was consensus between the two largest Jewish organizations in Hungary.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

According to Viktor Orbán, it is harmful to involve Soros' Jewish origin and anti-Semitism in the migration debate
Source: szombat.hu

10 January 2019 On 10 January, the Prime Minister responded to questions at the Government Info session, usually held by the Minister heading the Prime Minister's Office, Gergely Gulyás. The issues of anti-Semitism and Jewry came up as well.

According to the report by TV2, considering the opposition's cooperation and Jobbik, Orbán believes that the left should also approach the topic historically and not accept any extreme right or anti-Semitic power as an ally.

Asked by journalists, the prime minister described György Soros as a personality with abundant resources who controls immigration in many ways. "*Soros György is our fellow, Hungarian citizen,*" he said, but in his view, it was unacceptable that one side was transparent while the other was secretive. According to the Prime Minister, it is harmful when public figures and the media involve Soros's Jewish origins and anti-Semitism in the debate. According to Orbán, anti-Semitism is decreasing in Central Europe, while in Western Europe it is on the rise, because migration also transforms the nature of anti-Semitism.

In Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's opinion, a resumption of the Jewish Community Round Table should be considered in some form or another.

Miklós Soltész: Jewish communities are safe in Hungary
Source: MTI; origo.hu

13 January 2019 Miklós Soltész, Secretary of State of the Prime Minister's Office for Churches, Minorities and Civil Affairs held discussions with the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, David Lau, and Israeli Minister of Religious Services Yitzak

Vaknin, about strengthening religious relations between Israel and Hungary in Jerusalem. Slomó Köves, Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation was also a member of the Hungarian delegation.

During his talks with Chief Rabbi David Lau and Israeli Minister of Religious Services Yitzak Vaknin, the Hungarian politician described the steps Hungary had taken recently. He emphasized that for the Orthodox and other Jewish communities, the Church Act fully guaranteed the right to operate as churches, as well as the possibility to perform public tasks, social or educational activities.

The Secretary of State drew attention to the fact that the condemnation of Holocaust denial became part of the Criminal Code and that the Hungarian Government is contributing nearly one and a half million euros to monitoring anti-Semitism in Brussels through the Action and Protection Foundation.

"Why we are accused of anti-Semitism is beyond comprehension, when Hungary is spearheading the way fight against anti-Semitism. Jewish communities live safe in our country, while anti-Semitism is affecting the daily lives of many Jewish communities across Europe," pointed out Miklós Soltész.

He accentuated that over recent years the prime ministers of the two countries had developed excellent relations, with further positive impact on Jewish communities in Hungary.

The Secretary of State invited the Israeli Minister of Religious Services to visit Budapest. He also emphasized that his Israeli partners knew about the renaissance of Jewish communities in Hungary and had already been to Budapest. "*The minister mentioned that he walked in the streets of Budapest with a kippah on his head, and no one offended or troubled him, while he could not do the same in several Western European cities,*" the Secretary of State said.

*Remembering the liberation
of the Budapest Ghetto*

Source: MTI; akibic.hu; bzsh.hu

18–19 January 2019 *“As Hungarians, we cannot forget, we cannot rise above the dark sins and horrors of our past; we have to remember and make future generations aware how important it is to respect, help, and understand one another in order to preserve the unity of our nation and to flourish,”* announced the Deputy State Secretary for Civil and Social Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office at the commemoration held for the 74th anniversary of the liberation of the ghetto in Budapest. Vince Szalay-Bobrovniczky spoke by the memorial wall of the former Budapest ghetto in Dohány Street in the 7th District at the commemoration of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH). *“We must admit that the Hungarian government at that time was also responsible for deporting and killing our Jewish compatriots. – It's hard to say with words how sorry I am, how sorry we are for this. There is no excuse,”* he added.



Source: nepszava.hu

As he said, the principle and practice of zero tolerance against all manifestations of anti-Semitism would continue to prevail in Hungary. He added that the government would continue to guarantee the safety and security of “*all our Jewish compatriots*”, and that the Jewish community could count on the constructive co-operation of the government in the future, as well as on the extensive support of community and cultural life. He also said: *“We cannot allow sort of waves of anti-Semitism and return to its violent manifestations recently perceived in Western Europe. Therefore, the government supports Action and Protection Foundation, which has set up a mon-*

itoring system to monitor, analyze and report anti-Semitic manifestations across Europe,” he added.

Oberlander Báruch, Hungarian leader of the Budapest Orthodox Rabbinate and the Chabad Lubavitch Movement, said that we must remember the events that keep their teachings and messages for us. *“Unfortunately, the messages of the Holocaust are still very relevant: one of the most basic is that there can be no hatred between man and man that questions the other's right to exist,”* he added. He continued to say that freedom of expression should indeed be free, but you should not personally turn against another person.

After the speeches, EMIH's Executive Rabbi, Slomó Köves prayed for the victims, then the attendants, including the mayor of Erzsébetváros (7th district of Budapest), members of the diplomatic body, and students of several schools lit the candles of remembrance.

There was also a commemoration at the Dohány Street Synagogue.

Szabolcs Takács, Secretary of State of the Prime Minister's Office and Chief Rabbi Péter Kardos made speeches at the commemoration of MAZSIHISZ (Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities) and BZSH (Budapest Jewish Community). The Secretary of State for EU Affairs said, *“the tragedy of our compatriots murdered solely because of their Jewish descent is one of the most serious burdens in our nation's history that we must never forget. Nothing can serve as an excuse for the horrors of the past and for oblivion, it is our shared responsibility to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive, it is our legacy that can never be forgotten,”* he added.

Szabolcs Takács: The Hungarian government is committed to preserving Jewish-Christian culture

Source: echotv.hu

24 January 2019 Szabolcs Takács, Secretary of State for European Union Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office, talked about anti-Semitism in a TV program entitled Brussels-Europe Vote (Brüsszel-Európa választ) on ECHO TV. In connection with

Hungary, he said that the European-level organization, which had been set up with the support of the Hungarian government by Budapest-based Action and Protection Foundation, finally started its work and could provide effective help to combat increasing anti-Semitism.

Mr. Takács also talked about how the Hungarian government was committed to preserving the Jewish-Christian heritage. The Secretary of State said that anti-Semitism was a serious ‘divergence’ in this struggle, and this was also why the government was supporting the idea of such organizations that used objective measures to study how violent action against Jewish communities was changing concurrently with the modification of the cultural composition of Europe.

*Commemorating the horrors
of the Holocaust in Budapest*

Source: MTI; magyarhirlap.hu;
hirado.hu; kormany.hu

27 January 2019 *“The Hungarian state bears responsibility for not having defended its citizens during the Holocaust; there is no collective guilt, but there is state responsibility”* said Gergely Gulyás, Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office at a commemoration ceremony held in Budapest on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In his address at the event organized by the Holocaust Memorial Centre, the minister heading the Prime Minister’s Office emphasized that in the 1930s, the intensification of anti-Semitism reached both Hungary and Hungarian society, and was given a visible form in the intolerable restriction on the rights of Jews. *“Although the deportation of the Jews took place following German occupation, it could not have happened without the active involvement of the Hungarian administration,”* explained Gulyás. He said that the tragedy was not only a loss to the Jews, but to the whole of Europe, not only to Hungarian Jewry, but also to the whole Hungarian nation.

Israeli Ambassador to Budapest, **Yossi Amrani** emphasized that *“it is our moral duty to remind our fellow human beings of the*

tragedy that happened to us,” so that no-one could be the target of racial extermination ever again.

President of the Holocaust Public Foundation, **Andor Grósz** said that the 75th anniversary of the German invasion of Hungary was coming up in March and the Nazi occupation triggered *“an ominous chain of events that culminated in the evil monstrosity of the Holocaust”*. Andor Grósz said that there was still a lot to be researched, studied and taught in connection with the Shoah, and much remained to be done to shape the memory-culture and strengthen tolerance, *“we are still far from an ideal state”*.

Director of the Holocaust Memorial Centre, **Tamás Kovács** said that one-third of the victims in Auschwitz were Hungarian Jews and the task to be carried off was to nourish their memory and educate the new generations in a way that the Shoah could never ever happen again.

Also, on the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, a joint observance was held by the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihiz), the Budapest University of Jewish Studies and Andrásy University Budapest. The Israeli, German and Austrian Ambassadors to Budapest all delivered speeches at the memorial ceremony held in the Hungarian capital.

A Jewish-Christian prayer service also took place in Budapest. The closing worship service of the international Christian ecumenical observance under the name of 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was led by Cardinal Péter Erdő, currently serving as the Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, as well as Robert Frólich, Chief Rabbi of Dohány Street Synagogue. At the worship service, prayers were said by the leaders of the member churches of the Ecumenical Council of the Hungarian Churches (MEÖT). The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was first held in 1908 in Graymoor, USA.

“Today Hungary cannot be a modern and democratic state unless we wipe every germ of anti-Semitism out of the thinking of Hungarian society,” said Szabolcs Takács, State Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office for the

Development and Coordination of EU Policies, prior to the screening of the digitally remastered version of *Schindler's List* at Úránia National Film Theatre.

On the International Day of Commemoration, the parties Hungarian Civic Alliance (Fidesz), Liberals (Liberálisok) and Politics Can Be Different (LMP) issued a statement.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

*Every fourth Hungarian thinks
that anti-Semitism is on the rise*

Source: MTI; nepszava.hu;
magyarhirlap.hu

22 January 2019 Forty-five percent of the Hungarian population believes that anti-Semitism is a problem in Hungary, while 50 percent do not think that it is a matter of concern. This percentage is close to the EU average, where the ratio is about 50 percent to 43 percent.

Scheduled for the observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Brussels, the latest Eurobarometer public opinion survey conducted on behalf of the European Commission in the 28 member states of the EU, investigated what people's experience and impressions of anti-Semitism were. The interviewers carried out more than 27,000 interviews, including the 1,047 interviews made in Hungary. Twenty-six percent of Hungarians think that anti-Semitism has been on the rise in Hungary over the past five years, 26 percent believe that it has been on the decline, and 44 percent say that it has stayed the same as before.

In contrast, 36 percent of Europeans believe that the persisting anti-Semitic phenomenon gives more cause for concern than five years ago. At the same time, it is noteworthy that in Hungary anti-Semitism is seen as a problem in political life (51%)

and the media (47%) by more people than the EU average. 58 percent of Hungarian respondents think that the Hungarian population does not know enough about Jewish history, traditions, and customs, while 68 percent of Europeans complain about the same thing. In turn, 38 percent of our compatriots consider this knowledge enough, as opposed to 27 percent of the population on the continent. Hungarians and Europeans responded more or less the same way to the question whether the Holocaust was properly taught at school: 43–45 percent answered yes and 42–43 percent replied no.

“Education is of crucial importance, not only to understand the Shoah when humanity was at its lowest point, but also to raise awareness of the fact that anti-Semitism is in fact still a persistent phenomenon in Europe,” said EU Justice Commissioner Vera Jourová in her keynote address delivered in the Jewish Museum of the Belgian capital.

“It is saddening that anti-Semitism remained an ‘incurable disease’ in Europe. When hatred becomes a political weapon again, our Jewish communities are often instilled with the fear of discrimination, harsh treatment, and violence. If mutual respect and tolerance come under pressure, anti-Semitism will be on the rise,” said Frans Timmermans, serving as First Vice-President of the European Commission, on occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

OTHER NEWS

Prospective police officers trained to detect hate crime

Source: 24.hu

4 January 2019 With permission from the Chief Commissioner of the Police, 550 police officers are beginning their training course on hate crime at the National University of Public Service (NKE) – 24.hu reported in a lengthy article. The online course was designed by the faculty of NKI together with the staff of a Brussels-based civil organization, CEJI: A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe (Zsidó Hozzájárulás Egy Befogadó Európához).

“There are fewer than 50 hate crimes registered per year in Hungary. By comparison, this figure is around 60,000 in the UK. We have to count with a high degree of latency in this field as there are many more crimes of this kind committed in Hungary,” said Professor Andrea Kozáry, lecturer at the Department of International and European Law Enforcement at NKE and in charge of the course at the university.

In Hungary, the police have not published statistics about hate-motivated incidents for years, but several NGOs are trying to compile a list of such bias-motivated incidents. The difficulty is that violence against a member of a community and incitement to racial discrimination, hatred, or violence against a group do not belong in the category of hate crimes as they are associated with conduct that is already criminal under other laws, including such criminal acts as vandalism, in fact drawing a swastika on graves. The number of cases in both types of criminal offence under investigation is exceptionally low, moreover, a huge proportion of the procedures started for public incitement to violence or hatred directed against a group has been dismissed. Since January 2017, no hate crimes have resulted in criminal charges. The university course designed for the police wants to bring about change in this field, as well as others.

Sándor Szakály still defends his position on the numerus clausus law of 1920

Source: magyarhirlap.hu; index.hu; beol.hu; mandiner.hu/MTI; atv.hu

7 January 2019 According to military historian Sándor Szakály, Director of the Veritas Historical Research Institute, it is not tantamount to anti-Semitism to say that the significant leaders of the State Protection Authority/secret police (ÁVH) and the Horthy system were mostly Jews. Furthermore, the Horthy system was not built on anti-Semitism, as the *numerus clausus* law was not discriminatory or anti-Jewish either. The historian director of the Veritas Institute talked about this in the Hungarian daily newspaper *Magyar Hírlap*.

The newspaper interview with Sándor Szakály was made apropos of the removal of the statue of former Hungarian leader and anti-Soviet hero Imre Nagy from Martyr’s Square (located near the Hungarian Parliament on Kossuth Square), a measure defended by the Director of the government-run Veritas Institute. Szakály said, *“The contribution of Imre Nagy to building and running the Soviet-backed Rákosi regime was not inconsiderable and, in actual fact, he did not lead the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, but simply drifted along with the events.”* Nevertheless, Szakály believes that Imre Nagy is one of those who *“we must pay attention to,”* because *“when in the very last moment he had to choose between his beliefs and the nation, he opted for the latter.”*

The historian explained the stance of the government, reasoning that the aim was simply to restore Kossuth Square to its ‘original condition’, that is, return it to its pre-World War II appearance, that of the rule of Miklós Horthy, index.hu wrote. Szakály dismissed the idea of historical revisionism, denying that the government intended to rebuild the Horthy Era in general. He also added that *“a lot of things were a direct outcome of the natural reactions to the*

1919 Hungarian Soviet Republic.” According to Szakály, the system was not built on anti-Semitism and the numerus clausus of 1920 (often considered the first anti-Jewish discriminatory law referred to as Anti-Jewish Law Zero) meant something different:

“(...) the law did not apply to all universities and faculties, and Jewry; who were not even specifically mentioned in the text, only included Israelites, i.e. those who were not baptized. Some could nurse grievances against it, but it was by no means a deprivation of rights. As I see it, it was merely a restriction of rights and it is by no means appropriate to call it an anti-Jewish law,” said Szakály.

On this note, Szakály also points out that historian János Botos, who has comprehensive knowledge of the twentieth-century history of Hungarian Jewry, writes in his book published by Veritas Institute of History Research about the property losses of the Jews between 1938 and 1949. As an example, he mentions that in the period between the two world wars, the government intended to pay for the formerly Jewish-owned agricultural and arboricultural lands and properties that were taken over by the Hungarian state with interest-bearing Hungarian peng bonds. However, after the German occupation of Hungary the situation completely changed. Szakály appears to have found some other correlation too, so he added that *“in the case of the numerus clausus, however, the legislator might have had a secret agenda, that is to provide the children of tens of thousands of middle-class refugees a chance to enter an institution of higher education.”* Szakály also said that he would support the restoration of the statue of Ottokár Prohászka, a highly influential Roman Catholic bishop and social reformer also known as a prominent anti-Semite, as well as plans to make another Trianon memorial called *“The Heritage of National Belonging.”*

In the aftermath of the interview, the Democratic Coalition (DK) issued a statement, in which they criticized and condemned Szakály, accusing him of anti-Semitism.

In turn, Péter Harrach, appointed leader of the Christian Democratic People’s Party (KDNP) parliamentary group, would agree

with the restoration of the statue of Ottokár Prohászka. The politician said in an interview with atv.hu that he did not consider Prohászka to be an anti-Semite *“in the present day meaning of the word”* and gave his own interpretation of Prohászka’s anti-Semitic viewpoints, saying that *“we cannot ignore the historical aspects in his case, as his opinions, which he has been called to account for nowadays, sounded quite different back in his day.”* According to Harrach, back in the political climate of Prohászka’s time, it was judged and interpreted differently when Prohászka criticized the financial world and the leaders of the 1919 Hungarian Soviet Republic and Red Terror. *“I do not consider the Roman Catholic bishop anti-Semitic in the true sense of the word today,”* said the fraction leader of KDNP and added that he was sure if the Roman Catholic bishop lived today, he would not say those *“otherwise unacceptable sentences”* out loud.

The search for the Jews shot into the River Danube has begun
Source: index.hu; akibic.hu;
huppa.hu/timesofisrael.com

14–16 January 2019 The Israeli victim identification group Zaka began its first preliminary probes, with divers using cameras, imaging equipment, and sonar scans in the River Danube near Margaret Bridge. They will return in February to spend more time exploring the riverbed for the mortal remains of the Jews shot into the Danube during the Second World War. *“We are returning at the end of February with a twenty-person search party to continue searching near Margaret Bridge, as well as the northern part of Chain Bridge,”* said Ilan Berkovich, head of the Zaka diving team. The exact location of the search was chosen four years ago when they first came up with the idea that they would be looking for further Holocaust remains, and a surviving Jewish Hungarian showed them the places where the mass killing of Jews were carried out and their bodies dumped into the river. The idea for the search originally came up three years ago, and the negotiations over the recovery between Prime

Minister Viktor Orbán and Chief Rabbi of Israel David Lau began last summer. During their personal meeting in Jerusalem in the summer, Rabbi David Lau asked Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to help the work of the Israeli Zaka Rescue and Recovery Organization and their diving team in finding the remains of the Jews whose bodies were cast into the River Danube after their mass shooting during the Second World War – Chief Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH), Slomó Köves told Index in an interview. Köves also said that at his meeting with the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Viktor Orbán asked him to help in organizing the search. *“The Hungarian Ministry of Interior and the police appeared to be open to the idea and provided all necessary permissions. The search to exhume the remains of the Holocaust victims from the Danube is important for us to be able to give them a Jewish burial,”* said the Executive Rabbi of EMIH.

Earlier, *Kibic* magazine reported that Israeli Interior Minister Arye Deri had a meeting with his Hungarian colleague, Interior Minister Sándor Pintér, who *“publicly backed the search and promised to provide material support”*, tweeted Deri.

The *Jerusalem Times* also published an article about the event. *“In Hungary, the internal conflict of Jewish organizations makes the Jewish burial of the remains of the Holocaust victims even more difficult and the latest example is the search for the remains in the River Danube, but this is part of a bigger struggle, the causes of which should be found in the relationship with the government,”* says the article. As the author of the article noted, this time the dissent was not generated in the political field, but in a matter that was one of the greatest dilemmas for East-European Jews: how to deal with the remains of Holocaust victims. However, the exhumation of the mortal remains of the Holocaust victims from the River Danube started by Rabbi Slomó Köves quickly triggered a polarizing, heated debate. The article outlined the arguments of Mazsihisz and EMIH and then stated that *“for those seeking unity among the Jews, the dissent over the memory of the Holocaust is painful. In Hungary, however, politics has spread to*

the core elements of Jewish existence.” Israeli Minister of Interior Affairs Arye Deri, who at the same time serves as President of the Israeli Sephardic Orthodox Shas Party, decided to intervene, and turn the debate into an inter-religious conflict. He strongly criticized the position of Mazsihisz for objecting to the initiative that would exhume the remains of Shoah victims from the River Danube with the goal of giving them a Jewish burial and said he was shocked and dismayed that *“there are people and groups making political calculations at the expense of those killed in the Holocaust.”*

APF secretary’s reaction to the untrue statements about APF published in ÉS
Source: es.hu;

18 January Secretary of Action and Protection Foundation, Kálmán Szalai wrote an article about the various activities of our foundation in *Élet és Irodalom*, a weekly Hungarian magazine about literature and politics, also known as *ÉS*. The article was published under the title *“We Adhere to the Facts”* and it was preceded by an article written by Kata Vörös on 18 January in *ÉS*, which contained a number of factual inaccuracies concerning the establishment, operation and achievements of APF. In his response, Kálmán Szalai addressed and refuted the author’s factually inaccurate claims in detail, backing up his arguments with examples. Szalai notes that the only important lesson to learn from the article written by Vörös is that *“the combat against anti-Semitism must be removed from the political sphere.”* In his reaction, APF secretary Szalai notes that it may be understandable and legitimate for someone to pursue opposition politics against the *“current designated government in power,”* however, it certainly does not contribute to the success of either the opposition, or the fight against anti-Semitism, if in this struggle they keep on using the fight against anti-Semitism as their shield.

*Holocaust denier who has been
to Hungary remains incarcerated*
Source: huppa.hu

22 January 2019 Holocaust denier Horst Mahler, who earlier tried to seek asylum in Hungary, stays in jail despite his deteriorating health, reported *Potsdamer Neuste Nachrichten*, a regional German newspaper in Brandenburg. His release was requested not only by him, but also the penitentiary where he is detained. In the justification of the rejection, the prosecution argues that although the death of Mahler can indeed occur due to each of his many terminal illnesses, he receives all the necessary treatment and psychological help in prison and other correctional institutions.

Mahler was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in 2009 for repeated incitement to racial hatred and holocaust denial, a crime in Germany. His sentence was lengthened following offences committed while he was in prison, as he spread anti-Semitic pamphlets. Mahler's sentence was suspended due to his poor health in 2015, but upon his release from jail, he continued inciting to racial hatred and kept denying the genocide of the Jews, so he was ordered back to prison for a further three and a half years. Mahler, however, fled Germany out of hope that he might avoid the execution of his sentence, but his attempt to seek political asylum in Hungary was rejected. He was deported back to Germany, where he was arrested and sent back to jail to serve his sentence, which would be due to end in 2020.

*Slomó Köves: Can the Hungarian
right-wing shake off anti-Semitism?*
Source: index.hu;

30 January 2019 In response to an index.hu article written by Gergely Tóth and published under the title, "*How the Left Has Become Anti-Semitic*," the Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves expressed his views on the current changes of anti-Semitism in an opinion piece. In his writing, Tóth gives an overarching international

outlook while introducing the European process, in which Islamist anti-Semitism is linked to extreme left-wing neo-Marxist anti-Israelism, and which also provides the opportunity for the Hungarian right-wing to try to peel off "*the anti-Semitism that has been adhering to the Hungarian right for one hundred years*" and "*to shift it to the left*". Responding to this, Köves adds that according to the conclusion of Tóth's article, the Hungarian right-wing will not succeed at this, because the manufacturing of enemy images builds on a latent anti-Semitism inherently encoded in the right-wing world view, and as such, even "*the Jew that hides behind every migrant*" will once be taken to account.

However, according to Köves, the truth is that in every simplifying conspiracy theory it is possible to find the echoes that target the eternal Jew in the Marxist sense, present in every society, so that they inevitably become reminiscent of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

Köves believes it is possible to consider the effort to combat anti-Semitism as the miracle weapon used to tackle simplifying ethnic nationalism and simplifying conspiracy theories, but it is also possible to think of the fight against anti-Semitism as an obligation to create everyday existential security for the Jewish community living its identity. The first way may be a choice for a left-wing politician, but cannot work for a Jew, especially not for a Jewish community leader.

As Köves puts it: Tóth criticizes the (right-wing) Israeli government policy for an interest in conflating (legitimate) criticism of Israel with the accusation of anti-Semitism, however he fails to mention that it is equally in the interest of the Hungarian and international left-liberal community to conflate nationalism and conspiracy theory-manufacturing with the accusation of right-wing anti-Semitism. Köves added that the left also had a public history of anti-Semitism. To give examples he mentions the anti-Israeli position of the Soviet Union, Stalin's scheme against Jewish doctors that resulted in mass arrests (i.e. the Doctors' Plot), and the fact that the *numerus clausus* law continued to be in effect in the Soviet Union in the 1970s.

To conclude, Köves noted that the real question was not whether Fidesz could transfer the label of anti-Semitism onto the left, but whether this experiment would have any self-cleansing effect. He opined that *“in the average Fidesz voter’s mind, a Jew would rather stand behind Israel than every migrant. The issue of migration is directly associated with the notion of growing European anti-Semitism.”* Drawing his final conclusions Köves says that the (on occasion truly repulsive) political communication about migration is coupled with a pro-Israeli standpoint, a sense of identification with Israel and through that, with Jews. *“From the perspective of the Hungarian Jewish community, this is a promising trend after all.”*

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

APF did not launch any new formal procedures and did not receive any notifications about its previous cases this month.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

| No. | Date | Incident | Category |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 1. | 4 th of January | Prospective police officers trained to detect hate crime | Other News |
| 2. | 7 th of January | Anti-Semitic graffiti on a poster advertising a secondary school | Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalizm |
| 3. | 5 th and 9 th of January | Nazi salute by members of the extremist Our Homeland Movement | Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 4. | 7 th of January | Sándor Szakály still defends his position on the numerus clausus law of 1920 | Other News |
| 5. | 8 th of January | Anti-Semitic graffiti on a poster promoting reading | Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 6. | 9 th of January | Slomó Köves: Szakály's statements are unacceptable | Community News and Responses |
| 7. | 10 th of January | According to Viktor Orbán, it is harmful to involve Soros' Jewish origin and anti-Semitism in the migration debate | Official and Civil Responses |
| 8. | 13 th of January | Miklós Soltész: Jewish communities are safe in Hungary | Official and Civil Responses |
| 9. | 14-16 th of January | The search for the Jews shot into the River Danube has begun | Other News |
| 10. | 18-19 th of January | Remembering the liberation of the Budapest Ghetto | Official and Civil Responses |
| 11. | 18 th of January | APF secretary's reaction to the untrue statements about APF published in <i>ÉS</i> | Other News |
| 12. | 20 th and 22 nd of January | Tamás Sneider's anti-Semitic statements in the news | Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 13. | 22 nd of January | Every fourth Hungarian thinks that anti-Semitism is on the rise | News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary |
| 14. | 22 nd of January | Holocaust denier who has been to Hungary remains incarcerated | Other News |
| 15. | 24 th of January | Szabolcs Takács: The Hungarian government is committed to preserving Jewish-Christian culture | Official and Civil Responses |

| No. | Date | Incident | Category |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 16. | 27 th of January | Commemorating the horrors of the Holocaust in Budapest | Official and Civil Responses |
| 17. | 29 th of January | Totalitarian symbols were removed | Further Hate Incidents |
| 18. | 30 th of January | Slomó Köves: Can the Hungarian right-wing shake off anti-Semitism? | Other News |

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection Foundation is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread anti-Semitic manifestations.

In case anyone faces insults or anti-Semitic abuse due to a supposed or real Jewish background, do not remain silent, let us know, so that we can forward the case through the appropriate channels to the official organs required to take measures!

Notifications of such incidents are received by the Foundation through any of the following means:

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 10 00 00

The website of Action and Protection Foundation: www.tev.hu/forrodrot
The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

Action and Protection Foundation's undertaking can only be successful if great numbers share in our commitment to prepare the grounds for the right to fair process for all those who have suffered offenses. In aid of this cause please support the work of the Foundation with your contribution! Donations can be made to the Foundation on the following bank account:

13597539-12302010-00057157

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