

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

MAY 2019

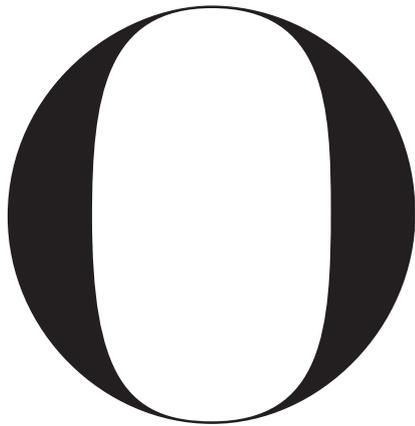


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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.

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) found five incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime this month. The incidents are classified as hate speech. The first case involved President of the Board of Trustees of the Hungarian Jewish Heritage Public Foundation (Mazsók) György Szabó, who shared on his social media site that he must regularly endure verbal abuse in Budapest's party district. The second case concerned an anti-Semitic documentary which was screened by students at an organized event held at the Budapest campus of the Central European University. We present, as the third case, that unknown individuals covered the street sign at the park recently named as Jerusalem park and is demarcated by Clark Ádám Square, Lánchíd Street and Friedrich Born Embankment. Unknown individuals wrote "Hitler Adolf park" on the covered sign. The fourth and the fifth case were both related to the European Parliament elections, unknown individuals damaged billboards of the campaign and wrote anti-Semitic text on the ads in both cases.

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

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

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

The phenomenon of anti-Semitism is by no means new to Hungary. The hate speech encountered earlier has, however, become increasingly dominant in public life. The situation 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

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.

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

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.

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 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
 - 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

– MAY 2019

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) found five anti-Semitic hate crimes over the course of its monitoring activities in May. The incidents are classified as hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

Drunk tourists maltreat religious Jews in party district

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

3 & 8 May 2019 President of the Board of Trustees of the Hungarian Jewish Heritage Public Foundation (Mazsók) and former municipal councilor for Fidesz György Szabó shared his experiences in the Facebook group called Élhető Erzsébetváros (Liveable Erzsébetváros – District 7 of Budapest). His post said *“I was born in this district 52 years ago, I have lived here most of my life and I’m living here now, too. I’m an orthodox Jew by lifestyle. Peaceful living together and mutual acceptance have recently been hindered by the behavior of drunk English tourists. The situation is not comforting but rather scary at times, especially during spring and summertime when the Sabbath begins late and ends late. Atrocities occur nearly every week on our way to the synagogue (in traditional Jewish clothing) and are mainly committed by the aforementioned English tourists. Shouts of “shot Jewish”, “kill Jewish” and “heil Hitler” have become frequent. Incidents that may almost be considered as physical atrocities are not rare either.”*

Szabó gave an interview to Népszava and told that on Friday 3 and around midday the following day, he was abused at the junction of Dohány Street and Síp Street. It has happened to him sometimes that a larger group of drunk tourists encircled him, and he thought he’d better leave as soon as possible. Other times, when the balance of power is more even, he sometimes “kicks their butts”. This attitude sometimes achieves the desired impact, and a frightened tourist apologizes and says he or she did not mean

it that way. György Szabó does not want to go to the police station. Something must be done, however, and that is why he would like to raise awareness with his post. He is afraid that the situation is going to get worse and verbal attacks will sooner or later be followed by physical abuse.

To prevent such anti-Semitic atrocities, Action and Protection Foundation (APF) decided to set up a *“self-organized security service”* in Budapest’s party district. Secretary of APF, Kálmán Szalai talked about this service to Népszava. Szalai said that the security service would like to forestall that *“the plague of growing anti-Semitism in Northern and Western Europe would be imported”* to Hungary. He said they will do everything possible to prevent *“Budapest from becoming a place like some big cities in Western Europe”*, in terms of safety.

Anti-Semitic film screened at CEU, Palestinian flag raised

Source: origo.hu; mandiner.hu; Action and Protection Foundation

15 May 2019 One of CEU’s student organizations that is openly anti-Israeli held a commemoration on Nakba Day, a day of mourning for the Palestinians. A film from Jasbir Puar was screened at the event. This very film was banned by the Al Jazeera news portal in Qatar responding to pressure from the US government because the film is anti-Semitic.

Israeli independence was proclaimed on 14 May 1948 by David Ben-Gurion, who then became the first Prime Minister of the Jewish state. As a result, part of the rather scanty Palestinian population of Israel left the territory of the Jewish state. Based on different estimates, 700-750 thousand Pa-

lestinians became homeless. At the same time, approximately 800-900 thousand Jews were driven away from Islamic countries, from Morocco through Egypt to Iran, Jews who had been living in these countries for 2,000 years and who were taken in by Israel.

On the Nakba memorial day, students of CEU screened a film entitled The Lobby – USA. The film was made by Jasbir Puar, an anti-Israeli activist with Palestinian background who is now living in the States. Puar made the film for the Al Jazeera news portal in Qatar. Responding to pressure from the US government, the film was banned as its content was anti-Semitic. It branded Israel an apartheid state, spread conspiracy theories about the Jewish state and the relationship between Jerusalem and Washington. Despite all this, the film still came out. Action and Protection Foundation, finds it intolerable that a university spreads such extremist views and anti-Semitic films.

Street signed changed to 'Hitler Adolf park' in Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; kuruc.info

18 May 2019 At the beginning of May, a park demarcated by Clark Ádám Square, Lánchíd Street and the Friedrich Born Embankment in Budapest District 1 was named as Jeruzsálem park ('Jerusalem park'). Kuruc.info extremist site reported that unknown individuals covered the original text on the street sign and changed it to 'Hitler Adolf park'.



source: kuruc.info

A colleague of APF arrived at the site and saw remains of the covering stickers but the inappropriate label had been removed.

Anti-Semitic writing on a DK campaign poster

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; facebook.com

27 May 2019 President of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) body of rabbis and director of the rabbinate at the Jewish Community of Budapest (BZSH) Zoltán Radnóti posted a picture he took near Keleti railway station (Budapest) on Facebook. The photo is of a poster of the EP elections with Dobrev Klára of DK. Unknown individuals shredded parts of the poster and wrote "Jewish bitch" on Dobrev's face.

Anti-Semitic writing on a Fidesz-KDNP campaign poster

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; facebook.com



source: facebook.com

29 May 2019 A volunteer of APF notified us about an anti-Semitic writing.

Unknown individuals wrote 'wanker Orbán' and 'wanker Jews' on an EP elections campaign poster of Fidesz-KDNP near the market in Békásmegyér, Óbuda. When our colleague arrived at the site, the writings had already been removed.



source: Action and Protection Foundation

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During May 2019 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified no incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime which are classified as hate crimes but we would not include them in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature, the lack of clear anti-Semitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Based on EJC's annual report, anti-Semitism spreads fast in Europe

Source: index.hu

1 May 2019 An annual rise of 74% in France and a rise of 70% in Germany were recorded in the number of registered incidents of anti-Semitic violence – states the recently published annual report of the European Jewish Congress. The study was conducted by the Kantor Center of Israel. They report that anti-Semitism has again be „normalized”, it is no longer an issue confined to the activity of the far left, far right and radical Islamists triangle – it has mainstreamed and became an integral part of life.

The Kantor Center monitored 387 anti-Semitic violent cases worldwide in 2018, which is a 13% increase. Most of these cases took place in the US (over 100), the UK (68), Germany and France (35 each). According to the report, the situation is especially bad in countries of Western Europe. The EU's annual report on human rights has also come to serious conclusions recently; based on their findings, 38% of European Jewry is considering emigration because they do not feel safe.

The EJC's report has a brief chapter on Hungary, too. The report presents that the 2018 FRA Survey showed that the majority of Hungarian Jews believe that anti-Semitism has increased, and 31% of them think it has increased a lot. According to the report, anti-Semitic incidents in Hungary in 2018 included 18 cases of hate speech, 9 incidents of vandalism and 3 incidents of assault. They also write about the campaign against Soros, saying that it is controversial and perceived by some as having

anti-Semitic connotations.

We presented in our previous monthly report that our annual report shows a less alarming situation. APF recorded 32 anti-Semitic hate incidents in 2018, which is 4 fewer than in 2017. We monitored 48 cases in 2016, 52 in 2015, and 37 in 2014. Cases of 2018 included 3 incidents of assault, 10 incidents of vandalism, and 19 cases of hate speech. Perpetrators were always men, and we found no evidence for organized conduct in any of the cases.

US Special Envoy to Combat Anti-Semitism in Hungary

Source: szombat.hu

10 May 2019 Elan S. Carr, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism of the US Department of State, paid an official visit to Hungary. He participated in a talk about the situation of the Hungarian Jewry, their relationship to the government and anti-Semitism in Hungary. APF was represented by our Secretary, Kálmán Szalai at the talk. As part of his official program, Carr laid a memorial stone at the Emanuel Tree and visited the Dohány Street

Synagogue.

New plans for House of Fates project

Source: klubradio.hu

31 May 2019 The Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) started to develop a whole new concept for the House of Fates. Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves told Klubrádió that EMIH is now in charge of the operation of the House of Fates. They decided to work with a new group



of experts, and Mária Schmidt no longer participates in the project. The Rabbi also said that numerous internationally renowned historians and curators were invited to work on the project and the head of their professional committee is Yitzhak Mais, former director of Yad Vashem museum. Hungarian experts were also asked to participate but their names are not yet public.

“The House of Fates project would like to evoke a collective, social catharsis, the future museum will want to give a sense of resolution when presenting the history of the Hungarian

Holocaust” – said Köves in the interview.

The Executive Rabbi also highlighted that the museum will portray that anti-Semitism was part of official Hungarian politics and that the Hungarian government played an active role in deportations in 1944. Köves believes it is good that the House of Fates is operated by a Jewish federation and not by the government, but it cannot solely be owned by EMIH. Works on the new exhibition may start in a year, at the earliest.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Péter Szijjártó's visit to the Hasidic community in Brooklyn

Source: MTI; neokohn.hu; magyar-narancs.hu; index.hu

15 May 2019 The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade met representatives of the Hasidic Jewish community in New York. They discussed the deteriorating state of Jewish cemeteries in Hungary and Szijjártó promised to act on the matter. He also gave a Hungarian passport to a leader of the Brooklyn's Hasidic community, as Moshe Leib Rabinovich was born in Munkács in 1940. Although the rebbe from Munkács does not speak Hungarian, Hungarian identity is important to him.



source: MTI

Szijjártó gave an interview to Israeli news portal i24 News in New York. He said that the United States and Hungary are on the same side when it comes to taking a fair and balanced stance about Israel. The Minister mentioned that Hungary has recently opened a commercial agency in Jerusalem, „but they do not plan to move the embassy from Tel Aviv”. He also said that Hungary has established a strategic allian-

ce and a good friendship with Israel. Hungary has zero tolerance against anti-Semitism and is proud of the results of this policy. Holocaust denial may be punished with imprisonment in Hungary and the government not only funds the reconstruction and renovation of synagogues in the territory of Hungary but outside the country, too.

Viktor Orbán: The Jewish community may here be the safest in Europe

Source: MTI

24 May 2019 Viktor Orbán gave an interview to German newspaper Bild, the interview was reviewed by MTI. Orbán was asked about foreign policy issues, the European People's Party, his visit to Donald Trump and about Manfred Weber. With regards to his American visit, the Prime Minister said that the two countries were in different leagues, but they were both successful in their own league. He stated that the US economy is growing faster than before, the two countries agree thoroughly on the topic of immigration and they both stand up for Israel to be treated fairly.

About George Soros, Orbán said that the debate between him and Soros had nothing to do with anti-Semitism. He said the problem was casino capitalism, speculators and NGOs that serve political interests and whose finances are not transparent. The Prime Minister stressed that Hungary has zero tolerance against anti-Semitism and that the Jewish community of Hungary may be the safest in all of Europe.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Bernard-Henri Lévy's long article about his talk with Orbán

Source: rtlklub.hu

10 May 2019 We presented in our April report that the French philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy had an over two-hour meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Lévy said then that their talk was brutal but honest. Now he wrote a long article about the talk, which also covered Béla Kun and anti-Semitism.

Lévy wrote that when Orbán said Italy was in the front line against the migrants, it seemed to him as if this was a war for the Hungarian PM. He asked Orbán if he was not sounding like the anti-Semites who remained anti-Semites after the war while nearly all the Jews were dead or deported. *"You can't talk like that. I have the best relations in the world with Israel"* – said Orbán.

When asked about Miklós Horthy, Orbán said he was part of Hungary's history. *"We have him to thank for ridding us of Béla Kun."* In response to another question, however, he admitted that Horthy should have left at the time of the German occupation.

Péter Szijjártó asked about Orbán and Trump's meeting on CNN

Source: origo.hu; 24.hu

15 May 2019 Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán had a meeting with President of the United States Donald Trump on 13 May. After the meeting, Péter Szijjártó was interviewed on CNN's evening program hosted by Hala Gorani. The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade said the atmosphere was very welcoming at the talk, but it was not surprising as the two leaders had the same approach to the issues of immigration, terrorism and protecting Christians.

When Gorani asked which Christian communities need to be protected in Europe,

Szijjártó answered that no one said that was necessary, the two leaders talked about the need to protect Christians globally. The Minister mentioned that Hungary launched the so-called 'Hungary Helps' program to provide help to persecuted Christians all over the world, but especially to those living in the Middle East. The Hungarian government would like to help Christian communities to return home by building them houses, schools and hospitals – said the Minister.

Gorani interrupted Orbán at this point and said that Trump praised the Hungarian government because they had built a fence on the Southern border of Hungary, which had something to do with protecting European Christians after all.

Szijjártó said that Hungary has a stern immigration policy. Then he agreed with Gorani that they are worried about Hungary's Christian identity because of illegal immigrants. He believed the very reason of growing anti-Semitism in Europe was migration, against which the Hungarian government still takes firm action.

According to Hala Gorani, the Hungarian government does not fight against anti-Semitism because they campaign against George Soros. In response to this, Szijjártó said this was fake news because whenever the Hungarian government talked about Soros, they never mentioned his religion or heritage. They only express why they do not agree with Soros' political views.



source: CNN

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

APF did not start any legal proceedings in May 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.	1st of May	Based on EJC's annual report, anti-Semitism spreads fast in Europe	Community News And Responses
2.	3rd and 8th of May	Drunk tourists maltreat religious Jews in party district	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
3.	10th of May	US Special Envoy to Combat Anti-Semitism in Hungary	Community News And Responses
4.	10th of May	Bernard-Henri Lévy's long article about his talk with Orbán	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
5.	15th of May	Anti-Semitic film screened at CEU, Palestinian flag raised	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
6.	15th of May	Péter Szijjártó's visit to the Hasidic community in Brooklyn	Official and Civil Responses
7.	15th of May	Péter Szijjártó asked about Orbán and Trump's meeting on CNN	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
8.	18th of May	Street signed changed to ' Hitler Adolf park' in Budapest	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
9.	24th of May	Viktor Orbán: The Jewish community may here be the safest in Europe	Official and Civil Responses
10.	27th of May	Anti-Semitic writing on a DK campaign poster	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
11.	29th of May	Anti-Semitic writing on a Fidesz-KDNP campaign poster	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
12.	31th of May	New plans for House of Fates project	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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