

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

AUGUST 2019

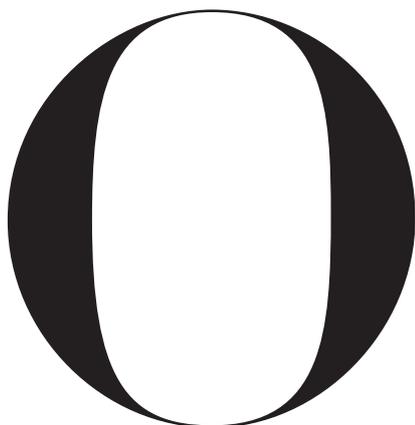


BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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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. An-

ti-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) identified two incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime this month. The incidents are classified as hate speech. The first incident took place during the Dorog-MTK Hungarian National Championship II match where harsh, anti-Semitic rhymes were chanted. The second incident was an anti-Semitic assault against Chairman of the Commemorative Committee for the Hungarian Jewish Freedom Fighters (MAZSISZEM).

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents one case this month. A volunteer working at the European Maccabi Games was assaulted – anti-Semitic motives behind the assault have not yet been proven.

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 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

¹ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

civil organizations 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 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 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
 - 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
 - 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.

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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 – AUGUST 2019

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

HATE SPEECH

Racist rhymes chanted during Dorog-MTK match

Source: nepszava.hu; 444.hu; merce.hu; ns.hu; twitter.com

15-16, 23 August 2019 On 15 August, Népszava reported first that harsh, anti-Semitic rhymes were chanted on several occasions during the Dorog-MTK Hungarian National Championship II football match on 10 August.

According to the personal reportage Népszava published, in addition to the well-known shouts of “*filthy Jews*”, a group of approximately 100 people were chanting “*Only through the chimney!*” and “*Flee and save yourselves! Flee and save yourselves!*” and were throwing things at visiting supporters.

Based on the official information published on the Hungarian Football Federation’s website, the Federation does not address circumstances arising at matches as it seemed that neither the referee nor the Federation’s inspector registered the disturbance in their reports. Népszava presented in their article that according to international standards, a match shall be stopped if anti-Semitic chants are sung, supporters should be warned and in case they do not finish chanting, the match should be cancelled and the football federation has to begin an investigation.

On MTK’s website, the club wrote that upon their supporters’ request, their leadership filed a written complaint at the Hungarian Football Federation.

“We distance ourselves fully from all forms of racism and anti-Semitism and expect all parties

and competent bodies of Hungarian national football to do their bests to prevent such cases from happening in the future” – they wrote.

On the following day, the official twitter account of the Hungarian Football Federation posted that “*the Disciplinary Committee of the Hungarian Football Federation initiated disciplinary proceedings in relation to last weekend’s Dorogi FC-MTK Budapest Hungarian National Championship II men’s football match.*”

A week later they announced that Dorogi FC’s team received a fine of HUF 200,000. The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) sanctions racist chanting with closing stadium sectors or a minimum of EUR 5,000 (HUF 1,6 million) – stated Népszava. The article also said that “*although the Hungarian Football Federation propagates they have zero tolerance against racism and anti-Semitism, they do not suspend their referee who completely ignored the chants, and apart from imposing a symbolic fine, they did not really sanction this shameful incident.*”

Anti-Semitic assault against a cantor from Nyíregyháza

Source: MTI

16 August 2019 The Commemorative Committee for the Hungarian Jewish Freedom Fighters (MAZSISZEM) sent a communication to MTI and reported that their chairman had been assaulted. Dániel Imre Rosenfeld has served as cantor in the Nyíregyháza Synagogue for over a year.

In the early evening of 15 August, Rosenfeld was on his way back to the congregation on Vay Ádám körút with someone else. A group of five young men with bicycles were first provoking each other, then started to follow the cantor and his companion and were shouting and singing hateful and inciting messages addressed to them and the whole of the Jewish community. They were also spitting and swiping their arms: “*filthy Jews belong to gas chambers, Jews to gas cham-*

bers, sieg heil... "

Soon afterwards, a group of policemen arrived at the synagogue and based on video recordings and information available, they started a manhunt against the offenders.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During August 2019 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime which is classified as hate crime but we do not include it in our most recent statistics due to its insignificant nature, the lack of clear anti-Semitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

Elderly volunteer of Maccabi Games assaulted

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

1 August 2019 Index reported that a volunteer of the European Maccabi Games, held in Budapest this year, was assaulted. The press office of the Games confirmed the news.

The incident happened in the early evening of Monday, 29 July. A retired man, who worked at the Maccabi Games as a volunteer, was assaulted. A tram driver called the police to the injured man and an ambulance took him to hospital. After being examined, he was able to go home. After two days of rest, he started working at the Games again.

“Based on the victim’s account and the information authorities have gathered, there are no indications that the assault has anything to do with the fact that the victim works as a volunteer supporter at the Games. Yet, organizers of the 15th European Maccabi Games contacted the authorities and requested they find out whether there is any link between the assault and the volunteer status of the victim.” – wrote the press office of the Games.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Action and Protection League is to be present in six-eight countries already this year

Source: magyarhirlap.hu

10 August 2019 “*The organizational process has begun, we have started developing a comprehensive monitoring system for anti-Semitic incidents and involving all stakeholders into the process.*” – Secretary of APF Kálmán Szalai informed Magyar Hírlap about Action and Protection League.

Magyar Hírlap wrote that the state supports the initiative with government funds and by that, Hungary contributes to the fight against anti-Semitism in Europe.

The organization is active in the fields of legislation, justice, monitoring-research and education. Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves was the first to propose the idea of the initiative, which was welcomed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Jewish communities in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Spain.

One objective of the League is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the legal systems in EU member states and suggest unified legislative procedures to be able to fight anti-Semitism effectively. There will be a 24-hour hotline available to report anti-Semitic incidents, national curricula and applied educational materials will be assessed and there will be suggestions on how to monitor anti-Semitism appearing in the media, social media and the public life of different member states. Monitoring reports will also be published in all 28 member states, including the Arabic and Turkish-language media and social media.

Kálmán Szalai told Magyar Hírlap that APF will first publish monitoring reports in countries where there is little information available to date, but where it is presumable that problems arise in relation to prejudice and addressing incidents. This may concern 6-8 countries this year,

the Secretary named some Scandinavian countries among them while organizational work has also begun in countries of the Visegrad Group.

Szalai confirmed that another one of the League’s objectives is to develop a new research method with which the levels and tendencies of anti-Semitic prejudice could be compared in European countries.

Slomó Köves previously told Magyar Hírlap the fact that the government supports such an initiative clearly means the fight against anti-Semitism is important to Hungary and that our country, which is one of the most important European allies of Israel, also motivates other governments to take similar measures.

Hungary has the most Jewish descendants after Israel

Source: MTI

13 August 2019 According to recent research based on 1,800,000 people’s DNA tests, out of 100 countries, Hungary has the most residents of Jewish origin after Israel – reported Israeli news site Yedioth Ahronoth.

A genealogy organization called MyHeritage conducted the research and they concluded that after Israel, Hungary has the highest percentage of Jewish descendants, outnumbering even the United States. Yedioth Ahronoth wrote that demographers were rather surprised by the results. Statistician and demographic expert at the Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI) Daniel Sztacki, who is also head of the department studying the demography of European Ashkenazi Jews, assisted MyHeritage in the research.

Although in the 2013 census in Hungary only 10,965 people declared themselves Jewish, professor András Kovács estimated that the number of Hungarians with at least one Jewish parent should be between 73,000 and 138,000. This estimate

corresponds to the findings of MyHeritage – wrote the Israeli news site.

Slomó Köves: Budapest is one of the region's safest cities

Source: neokohn.hu; magyarhirlap.hu

27 August 2019 “*Budapest has become one of the region's safest cities where no one needs to worry about being Jewish*” – told Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves to Neokohn.hu in relation to a Washington Post article about Hungarian Jewish communities. The American newspaper quoted from the Executive Rabbi but did not publish his communication in its entirety. On the other hand, the article shared that there is a new concept behind the implementation of the House of Fates project. Professor Yitzhak Mais, who was director of the Yad Vashem Museum for 20 years, is going to co-ordinate the preparatory works of the project and the institute is planned to open in 2021. The museum in Józsefváros has been under controversy for years, the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (MAZSIHISZ) is one the project's main critics in Hungary.

The Executive Rabbi told he did not personally like the so-called anti-Soros campaign but as opposed to accusations, he did not think it was anti-Semitic. Based on the social research results Median Public Opinion and Market Research Institute published and made available to the public, only 2% of the Hungarian population associate George Soros to Jews. For most people who are susceptible to conspiracy theories, Soros is an immoral globalist-capitalist but not a Jew – said Slomó Köves. In his opinion, an average Hungarian voter is much more likely to associate Israel to the Jewish community and in contrary to the stigmatizing and labelling policies of the EU, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán offered support to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and said Israel was an exemplary country that sets a precedent to others.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Mihály Takaró works on establishing a national core curriculum

Source: magyarhang.org; 444.hu; hvg.hu

emotions have been expressed again, it is sad that despite his history, Takaró could receive such a role.

9 August 2019 Parliamentary Secretary of State at the Ministry of Human Resources Bence Rétvári confirmed that literary historian Mihály Takaró, famous for his extreme right views, is among the experts working on establishing and developing a new national core curriculum, he is member of the committee supervising the framework curricula for Hungarian literature and grammar.

Previously, hvg.hu and 24.hu wrote that the Ministry of Human Resources commissioned Mihály Takaró to propose adjustments to the national curriculum and make it “*Christian and national*”. At the time, the press office of the Ministry requested rectification from the editorial offices claiming they did not have an existing contract with Mihály Takaró. On the other hand, they did not deny that the literary historian was involved in working on the adjustments.

News portals published at the beginning of July that Takaró, who had said the anti-Semitic József Nyír and devotee of the numerus clausus principle Cécile Tormay were geniuses while Nyugat was a small little Jewish journal, received a role in adjusting the national curriculum according to patriotic considerations. Following this, the Ministry of Human Resources requested rectification from the portals’ editorial offices claiming they did not have an existing contract with Mihály Takaró. Yet, they did not deny the literary historian was involved in working on the adjustments. (At the time, APF did not report on the incident because Takaró’s role was not confirmed.)

Many were outraged that a man who is openly anti-Semitic could take a role in adjusting the national curriculum. Similar

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

*Jewish Telegraphic Agency article about
co-operation with Jobbik*

Source: szombat.org, jta.org

13 August 2019 *“In Hungary, some left-wing Jews are ready to work with a far-right party led by a former Nazi”* – wrote Cnaan Liphshiz, reporter for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA). His article was reviewed by szombat.org.

Author of the JTA article focused on the cooperation of Hungarian opposition parties in his article. He wrote that there are people, even inside MAZSIHISZ, who see Jobbik as a legitimate partner, despite its virulent racism.

“For the past three, four years, MAZSIHISZ has indeed been much less critical of Jobbik” – said former MAZSIHISZ president Peter Feldmayer. *“Someone [at MAZSIHISZ] has figured out that the left-wing opposition must join forces with Nazis to overthrow Fidesz.”* Feldmayer called this a disgrace and a betrayal.

On the other hand, MAZSIHISZ denied endorsing the deal between the left wing and Jobbik, and said they were not allied with any party. *“We have never had, we do not have and we will not have any relation with Jobbik”* – MAZSIHISZ president András Heisler told JTA. He also doubted Jobbik’s sincerity about opposing anti-Semitism, given that the party’s leaders have made anti-Semitic statements.

Rabbi Shmuel Glitsenstein, one of the 17 rabbis working for the Chabad-affiliated EMIH rabbinical group in Hungary, strongly disagrees with the idea that Fidesz is a threat to Jews. He told JTA that *“from a Jewish perspective, the Orban governments have been close to ideal”*.

Ábel Kőszeghy, Jobbik's former press secretary for the county. His wife is a candidate in the 7th constituency. In 2013, a few weeks after certain press organs published that the main actor of the series Horst Tappert and Derrick was probably member of the Waffen SS at the end of the Second World War, Kőszeghy wore a T-shirt with Horst Tappert on it at a press conference.

444.hu contacted Momentum first and asked why they agreed to support Kulcsár with the history he has. President of Momentum in Debrecen László Mándi said they believed people could change. The day after this however, Kulcsár wrote on his social networking site that he did not want to spoil the chances of the party alliance, so he stood down. President of Momentum Movement András Fekete-Győr also apologized on his social networking site. He wrote they were sorry about making people feel disappointed by supporting a candidate whose behavior had been disgraceful. He said they learnt from the mistake, they requested Jobbik withdrew their candidate and thanked people for their worrying messages.

Another Jobbik member, Ádám Mirkóczki is joint candidate of the opposition in Eger although a few years ago, similarly to all other Jobbik members, he claimed he would never co-operate with left-liberal parties. The Jobbik politician, who once even marched wearing a vest of the Hungarian Guard against Gyurcsány, now thinks that the rhetoric before 2010 was not true, and compared to now, even the darkest times of the Medgyessy, Gyurcsány and Bajnai eras were golden ages of democracy. What is more, Jobbik and Mirkóczki now wants to form alliance with DK, MSZP and Momentum in Eger – wrote Magyar Hírlap.

Mirkóczki is known for several intolerably extreme, anti-Semitic and racist expressions. A few years ago, for example, there was a debate in the Parliament about increasing Jews' life annuities and

Mirkóczki reasoned against it. He said it's like a card with which you can take it all and if somebody is annoyed by it, they are labelled with stigmas he did not want to enlist again.

Anti-Semitic mayor of Edelény supported by ruling party

Source: hvg.hu

27 August 2019 Mayor of Edelény Oszkár Molnár announced on his Facebook page he would run again as mayor candidate in the local elections in October. He said he was an independent candidate although he enjoyed the support of Fidesz-KDNP.

Oszkár Molnár was member of Fidesz until 2010. The party started to gradually withdraw confidence when a local television recording became public in 2009. Molnár said in the recording that he loved Hungary, loved Hungarian people and he gave priority to Hungarian interests over global financial capital or Jewish big business, if you will, which wanted to acquire the whole world and especially Hungary.

Later, Molnár also expressed his discriminative views against the Roma and the homosexuals. At the time, even Viktor Orbán said his statements were embarrassing. He was excluded from the party when he wanted to run as an independent candidate in the 2010 parliamentary elections against a Fidesz candidate. Molnár won the elections and he became the only independent MP for that term. In 2014, he decided to run as an independent mayor candidate in Edelény and has led the town since then.

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

APF did not start any legal proceedings in August 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 August	Elderly volunteer of Maccabi Games assaulted	Further Hate Incidents
2.	2nd of August	Not much space was left for us – said Former Pax Hungarica leader to Mandiner	Other News
3.	9th of August	Mihály Takaró works on establishing a national core curriculum	Official and Civil Responses
4.	10th of August	Action and Protection League is to be present in six-eight countries already this year	Community News And Responses
5.	13th of August	Hungary has the most Jewish descendants after Israel	Community News And Responses
6.	13th of August	Jewish Telegraphic Agency article about co-operation with Jobbik	News and Opinions about Anti-semitism in Hungary
7.	15-16th & 23rd of August	Racist rhymes chanted during Dorog-MTK match	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
8.	16th of August	Anti-Semitic assault against a cantor from Nyíregyháza	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
9.	24th & 26-27th of August	Gergely Kulcsár, who once spat on the Shoes on the Danube Bank, stepped down from candidacy	Other News
10.	27th of August	Slomó Köves: Budapest is one of the region's safest cities	Community News And Responses
11.	27th of August	Anti-Semitic mayor of Edelény supported by ruling party	Other News

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 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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