

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

MARCH 2019

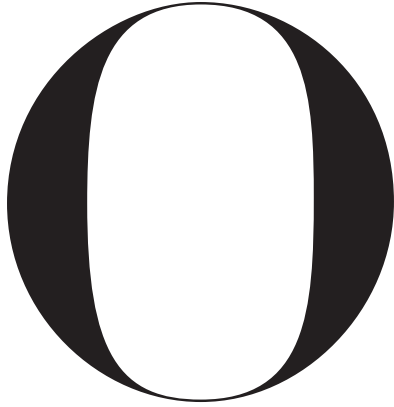


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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 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.

During this month, the Foundation identified one Anti-Semitic hate incident, belonging to the hate speech category. Unidentified perpetrators painted the words “INTO THE GAS CHAMBER WITH GYÖRGY SOROS AND THE MIGRANT MOHAMED” on an advertisement board in Budapest.

Four news items were included in the Further Hate Incidents section. The first item deals with a series of press releases by the right-wing press this month in which earlier anti-Semitic manifestations involving Jobbik politicians were reported years after the fact, and not exactly datable. In the second item we reported that Miklós Kásler, Minister for Human Resources entrusted László Domonkos with the writing of an educational book on the post-1956 history of Hungarian literature. Domonkos’s last book was about the mass murderer Iván Héjjas, describing the paramilitary leader as a legendary figure of Hungarian history. In the third case the controversial recipients of state recognitions bestowed on 15 March, Kornél Döbrenrei and Mihály Takaró were discussed. The fourth news item reported a conference on the Treaty of Trianon, where Miklós Horthy was praised.

This month, Action and Protection Foundation received notice of developments in one of its legal procedures started earlier. One person taking part in the Nazi memorial event called Day of Honor/Break Out of Budapest (at the end of the Second World War) completed the hike carrying a swastika flag, for which the Foundation filed a complaint in February. Two simultaneous decisions were sent to APF. In one of these, the procedure was suspended, while in the other, a witness had to be questioned, so the procedure is to continue.

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).

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).

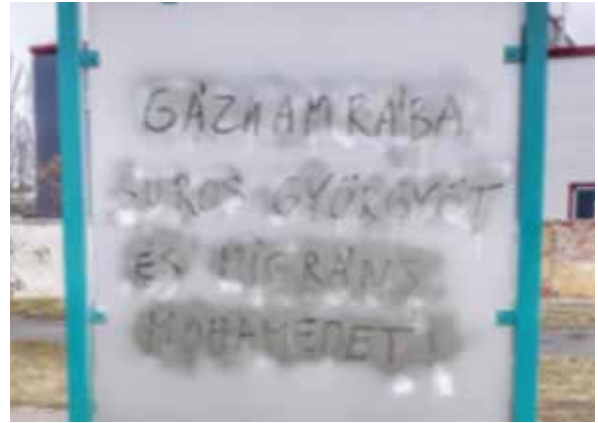
ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS – MARCH 2019

APF found one anti-Semitic hate incident in the course of its monitoring in March 2019, which belongs in the hate speech category.

HATE SPEECH

*Anti-Semitic graffiti
on an advertisement board*
Source: zsurpubi.hu

3 March 2019 A sympathizer of the Foundation called our attention to a post in a group on the Facebook community portal. A photograph posted here depicted an advertisement board in Budapest, in the Sportliget in Kőbánya. On the otherwise empty board, the glass therefore covering a white surface, unidentified individuals had written “INTO THE GASCHAMBERS



Source: facebook.com

WITH GEORGE SOROS AND THE MIGRANT MOHAMED”.

Arriving on site, our Foundation’s workers only found the cleaned surface.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of its monitoring activity in March 2019, Action and Protection Foundation identified four incidents that fit the category of a hate incident, but because the time of their being committed, or their insignificance, or lack of clear anti-Semitic intent, they do not qualify as part of the statistics.

*Anti-Semitic manifestations
of politicians linked to Jobbik
draw media attention*

Source: origo.hu; hirtv.hu

1–26 March 2019 The right-wing media – mainly the news portal Origo – published several recordings from a few years back involving earlier, or currently reigning politicians of Jobbik.

In the first half of the month, a recording of Márton Gyöngyösi came to light, made in 2013 after his notorious “*list of Jewish parliamentarians*” interpellation at a public event, in which he explained his opinion about how any citizen of Israel signifies as a national security threat. In another video also from 2013, he introduced a draft law as funny, and “*certain to be appreciated by all those with a sense of humor, and special sensitivity to allusions*,”. He was referring to how he would include in the Act on gas storage facilities that the draft Budget for 2013 must ensure a fifty percent growth of compensations for Holocaust survivors. And in the same year, at a local public forum Gyöngyösi said, “*the Holocaust is a curious species of animal, about which emotions are constantly mounting*”. The vice-president of Jobbik was ridiculing the fact that instead of slipping into the forgotten past, the Holocaust comes all the more into the forefront.

However, during this month a recording of the Jobbik spokesperson, Ádám

Mirkóczki also came out, where he said: “*The Holocaust is the one and only, constant and exclusive subject of discussion. This is what we have a problem with, not that it is a subject of discussion, but that nothing else is, it is like a flush at cards that takes all (...)*”

Towards the end of the month Origo posted an account of another video shot at a faction meeting of Jobbik in 2012. In it, Gábor Vona, then President of the party spoke of a *Sauline conversion* with reference to Csanád Szegedi – who has made his own Jewish origins public – and opined that he switched to the Jewish side. But the material also contains that the party had an “*expert on Jews*” in the person of Mrs. Lóránt Hegedűs. The politician talked, as one of the problems within the party, about how “*one Jew sings the praises of the other*”. Related to the case, another recording of Zoltán Balczó, EP representative of Jobbik also came out on the Origo website. The politician had bragged to his fellow faction members that he had once made it into the Yearbook of Anti-Semites: “*I am very happy that I have once already appeared in the yearbook of anti-Semites, edited by Karsai, (...)*.” He said this to rebut statements to the effect that he certainly was an anti-Semite.

The President of APF also gave a statement about the case. “*Jobbik is a party conceived in sin*” – Dániel Bodnár responded on 26 March 2019 replying to a question from HírTV.¹¹ He pointed out that Jobbik only communicates its break with a racist, anti-Semitic past on the surface, in fact it has remained a radical party. “*Basically, the main building blocks of [the party’s] identity are anti-Semitism, racism, anti-Gypsyism, and such a party is unsuitable to be a part of a democratic institutional system. Therefore, every new evidence that proves this only serves as another chance for us to state that Jobbik is unsuitable for decent politics at a European level.*”

¹¹ <https://hirtv.hu/ahirtvhirei/a-jobbik-egy-bunben-fogant-part-2478858>

*Miklós Kásler, Minister of
Human Resources commissions
journalist who had praise for
an anti-Semitic mass murderer to write
a book on history of literature
Source: index.hu; 168ora.hu*

*author's antipathy towards the Jews is demon-
strable, so we do not recommend reading it."*

*Contentious figures honored
on the occasion of 15 March
Source: magyarnarancs.hu; huppa.hu*

7 March 2019 Minister of Human Resources Miklós Kásler entrusted László Domonkos with authoring an history book on Hungarian literature after 1956. Domonkos defended the mass murderer Iván Héjjas and speaks of the paramilitary leader as a legendary figure of Hungarian history.

László Domonkos is to write an "educational book with the working title, *History of Hungarian Literature from 1956–2018*".

In recent years, Domonkos has written primarily on historical subjects of interest to the political right, he is an editor of the *Trianoni Szemle* (Trianon Review), a fellow ideologue to the fake-scientific denouncer of Freemasonry Ern Raffay, and a journalist for the national daily *Magyar Hírlap* – the news portal Index notes in regard to him.

Domonkos has taken up two main subjects, or causes of his own: to rewrite modern Hungarian history from a right-wing, revisionist perspective, occasionally handling facts in a rather lax manner on grounds of poetic license; and to continue the culture war against the "other side", the authors and institutions of the liberal left. In one of his latest books he tried to white-wash Iván Héjjas, who committed anti-Semitic mass murders with his paramilitary troops after the defeat of the Soviet Republic of Hungary. In his book Domonkos posited, "*Héjjas belongs among those legendary figures of Hungarian 20th-century history; against whom one of the most contemptible character assassinations has been committed*".

Our Foundation gave an account of the book in both its September and October anti-Semitic hate-crimes and incidents reports. At that point we wrote: "*So, the most cited reference of the book is a writing that has not been seen by anyone else, whose impartiality is dubious and whose inaccuracies are pointed out even by Domonkos. Literarily the book is weak, its ideology is not eligible, and the*

15 March; 22 March 2019 Kornél Döbrentei and Mihály Takaró both received national honors, the Laurel established for writers and poets, on the national holiday. At a 2004 protest organized against Tilos Radio and preceding it, Döbrentei said such things as "*the anti-Jewish laws were in fact introduced to protect Jewry, in collusion with the leaders of Jewry at the time*". Other opinions he voiced appearing in the news included that Jews "*do not appear in the character of the patriotic, kind strata of people*", but he also spoke up against "*the merciless war fought in a religious mantle for the liquidation of our people*". His speeches were also qualified as anti-Semitic by Imre Kertész, and about 160 writers quit the writers' association because of Döbrentei, among them Péter Nádas, Magda Szabó, Péter Esterházy and György Konrád.

Mihály Takaró received an Attila József Award. After the Nobel Prize was awarded to Imre Kertész, Takaró not only questioned repeatedly the competence of his works, but regularly argued that Imre Kertész was not Hungarian. Later, as the weekly political and cultural magazine *Magyar Narancs* noted, Takaró gave a lecture at the national evening of the Our Homeland Movement, entitled *Hungarian Culture Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*.

A host of recognized news sources internationally reported the Laurel received by Kornél Döbrentei, in brief news items mostly. "*Now, Döbrentei is almost entirely unknown outside the borders of Hungary, and anyone who does know of him, has heard of him not on account of his poetry, but a scandal*" – wrote Stephan Löwenstein, the FAZ correspondent. 14 years ago over a hundred writers left the writers' association, to protest of Döbrentei, or that the writers' association did not follow through with the consequences for these. Löwenstein also recounted in detail, how Döbrentei

took part in a far-right event at the time, where Israeli flags were burnt, and there said amongst others that: “*we have to protest against the moral Holocaust directed at the Hungarian people, conducted by costumed and masked false prophets, whose beards alone are real*”. This, as well as other statements by Döbrensei were taken to refer to Jews.

The Hungarian resident correspondent of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* wrote: one is almost sorry for the 72-year-old Döbrensei, since no one reads him even today, he is merely mentioned as a political indicator. The award is not meant for his literary accomplishment, but his existing potential as a scandalous figure. He himself will of course immerse himself even more deeply in the role of the last soldier of true Hungarian values, misunderstood by the entire world, though chosen by the lord, who gives him wings for the purpose. Wherever he appears, he works himself into a fury, becomes loud and passionate. It must be acknowledged that he believes wholeheartedly what he says – which cannot be said for many others.

Mária Schmidt's praise for Horthy at a conference about the Treaty of Trianon
Source: varosikurir.hu; nepszava.hu

25–26 March 2019 The Hungarian National Museum held a two-day conference about the treaty of Trianon.

Miklós Kásler, Minister for Human Resources asked participants at the conference to help understand the history of the Treaty. Because the tragedy of Trianon is still an open wound and national unity is important, since the Carpathian Basin has only been successful when peace and unity reigned within it.

Mária Schmidt spoke of Miklós Horthy in the main section of her speech simply as the person who revitalized the self-respect of the nation. The Director of the House of Terror Museum emphasized in her speech: “*the First World War became a tragedy for Hungary, through the fact that the country did not find the right person, under whose leadership it could defend itself.*” This was the point at which she introduced the Regent. As she put it: “*Miklós Horthy gave the nation its self-respect back, while three counts, prime ministers István Bethlen and Pál Teleki, and minister of culture Kuno Klebelsberg helped to save the country; shore up the nation.*” The museum director closed her speech with the idea that though Hungary lost two world wars and a cold war, it could still enter the new century as victor, because it is a free and independent nation.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

House of Fates unlikely to open even in 2019

Source: [nepszava.hu; index.hu](http://nepszava.hu/index.hu)

2 March 2019 The national daily *Népszava* reported that the representative of the Washington Holocaust Museum, Paul Shapiro visited Hungary for talks with Slomó Köves, Executive Rabbi of the United Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH). The subject was the House of Fates, the memorial center in Józsefváros (Budapest) that has stood vacant for years and has been handed over to EMIH.

After the idea was conceived in 2013, signaling its decision Mazsihisz (Hungarian Federation of Jewish Communities) left the international advisory board by 2014, and the foreign experts followed soon. Various sources strongly criticized the concept, among them the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Last year the ownership and operation of the House of Fates was handed over to EMIH, led by Slomó Köves.

A few months ago Paul Shapiro wrote: *“The decision of Viktor Orbán’s Prime Minister’s Office to realize the highly distorting exhibition runs counter to the assurances given to the USA Museum in 2015, which stated that the historically inaccurate plan would be taken off the agenda and the author of the plan, Dr. Mária Schmidt, would not participate in the realization of the new memorial museum.”* According to the news source the fact that the meeting occurred therefore shows, amongst others, that Mária Schmidt will finally be left out of the preparation of the concept.

Other changes have also become predictable recently. At the end of 2018 Robert Rozett, the most highly recognized scientific institute for the study of the Holocaust indicated that he is absolutely dissatisfied with the concept for the House of Fates. The exhibition does not place the Hungarian persecution of Jews in a universal context. Concentrates solely on the personal tragedies of the child victims, does not deal with the persecution of Jews preceding the

Arrow Cross take-over. And it does not discuss the role undertaken by the Hungarian authorities in the deportation of Jews were among the points he raised. However, Viktor Orbán promised Israel an altogether new concept for the House of Fates upon his visit there in the beginning of 2019.

According to Slomó Köves the museum cannot even open this year. As he explained: *“It is hard to imagine that the House of Fates could open this year. (...) The objective of the Hungarian government, as well as all participants in shaping the project is for the exhibition to finally speak the language of our days to broad social strata, to be equally touching intellectually and emotionally, and authoritative. To bring this into being requires time.”*

Hungary joins the “Hate Stops Here” campaign

Source: neokohn.hu

9 March 2019 The World Zionist Organization (WZO) and Action and Protection Foundation is organizing flash mob demonstrations in the large cities of the world,



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

fighting for more effective action to combat the aggressive anti-Jewish attitudes that have a growing stranglehold on Europe.

The WZO is preparing to organize demonstrations and rallies in about 60 locations around the world. *“The time has come to raise the issue of anti-Semitism to the top of priorities. (...) we will not be silent and continue on as usual”* – one of the leaders of the organization declared, as reported by israelnationalnews.com. The organization seeks explanations for the phenomenon that has been a worry to Jewry around the globe recently: the emer-

Slomó Köves: Jobbik continues to be harmful to Jewry

Source: valaszonline.hu; hvg.hu

20 March 2019 Slomó Köves, Executive Rabbi of the United Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) gave an interview to Válasz Online. In his opinion, Jobbik is still the same, the political left and its opinion leaders made a big mistake when they let it out of its quarantine. This is the reason the collaboration must be prevented: it is damaging to Jewry, a stand that is taken by the



Source: Action and Protection

gence of aggressive anti-Semitism not seen in Europe since the Second World War.

The Hungarian event took place at the Shoes on the Danube Banks Memorial, where participants could fight together with the framework of the international initiative, for decisive community action against the anti-Semitic phenomena. *“Once again, we are witness, in our days, to the sad reality of the growing presence of aggressive anti-Semitism unfolding in front of our eyes. Day after day, more and more aggressive and dangerous anti-Semitic attacks take place worldwide, while in the measures taken to combat them we often see only powerlessness and impotence”*.

media outlets linkable to EMIH, 168 Óra and Klubrádió.

He said he does not believe Jobbik has changed for the better, because only actions count. Jobbik has just put aside its anti-Semitic, racist statements in the interest of its ambitions for power. But there are no signs that it has a different program. The fact that some of the politicians of the party have switched to the Our Homeland movement does not decide the matter either. It does however *“raise a sense of discomfort”* in Köves that the politicians of the Our Homeland movement are frequent guests in the television.

He also explained that he considers the links between the left and Jobbik damaging. *“If the assessment of a party with a declared an-*

ti-Semitic program is no longer a red line for the parties on the left, then we, the Jewish community must do something to make it clear” – he said, alluding to the fact that though the media outlets 168 Óra and Klubrádió do not belong to EMIH, it has an influence in the company operating them. Asked whether this means if 168 Óra serves political aims, the rabbi pointed out, *“This is a political goal that has a direct impact on the Jewish community.”* He also added he does not have party preferences.

Other current subjects also came up – included in the current monthly report. Rabbi Köves spoke about the award bestowed on Döbrentei, describing the situation: *“This award is very disappointing.”* He added: *“It often makes for a distinct sense of discomfort that opinion leaders who make absolutely unacceptable statements about the 20th-century history of Hungary gain recognition in the circles of the Hungarian right.”*

Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna receives the Scheiber Sándor Prize this year

Source: MTI

20 March 2019 Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna, head teacher of the Budapest University of Jewish Studies (ORZSE) received the Sándor Scheiber Prize this year. Minister of State for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations Miklós Soltész and Deputy Secretary of State Zoltán Fürjes presented the recognition in Budapest.

Kálmán Szalai, Secretary of our Foundation received the Prize last year.

The annual Scheiber Sándor Prize founded in 1995 is awarded to people with outstanding achievements in Hebraistics, Judaistics, Jewish religion and education, as well as promoting dialogue and tolerance between Jewish and non-Jewish people – in service to Hungarian culture.

Sándor Scheiber (1913–1985) was Doctor of Science in linguistics, President of the Hungarian Rabbinate and Director of the Hungarian National Rabbinical Institute from 1950 onwards. His research focused on Hebrew manuscripts, the so-called Genizah-research, and undertook to process the complete collection of documents in the possession of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

András Heisler: ‘Only’ verbal anti-Semitism exists in Hungary

Source: nepszava.hu; magyarnarancs.hu

23 March 2019 There are no physical atrocities against either Jewish people or Jewish institutions in Hungary. *“In Hungary there is ‘only’ verbal anti-Semitism, which of course cannot be let off without raising our voices”* – András Heisler, President of Mazsihisz spoke about this, among other matters with Manfred Weber, the leader of the European People’s Party on his visit to Budapest.

In the interview he gave the national daily *Népszava*, Heisler said he emphasized to Weber that their cooperation with the government was broad, but also spoke about its problems. He declared, amongst others, that: *“We know that if the energies of hatred are intensified in a society, they may be activated against any minority.”*

“It is important however to make it clear: the operation of EMIH is legitimate in Hungary, and they have a task to accomplish. The problem begins when they try to reach beyond this and act as if they were the representatives of Hungarian Jewry at large” – the President of Mazsihisz said.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Viktor Orbán: Nowadays anti-Semitism has a new character

Sources: atv.hu; origo.hu

3 March 2019 The Hungarian Prime Minister gave the conservative German paper *Welt am Sonntag* an interview, which was reviewed widely in Hungary. Viktor Orbán spoke about Hungarian-German relations, the up-coming European Parliamentary elections, as well as migration and Jean-Claude Juncker.

Regarding the latter the Hungarian poster campaign was also discussed. He said, “*In Hungary no one looking at such a poster thinks of anti-Semitism*”, when it was suggested that such a poster carries anti-Semitic tones. He added that the reason the interviewer may think so because he is German and thinks

differently. “*We regard Hungarians of Jewish origin as being first and foremost Hungarians rather than Jews. Campaigns focusing on individuals are not surprising either here or in the English-speaking world. To me this seems to be a German problem.*”

In regard to the issue of anti-Semitism he expressed the opinion: “*In the past, anti-Semitism existed on the Christian right in Hungary also, but we have rolled it back*”, and nowadays “*anti-Semitism has a new character: hostility against Jews and Israel is now being brought into our societies by migration.*”

“*This is why anti-Semitism in Western Europe is now on the rise, while in Central Europe it continues to decline. So far Europe has formulated no concept for how to combat this, although it should do so*” Viktor Orbán explained.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

*Benjamin Netanyahu: Hungary takes
firm stand against anti-Semitism*
Source: MTI; origo.hu

19 March 2019 Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opened a Hungarian foreign trade representation in Jerusalem.



“Extremely large and rapid changes are occurring in global politics and the global economy, and these changes are having a major effect on small countries with open economies such as Hungary” Péter Szijjártó explained. Therefore, the decision was made to open a

foreign trade representation in Jerusalem, to facilitate the forging of relations through a personal presence.

This is more than pragmatic economic cooperation between two countries: there is true friendship between Hungary and Israel. *“Hungary has always fought to ensure that the international community maintains a fair and balanced approach to Israel”*, he declared.

The Foreign Minister said that the opening of the representation and the Hungarian Cultural season held in Israel prove the importance Hungary is attributing to its relations with Israel.

According to Benjamin Netanyahu, the opening of the representation is extremely important. In his opinion the relationship and friendship between Hungary and Israel has never been as strong as it is now, just as trade relations have also never been so strong. *“In addition, the two countries are also cooperating effectively within several other fields”*, he added. The Israeli Prime Minister thanked Hungary for standing up in support of Israel at international forums, and for taking a firm stand against anti-Semitism.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

*Decisions to suspend and then
to continue investigation*
Source: Action and Protection

6 March 2019 As reported here in February, this year, in spite of a police ban on holding the Nazi memorial event for the Breakout/Day of Honor in the castle this year, it was still held – along with the attached hike – in Budapest. Organized by the Börzsöny Action Group the so-called Breakout Memorial Hike was held on 9–10 February this year. According to the account from index.hu, a person possibly of German citizenship completed the hike carrying a flag bearing a swastika, holding it up from the part of the hike before Csacsi-rét on Normafa in the 12th District of

Budapest to the end. The author of the article also describes how the unknown individual also showed the swastika flag in public spaces. Our Foundation filed a report at the Police Headquarters of Budapest 12th District about the above.

First the Criminal Division of the 12th District Budapest Police Headquarters informed the Foundation that it was unable to establish the identity of the perpetrator in the course of their proceedings, and so they decided to suspend the procedure. In a decision brought out on the same day however the Foundation was informed that the organizer of the Break-out hike is to be summoned for questioning as a witness, so proceedings will continue. The deadline for the proceedings is 6 July.

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. | 1-26 th of March | Anti-Semitic manifestations of politicians linked to Jobbik draw media attention | Further Hate Incidents |
| 2. | 1 st of March | House of Fates unlikely to open even in 2019 | Community News And Responses |
| 3. | 3 rd of March | Anti-Semitic graffiti on an advertisement board | Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 4. | 3 rd of March | Viktor Orbán: Nowadays anti-Semitism has a new character | Official And Civil Responses |
| 5. | 6 th of March | Decisions to suspend and then to continue investigation | APF Legal Actions |
| 6. | 7 th of March | Miklós Kásler, Minister of Human Resources commissions journalist who had praise for an anti-Semitic mass murderer to write a book on history of literature | Further Hate Incidents |
| 7. | 9 th of March | Hungary joins the “Hate Stops Here” campaign | Community News And Responses |
| 8. | 15 th of March | Contentious figures honored on the occasion of 15 March | Further Hate Incidents |
| 9. | 19 th of March | Benjamin Netanyahu: Hungary takes firm stand against anti-Semitism | News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary |
| 10. | 20 th of March | Slomó Köves: Jobbik continues to be harmful to Jewry | Community News And Responses |
| 11. | 20 th of March | Chief Rabi Tamás Róna receives the Scheiber Sándor Prize this year | Community News And Responses |
| 12. | 23 rd of March | András Heisler: ‘Only’ verbal anti-Semitism exists in Hungary | Community News And Responses |
| 13. | 25-26 th of March | Mária Schmidt’s praise for Horthy at a conference about the Treaty of Trianon | Further Hate Incidents |

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

Contact details for Action and Protection Foundation

Address: Baross utca 61, 1082 Budapest, HUNGARY

Phone: +36 1 267 57 54

+36 30 207 5130

<http://www.tev.hu>

info@tev.hu

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CONTRIBUTORS AND PUBLISHER INFORMATION

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Editors: **Krisztián Nádasi**, research scholar, head of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Dr. Kristóf Bodó, legal advocate, legal representative of Action and Protection Foundation and the Brussels Institute
Gábor Bodó, research scholar, member of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Bálint Bethlenfalvy, translator

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Contributors: **Dániel Bodnár**, philosopher, Chairman of the Action and Protection Foundation Board of Trustees
Andrew Srulewicz, Director, Anti Defamation League

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ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

1052 Budapest, Baross utca 61.
+36 1 267 57 54, +36 30 207 5130
<http://www.tev.hu>
info@tev.hu

