

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

APRIL 2019

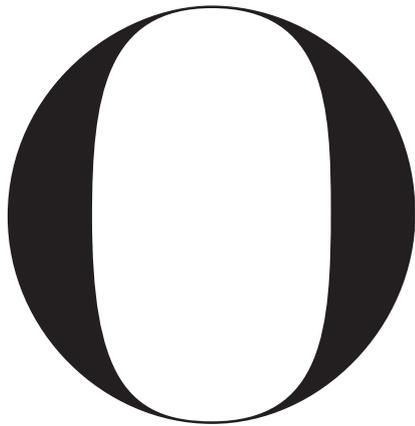


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Excecutive Summary	5
Action and Protection Foundation	6
Unity	6
Brussels Institute	6
About the Report	7
Methodology	9
Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – April 2019	12
Further Hate Incidents	13
Community news and responses	14
Official and civil responses	16
News and opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary	19
Other News	20
Action and Protection Foundation legal actions	21
The Month's Chronicle	22
Contact and support	24
References	24
Contributors and Publisher Information	26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: anti-Semitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report refers to both types of behavior as "*hate incidents*". An anti-Semitic hate crime is distinguished from other hate crime by

possessing an anti-Semitic motive. Anti-Semitic hate crime is a violation of criminal law, yet not all hate-motivated acts are regarded as criminal. 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.

This month our Foundation has not identified anti-Semitic hate incidents.

Our Foundation's annual report published this month shows that in 2018 Europe has seen an increase in the number of anti-Semitic hate incidents while in Hungary the number has decreased. All major Hungarian media outlets have reported this news. We have registered 32 anti-Semitic hate incidents in 2018, four less than in 2017. There were 48 such incidents in 2016, 52 in 2015 and 37 in 2014. The hate crimes of 2018 consisted of three attacks, ten cases of vandalism and 19 incidents of hate speech.

This month APF has not initiated new legal proceedings and there were no new developments in older 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 has improved since the Jobbik party, which openly declares anti-Semitic and racist views, only has twenty-five Members of Parliament as opposed to the forty-three they used to do. Yet, anti-Semitic hate speech is still uttered at their 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 ignorance in which

anti-Semitism is rooted, as well as atrocities and hate crimes.

UNITY

Action and Protection Foundation is a registered civil organization. Among those actively participating in the work of the Foundation are status-quo/Chabad EMIH, the reform oriented Sim Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation, as well as socially recognized emblematic personalities independent of these movements. Trustees of the Foundation represent the most important Jewish religious and cultural movements in Hungary, a symbolic expression of the fact that action on anti-Semitism is a cause shared by all.

BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

The **Brussels Institute**, founded by **Action and Protection Foundation**, carries out monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crime in accordance with methods worked out and proposed by the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**. In monitoring anti-Semitic phenomena the Institute records and analyzes them on the basis of information delivered by various standardized sources. The monitoring process, which categorizes incidents into seven different groups, relies on the following sources: the sources of the Institute's own Research and Incident Monitoring Group, information available in the press and public media, and relevant data to be found in judicial, criminal and other state administrative records in the framework of an agreement with these branches of government. The institute has set up a now open-

rational **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

¹ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs—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 offense: 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 offense, 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 offenses 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).

Our report contains detailed descriptions of the definition of hate incidents and our approach to solving the problem. The report also cites a variety of international, independent sources. 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 period⁷ are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

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 Chakraborti 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.

⁷ These are described in the *Methodology* section.

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 on-line 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.

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 statistics⁸.

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, anti-Semitic intent cannot be proven, or the circumstances are unclear)
- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online fora, and have not been personally reported to Action and Protection Foundation.
- Other news that is only indirectly linked to anti-Semitism

A number of the aspects of the registered in-

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.

idents 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
 - o Any attack on a person that potentially causes serious bodily harm
 - o Any attack involving weapons, or other tools that can cause bodily harm
 - o Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - o Bombs and letter bombs
 - o Kidnapping
- Assault
 - o Any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not serious
 - o Attempted assault, which fails due to self-defense, or if the victim runs away
 - o Throwing objects at a person or people, including where the object misses its target
- Damage to property
 - o Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
 - o Desecration of property

- o Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson
- Threats
 - o Any clear and specific threat, whether verbal or written
 - o Any “bomb” which is assessed to be a hoax
 - o Stalking
 - o Defamation
- Hate speech
 - o Public hate speech
 - o Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media
 - o Abusive behavior
 - o Abusive literature sent to more than one person
 - o Hate speech 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 incident¹⁰. 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 – APRIL 2019

In the course of its monitoring activities, Action and Protection Foundation has not identified any anti-Semitic hate incidents.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of its monitoring activities, Action and Protection Foundation identified one incident in April 2019. Although it is a hate incident, it is not included in the statistics because it is impossible to determine when it was committed and/or it is too insignificant and/or there is no unambiguous anti-Semitic intention. This incident is reported, because even though it did not take place in Hungary, it concerns Hungarian interests.

The building of the Hungarian Embassy in Belgrade was defaced with swastikas

Source: MTI; euronews.com

23 April 2019 The building of the Hungarian Embassy in Belgrade was defaced with swastikas. Besides the autocratic symbols, someone wrote “Get out of my street” and “Fascists.” The embassy staff cleaned the walls of the building and filed a complaint against an unknown perpetrator.

News reports mentioned that offensive comments directed at Hungarians by the president of a Serbian opposition party may have been the trigger for the above incident. The MTI report noted that Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Minister for Foreign Affairs Péter Szijjártó both visited the country not long before the hate incident took place. The Prime Minister attended the fifth joint meeting of the Hungarian and Serbian governments in Subotica (Szabadka). The Minister for Foreign Affairs took part in a campaign event of the Serbian President, Aleksandar Vucic.



source: MTI; euronews.com

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Europe has seen an increase in the number of anti-Semitic hate incidents while in Hungary the number has decreased

Source: MTI; 168ora.hu; mandiner.hu

12 April 2019 APF, based on its annual report on anti-Semitic incidents, has informed MTI that in 2018 Europe saw an increase in the number of anti-Semitic hate incidents, while in Hungary the number has decreased. Several Hungarian media outlets reported this news.

In 2018, 32 anti-Semitic hate incidents were registered, four less than in 2017. There were 48 such incidents in 2016, 52 in 2015, and 37 in 2014. The hate incidents of 2018 consisted of three attacks, ten cases of vandalism and 19 incidents of hate speech. The perpetrators were male in all cases and did not appear organized to our Foundation.

MTI has emphasized that in 2018 the number of anti-Semitic hate incidents rose significantly in the two European countries with the largest Jewish communities - Great Britain and France. In Great Britain there are 25, in France there are 8.1 such incidents per one million people. In Hungary this ratio is 3.4 - they added.

The reports have also mentioned that for the last six years our Foundation have been producing an annual report on anti-Semitic hate incidents perpetrated during the previous year based on the methodology recommended by OSCE (Organization for

Security and Co-operation in Europe.)

Seventeenth annual March of the Living held in Budapest this year

Source: MTI

14 April 2019 “The tragedy of our Hungarian compatriots, murdered simply for being Jewish, is one of the heaviest burdens in the history of the Hungarian nation. A burden that should not be forgotten,” the Hungarian Secretary of State for EU policies at the Prime Minister’s Office said. Szaboles Takács spoke to MTI at the March of the Living event and specified increasing public awareness as one of the objectives of the procession commemorating victims of the Holocaust.

The state secretary welcomed the gradual decrease in the weight of anti-Semitism in today’s Central and Eastern Europe. Yet he drew attention to the fact that meanwhile, in Western Europe, there seems to be a simultaneous emergence of a new type of anti-Semitism, which is threatening Judeo-Christian identity.

David Mundell, the British government’s Minister for Scotland also gave a speech at the event. This year they remembered Jane Haining, the martyr principal of the Scottish mission’s boarding house for girls in Budapest. Gábor Gordon, president of the March of the Living Founda-



source: MTI

tion's board of trustees and Iain Lindsay, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Hungary also gave speeches.

The commemorative walk started from March 15 Square to the sounds of the shofar and Scottish bagpipes and after passing the Jane Haining and József Antall Snr. Embankments, arrived to the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial. The procession was led by survivors of the Holocaust.

Holocaust survivor and five times Olympic champion, Ágnes Keleti, David Mundell and chief rabbi Péter Kardos jointly lit the enormous torchlight commemorating the victims. The chief rabbi's mourning prayer closed the commemoration event.

Kálmán Szalai: There is a decreasing tendency in the number of anti-Semitic incidents

Source: mandiner.hu; 168ora.hu

27 April 2019 Kálmán Szalai, secretary of APF, was queried by several Hungarian portals about the decreasing tendency in anti-Semitic incidents. Szalai explained that there has been a continuous decrease in the number of anti-Semitic incidents since 2015. The threat to the Jewish community appears to be nominally decreasing. He added that based on the data, we can safely say that during the last four years speeches denying the Holocaust and thus inciting hate against Jews, everyday occurrences earlier, have disappeared from public discourse almost completely. *168 óra* highlighted the higher number of attacks, but the secretary of APF explained that these numbers did not provide evidence that today Hungary would be more dangerous for members of the Jewish community. *"So far it doesn't seem likely that last year's increase in the number of attacks against individuals is the beginning of a general tendency. For the moment we believe that these are isolated incidents."* He also said that although surveys demonstrate that one third of the population in Hungary has some level of anti-Semitic prejudice, physical assaults are rare, and their severity cannot

be compared to incidents that took place in Western Europe. In this context he also explained that in Hungary there is research about anti-Semitic attitudes and thus it is easier to interpret contexts. *"Unfortunately, at the present moment there is no reliable data from Western Europe, which would measure prejudices using the same methodology."* At this point he added that this was one of the reasons for setting up the Action and Protection League of Europe. *"A lot of people talk about anti-Semitism in Hungary and abroad but there are no databases available for appropriate comparison. The primary task of the Action and Protection League of Europe is to ensure the existence of a uniform data-series to describe anti-Semitism in relation to every country. Besides this, the Action and Protection League of Europe considers it to be an equally important job to extend, through a standardized framework the education and legal protection designed and introduced by APF in Hungary to all the countries of the European Union,"* added Kálmán Szalai.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Hungarian victims of the Holocaust remembered

Source: MTI; origo.hu; delmagyar.hu; webradio.hu

16 April 2019 Every year, the memorial day of the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust is held on 16 April. This commemorates the day on which the imprisonment of Hungarian Jews in ghettos started in 1944.

“The Holocaust was one of the most pointless and most brutal destructions that took place in world history;” declared Miklós Kásler, Minister for Human Resources. He was speaking at the commemoration event in front of the House of Terror Museum in Buda-

Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) spoke about how the duty of historical remembrance is a basic value in Jewish tradition and religion - and subsequently in Judeo-Christian civilizations.

He also noted that in a 2006 public opinion survey on “anti-Semitic attitudes” carried out by Medián, 14 percent of respondents believed that gas chambers did not exist, and 9 percent were of the opinion that the horrors of the Holocaust were made up by the Jews. Eleven years later in 2017, 22 percent of respondents believed that gas chambers did not exist, and 17 percent thought that Jews had made up these horrors.

Gábor Tallai, program director of the House of Terror Museum told MTI that every year since 2007 they had commemorated the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust by holding a memorial concert. The concert also serves to remember those rescuers of life who “*saved our conscience for the 21st century.*” During the past few years the examples of Raoul Wallenberg, József Mindszenty, Margit Slachta, Sára Salkaházi and Katalin Karády were highlighted among others.



source: MTI; origo.hu; delmagyar.hu; webradio.hu

pest. He noted that the darkest eras of our history took place when some of humanity forgot their own past. They forgot traditions going back a millennium, basic values, faith in God, and thought they could take over control of the world based on their selfish, self-centered interests. He emphasized that besides the victims we should also remember those who “*remained human amidst inhumanity.*” They helped, saved those who were persecuted, and thus became role models to all of us.

Slomó Köves, Executive Rabbi of Unified

“The government says ‘no’ to anti-Semitism and condemns all anti-Semitic acts,” said the Minister for Justice at the central commemoration held at the Holocaust Memorial Centre on the Day of Remembrance of the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust. László Trócsányi highlighted that the entire Hungarian society had been affected by the Holocaust; remembrance was for the present and even more for the future. *“We have to remember, so humanity never again commits this crime,”* he added. He empha-

sized that freedom of speech was a classic fundamental right but protecting human dignity must place restrictions on freedom of expression. Hate speech on the Internet was called a global problem by László Trócsányi. He explained that the legal systems were a step behind fake news and trolls; the states, the EU, and the international community all have a responsibility in this regard.

President of the board of trustees of the Holocaust Memorial Centre and Memorial Collection Public Foundation, Andor Grósz emphasized in his speech that we had to remember even if it tore up old wounds. He reminded us: during the spring of 1944 Hungarian Jews hoped *“the Regent would not allow”* what had already happened in Slovakia, Austria and several other countries. The president of the public foundation’s board of trustees was of the opinion that *“The anti-Semitism pervading society and central administration and raised to the level of state politics had contributed significantly to the death of victims.”* Then he added: *“Today’s Hungarian government has zero tolerance towards anti-Semitism.”*

The larger governing party wrote in its communication: *“We have to remember that anti-Semitism led to one of the most tragic eras of Europe and Hungary, as well as to the death of several million people.”* According to Fidesz it is unacceptable to encourage anti-Semitism in Europe and Hungary. Fidesz pays its respects to the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust – and the communiqué also mentions that the Parliament decided to introduce the memorial day in 2000, so no generation forgets the Holocaust.

The Democratic Coalition, MSZP, LMP and the Hungarian Liberal Party all highlighted the importance of remembering and reminding, as well as standing up against aggression and hate.

President of Democratic Coalition, Ferenc Gyurcsány wrote in his statement: *“we bow our heads to the memory of the hundreds of thousands of victims - Jewish or classified as Jewish - who were deprived of their rights, property and dignity, imprisoned and killed by human evil, by Nazi madness. And as*

long as we bow our heads, we stand in the way of this happening again.”

The national center of MSZP wrote in its statement that as well as bowing our heads to the memory of the victims, there must be a reminder of common responsibility *“so we do not allow the darkest era of history to repeat itself once again.”* They said, *“More than seventy years after this terrible tragedy the best way to pay our respects to the memory of the victims is to do everything we can against the spread of murderous thoughts and to reject all forms of extremist views, aggression and hate.”*

On behalf of LMP, co-presidents of the party Márta Demeter and László Lóránt Keresztes wrote in their press release that the entire political community of LMP respectfully remembers the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust. They noted that beyond bowing our heads, we also must *“face up to the crimes of the past and declare: never again!”*

The Liberal party wrote in their communication that they remember the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust and call for shared action against the politics of hate. They noted that a nation can only be successful if its future is based on solidarity, co-operation and mutual acceptance.

There were several commemorative events reported nationwide. In Zsoldos Vocational School a memorial sign was installed in memory of former students who fell victim to the Holocaust. In Hódmezővásárhely, a discussion about Hungarian Jewish history was held at the site of the exhibition: Hungarian Tragedy 1944.

Péter Szijjártó: We are proud of sportspeople of Jewish origins

Source: kormany.hu

24 April 2019 *“We are proud of those Hungarians of Jewish ancestry who enriched the legacy of Hungarian sport,”* said Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Péter Szijjártó as he opened the New York exhibition of the Maccabi VAC Hungary Sports Club.

Fifteen English-language boards were exhibited at the Consulate General about

the life of Hungarian Jewish sportspeople, Hungarian Jewish sports culture and sports history. During the ceremony the minister spoke about Hungarian-Israeli relations. He reminded the audience that a few weeks ago he had the opportunity to open the Hungarian foreign trade mission in Jerusalem and the Year of Hungarian Culture in Tel-Aviv and now he has the opportunity to open an exhibition that “*commemorates and highlights the achievements of Jewish sportspeople who enriched the legacy of Hungarian sport.*”

“*These facts clearly demonstrate the variegated nature of Hungarian-Israeli relations and that we do not just see Israel as a strategic ally but also consider her a friendly country and a friendly nation,*” he said. Péter Szijjártó also highlighted that “*we are proud to have the largest Jewish community in Central Europe living in Budapest.*” He also mentioned that in Hungary there is a renaissance of Jewish culture and that Europe’s largest synagogue and one of Europe’s largest Catholic cathedrals are within walking distance. He also added that when the Jewish cultural festival is celebrated in Budapest “*there won’t be troops and soldiers on the streets because they are simply not needed.*”

“*We feel incredibly honored to host this year’s European Maccabi Games. I think this is the best response to the many nonsense reports about growing anti-Semitism in our country,*” he said when changing the subject to speak about the multisport event taking place between 29 July and 7 August.

Maccabi World Union is one of the largest and oldest Jewish sports organizations in the world spanning five continents. Every four years the Maccabean World Games are held in Israel. The European Maccabi Confederation (EMC) is the umbrella organization of local Maccabi member organizations. The European Maccabi Games are held every four years, two years after the Israeli Maccabean World Games. The 2015 congress of EMC decided to let the Hungarian capital host the 2019 Games. Maccabi VAC Hungary, established in 1906, is Hungary’s only Jewish sports organization.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Bernard-Henri Lévy does not believe the Prime Minister is Fascist

Source: rtlklub.hu

10 April 2019 French philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy gave an interview to RTL Klub News after a discussion with Prime Minister Viktor Orbán lasting over two hours. He said the discussion was tough but honest. His purpose was to present criticism and ideas he had been told earlier by representatives of NGOs. He also said that in his opinion Hungary is a free, but not a democratic country. He added that he does not believe the Prime Minister is Fascist but considers him autocratic. He also noted that the anti-Soros poster-campaign “reminded him of the darkest, anti-Jewish times.” Viktor Orbán’s response was to state that he did not attack György Soros because of his Jewish ancestry and rejecting charges of anti-Semitism.

Jerusalem Post on the House of Fates project

Source: huppa.hu; jpost.com

16-17 April 2019 “*The controversial House of Fates Holocaust Museum is a weeping sore that poisons relationships between Viktor Orbán and the Jewish world,*” wrote the Jerusalem post as reported by the web portal huppa.hu.

The article described the history of the planned museum stating that the original purpose was for the institution to focus on the fate of Jewish children in World War II. For the sake of historical authenticity, the Federation of Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) involved the International Jewish Holocaust Museum, Yad Vashem of Jerusalem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum of Washington in design the project. Randolph Braham, the greatest authority on Hungarian Jewish history also joined

the project. The Hungarian government appointed Dr. Mária Schmidt as director of the council of experts to ensure control over the project - wrote Hungarian-born Alex Sternberg, the author of the article.

Citing Professor Braham, the author highlighted that Mária Schmidt was one of the reasons the project stalled, and the experts withdrew. According to Braham, Schmidt believed the death of the Jews was a secondary, unintentional result of the war, so-called collateral damage. He added that according to the original concept, besides the suffering of the Jews, the House of Fates Museum would have had to also focus on the suffering others experienced during Communism.

“*At this point the Chabad Jewish group entered the scene to save the government in this matter. He acquired the full multi-million-dollar project and immediately announced that the institution will soon open.*” They added that in interviews Slomó Köves denied there was any connection between his support for Orbán (and Schmidt) and the money received from the Hungarian government.

OTHER NEWS

Media club held by Kuruc.info in Budapest
Source: 444.hu; azonnali.hu

24 April 2019 After 13 years of hiding in the shadows, journalists of Kuruc.info stepped into the limelight and braved publicity at a media club event held in Budapest. *“We are talking about the webpage whose owner is under an FBI arrest warrant and the name of which cannot be written on Facebook even in a private message. The page was also infamous for publishing the personal details of all its enemies and to this day they classify their articles according to the following categories: Anti-magyarism, Holohoax, Humor, Immigrant Crime, Gipsy Crime, Politician Crime, Jewish Crime,”* a journalist of 444.hu wrote in his introduction.

At 6pm on 24 April, at the former MIÉP-offices on Béla Bartók Road, Előd Novák was very happy to introduce three authors of Kuruc.info: József Hering, senior staff of Kuruc.info who used to work for Pesti Hírlap, Chrudinák’s Panoráma and Magyar Fórum; former MIÉP politician, Tamás Esze; and János Lantos, a young publicist of the journal.

According to reports, during the event – which lasted almost two hours – the audience did not learn why the journalists stepped out of the shadows. As for the discussion, there was no lack of Jew-bashing - conspiracy theories supposedly created by Jews or the topic of Jews being the cause of all problems - or even homophobia. Among other things, Hering mentioned that Fidesz serves Jewish power, Kuruc.info was blocked on Facebook by Jewish power, that despite his diploma he couldn’t become a tourist guide because the hotel industry is controlled by

Jews, and that the reason Alajos Chrudinák couldn’t receive a state award is the far-reaching influence of Jews. Előd Novák mentioned the homosexual lobby as a further example, noting that he believes it is even stronger than the Jewish lobby, but Hering quickly re-focused on the essence: *“There are many among them too.”*

Reports have also added that *“It wasn’t just Kuruc.info that stepped out into the light, but the host Előd Novák, who had a seat in Jobbik not long ago, and quickly left at the first signs of its transitioning into a people’s party. This is even more stunning considering that ever since 2004, poor Novák has had to deny his many connections to the publication running on an American server. And here we are now, when it is not particularly astounding to throw in one’s lot with a page whose leading article on Wednesday for example was entitled: ‘Dependence and profit: case study of Jewish greed.’”*

Another fact that made this event especially interesting was that legally binding verdicts against the persons operating the website are in effect, and by stepping out of illegality they must face the consequences of their actions.



János Lantos, Előd Novák, Tamás Esze, József Hering; source: 444.hu

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

APF did not start any legal proceedings in April and no progress was reached in previous cases either.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	10th of April	Bernard-Henri Lévy does not believe the Prime Minister is Fascist	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
2.	12th of April	Europe has seen an increase in the number of anti-Semitic hate incidents while in Hungary the number has decreased	Community News And Responses
3.	14th of April	Seventeenth annual March of the Living held in Budapest this year	Community News And Responses
4.	16th of April	Hungarian victims of the Holocaust remembered	Official and Civil Responses
5.	16-17th of April	Jerusalem Post on the House of Fates project	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
6.	23th of April	The building of the Hungarian Embassy in Belgrade was defaced with swastikas	Further Hate Incidents
7.	24th of April	Péter Szijjártó: We are proud of sportspeople of Jewish origins	Official and Civil Responses
8.	24th of April	Media club held by Kuruc.info in Budapest	Other News
9.	27th of April	Kálmán Szalai: There is a decreasing tendency in the number of anti-Semitic incidents	Community News And Responses

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 1 00 000

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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2019 Budapest

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