

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

NOVEMBER 2019



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A significant part of combating antisemitism is monitoring of the prevalence of antisemitic incidents. One of the aims of the Action and Protection League (APL) is to heighten the awareness of antisemitism in the society. The primary tool in achieving this is continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes in public life. Neither Jewish communities nor individual Jews can be protected unless there is data on antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes and that these are collected and analysed. The data collected by the Action and Protection League are published in monthly reports, and a summary of the findings is published for the individual countries/regions in a yearly report.

The reports deal with two forms of behaviour: antisemitic hate crimes and hate-motivated incidents. Both types of behaviour are referred to as "*hate incidents*" in the reports. The main difference between an antisemitic hate crime and other hate crimes is that the former possesses an antisemitic motive. Due to differences in legislation and application of legislation

in various countries, there are different interpretations of which antisemitic incidents that are violations of criminal law. In addition are some hate-motivated acts, albeit troubling for Jews, not considered criminal if they, e.g., are considered belonging to the realm of freedom of speech. The APL considers it essential to record both types of hate incidents in order to gain a general overview and to make it possible to analyse changes over time.

In order to have the most extensive scope possible, the APL uses a variety of sources simultaneously. The incidents are not only recorded, but the characteristics of the individual incident is also analysed. The data recorded includes the incident's location, the perpetrator (if known), victim, and consequences (if any). In addition, are the various types of incidents differentiated in the reports.

Action and Protection League (APL) identified three incidents of antisemitic hate crime this month. The incidents are classified as hate speech. In the first case, an antisemitic caricature was published on *vadhajtások.hu* portal that was also shared and posted by *888.hu*. The drawing depicted one of the journalists of Index. Another similar case occurred a few days later, as posters appeared in several places in Budapest portraying two journalists of Index, Gábor Miklósi and András Dezső in front of the Israeli flag, with the inscription "*We also came from across the border.*" The caption below said "*Index – constant whining, latent antihungarians, treason.*" In the third case, Lajos Kósa made distasteful antisemitic remarks in his speech at the renewal congress of Fidelitas.

This month, there are three news items in the Further Hate Incidents section. This section includes news items and events that can be hate incidents, however, because their time of occurrence is unknown, or due to insignificance or lack of clear antisemitic intent, they are not part of the statistics.

This month we reported about one legal procedure. Our Foundation filed a complaint on grounds of violence against members of the community. In this month's report, we deal with the case in detail: posters featuring two journalists for Index, Gábor Miklósi and András Dezső, in front of the Israeli flag appeared in several places in Budapest.

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

In the last decade there has been a rise in antisemitism in Europe. Surveys by e.g. the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)¹ and the ADL Global 100² show a broad spectrum of antisemitism and how it fluctuates over time.

The character of antisemitic incidents is quite different in the monitored countries concerning content, expressions, and perpetrators. Current antisemitism is mainly connected to Islamism, Far-right groups, and Far-left groups. Islamist expressions are most frequent in countries with large Muslim populations in Western Europe and uncommon in Eastern and Central Europe. Far-left expressions of antisemitism can often be found disguised as Antizionism in Western Europe and is often connected to the conflict in the Middle East. In East and Central Europe, right-wing expressions of prejudice against Jews frequently have old roots, not only among groups related to Fascism and Nazism, but at times also in populist-nationalist settings. In several countries Jews have found themselves under more threat during the last decade. This does not only include physical attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions but is also visible in the growth of conspiracy theories, online hatred, and political campaigns favouring banning of, e.g., brit milah and kashrut.

Countering antisemitism becomes an increasingly urgent issue for Europe. Action and Protection League of Europe (APL) has been established to explore the causes of modern-day antisemitism and to implement effective defense.

ABOUT THE REPORT

The general opinion on, and treatment of, antisemitism often takes extreme forms. On the one hand, some voices try to belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion, one-off incidents are exaggerated in the public arena to such an extent that they give the impression that they are frequent or a regular part of daily life. Knowledge of the actual situation(s) is an indispensable condition for the treatment of real problems. Monitoring of antisemitic hate crimes and incidents³ is one of the tools used in achieving this objective.

From 2019 the Action and Protection League has decided to monitor seven European countries. In the first stage, data is collected from seven countries: Austria, Czechia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Sweden, and more countries will be added later. All countries have their own particularities and vast differences when it comes to the monitoring of antisemitism – in some cases, there are several organisations with similar goals as the APL and in other countries, few or no similar activities. In no case will APL try to replace existing organisations, but rather seek cooperation and exchange of data.

Apart from the monthly reports, an annual summary review, including more detailed analyses on the incidents, is published. All reports are published in English, and almost all are published in the local language.

The fight against hate crimes is of utmost importance since it differs from many other forms of criminal conduct. On one level can these crimes and incidents can be considered as messages. They are not only about the victim in question but points to a larger group. Antisemitism and other hate crimes are thus not only attacks against individuals, but the social fabric of the society as a whole. This does not, of course, diminish the distress and psychological trauma which individual victims might

suffer. These crimes are often not “only” against property or lead to physical threat of individuals, but it also concerns self-dignity. The offenses indicate that the victim is not an equal member or a member at all of the society. Since hate crimes, in general, target victims due to some unchangeable characteristics (real or imagined), the victim becomes almost defenseless. Victims often fear that they may again be targets of similar incidents or worse atrocities if they identify perpetrators to relevant authorities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents may easily lead to secondary victimization where the victim can be led to believe that it was their fault, e.g., by not being careful enough, etc. This type of criminal act also, as mentioned, has an effect on the group as a whole. The victims of these crimes are often interchangeable, since they are not targeted at individuals and any other member could just as well have been targeted. This means that all members of the targeted group become potential victims and might live in fear of a future when they themselves may be the target of a prejudice-motivated crime. This situation is particularly poignant for groups that have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length why Jews belong among such groups. These crimes undermine the fundamental value that all members of a society are of equal value. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the society as a whole. Not only may it encourage the perpetrators to commit further crimes, but it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society as a whole⁴.

It is not an exaggeration to state that fewer hate crimes are reported and documented than are committed. The discrepancy between committed crimes and reported crimes vary significantly between different countries is not necessarily connected to the number of Jews. A contributing fac-

³ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

⁴ Levin & McDevitt 1999, 92-93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19-21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17-18; Perry 2001, 10).

tor to the under-reporting is that victims rarely report them to the police or relevant authority. There are several causes for this: many victims are not convinced that the authorities will handle the matter adequately, either because they lack the competence or that they are prejudiced. In addition, many victims are unaware of applicable laws or where to turn for help. Furthermore, some victims are worried that their concealed traits will be exposed and that they might suffer more by reporting incidents. Victims might also fear that authorities will not be able to prove a hate-crime motivation and that reporting is thus useless.

It is civic organizations that can help remedy these problems. These organizations can cooperate with police and relevant authorities, but also an intermediary between victim and authority. Reports by civic organizations can be expedient in alerting official authorities on hate-motivated crimes, and long-term tendencies can be outlined through the use of collected data. Civil organizations can prepare cases for legal process, may provide legal defense for victims, and give other forms of aid and support.

METHODOLOGY

The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows⁵ (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 people⁶
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a specific 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. Although there is a widely accepted definition of antisemitism (see IHRA 2017), there is currently no consistent definition of hate crimes in the countries monitored by the APL.

In addition are the legal consequences different in the monitored countries. This means that an incident which a crime in one country could be legal in another. The obvious example concerns the so-called Holocaust denial, which, e.g., is outlawed in Hungary, but legal in several countries monitored by APL. Since the Action and Protection League has a broad scope when it comes to data collection, everything is covered in the reports, but in some instances, similar acts are filed as a crime in one country and "only" an incident in another. In every case, we follow the definitions in the criminal code of the individual countries. We estimate that this problem will diminish over time due to the adaptation of the same definitions and legislation in the European Union.

Our reports contain detailed descriptions of the definition of hate incidents and our approach to solving the problems. The reports

are based on sources taken from international, independent monitoring services, local informants as well as data collected by other organizations working with same or similar issues.

The monthly report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by antisemitism in the broadest possible sense: perpetrator, target, means, or message. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument, or other property. It is essential, however, that an antisemitic motivation can be established. This means that the perpetrator chose the given target on the basis that he/she was Jewish or perceived as being Jewish. It is thus not relevant whether the assumption is correct or not: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient.

In the course of monitoring, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are also considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code in the individual country (e.g. 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 etc.), 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 are recorded during the monitoring period⁷ and are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by antisemitism.

For the broadest possible scope in monitoring antisemitic hate incidents, the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. In addition to media monitoring, reports from local informants the Action and Protection League also rely on reports filed by victims. In Hungary, the Action and Protection League has a 24-hours-a-day Hotline that serves to

⁵ 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.

⁶ For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behaviour would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

⁷ These indicators are described in the Methodology section

ease the passage of reports. The goal is to supply a similar service for the other countries so reports can be filed in the local languages. It is also possible to file reports anonymously online. Such reports will be of especially great importance to this study. If a victim cannot or does not want to file a report, the APL can use an intermediary to help the victim in the process. Such an intermediary may be a family member, an acquaintance of the victim, a witness of the incident, or another civil organization.

It is a declared objective of the League to be in close contact with the authorities, since in some countries, they are the first to be approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent relevant 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 online hatred as a phenomenon that is continually growing.

The public discourses are monitored by a team of experts. One of our aims is to cover the 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 comment arenas and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried out systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

Among the monitored hate incidents, some are considered a part of the statistics, but some are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics.⁸

The categories for hate incidents that are included in the statistics are as follow:

- The hate incidents have to have occurred in the countries monitored; no matter whether the victim is a citizen of the country or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an antisemitic intent or content can be proven, or if the victim was attacked for being Jewish or due to an as-

sumed Jewish identity

- Deliberate and wanton impairment of any Jewish institution or building (even if no further, antisemitic message was paired with the vandalism [for example, a Jewish synagogue's window is broken with a stone])
- Antisemitic comments that have been reported to Action and Protection League appearing on blogs, forums, community pages and similar.
- Antisemitic and neo-Nazi material delivered to particular Jewish individuals, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Antisemitic and neo-Nazi material deposited at Jewish-owned property, Jewish organizations, institutions or similar
- Criticism related to Israel and Zionism, if they go beyond a political statement and serve to recall traditional antijewish stereotypes
- Moreover, events apt to raise fear among Jews.

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics⁹ :

- Antisemitic hate incidents that are related to the countries monitored and Jewry in these countries, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in the country in question, antisemitic intent cannot be proven, or the circumstances are unclear)
- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online forums, but have not been reported to Action and Protection League.
- Other news that only indirectly are linked to antisemitism

A number of the aspects of the registered incidents are recorded. The indicators that help decide whether a given incident was motivated by prejudice are mentioned above.

These indicators pertain to various characteristics of the perpetrator, data concerning the victim, the time and location of the

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.

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 — possible 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 follows¹⁰:

- 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 environment in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often the processes, rather than separately occurring events (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which leads to a better understanding of the environment surrounding the incidents.¹¹ In presenting timelines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹⁰ CEJI 2012, 10–12

¹¹ These descriptions, in particular, are held to be the most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

– NOVEMBER 2019

Based on the known sources, Action and Protection League (APL) found three antisemitic hate incidents over the course of its monitoring activities in November. The incidents are classified as hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

An Index journalist was portrayed in an antisemitic manner

Source: elemi.hu; hirtv.hu; magyarnemzet.hu

19 November 2019 A portal called *vadhajtások.hu* published an antisemitic caricature that was also shared and posted by *888.hu* in agreement. The caricature features a journalist of Index. Several journalists were present at the opening of Puskás Arena, including Gábor Miklósi from Index. When children coming from the historic region of Upper Hungary sang the song *Nélküled (Without you)* by the band *Ismerős arcok (Familiar Faces)*, he stayed seated staring in front of him without any intention of protesting, as many other people in the stadium did. Miklósi told Index that he didn't know the song and didn't like it, he found it corny, so he didn't stand up. Origo and Tények reported, however, that the Index employee had deliberately humiliated the singing Hungarian children coming from the historic region of Upper Hungary.

Following this analogy, the *888.hu* portal



source: vadhajtások.hu

wrote that it was “*a perfect drawing of the Index provocateur.*” They also added that “*György Fábos’s drawing is like a photo!*”

After the article, APF expressed its regrets and condemned the site *888.hu* for “*reviving the most disgusting antisemitic clichés of the infamous times between the two world wars,*” on its social media page.

Antisemitic posters appeared on the streets of Budapest

Source: APF; 444.hu; 24.hu; propeller.hu; magyarnarancs.hu; nepszava.hu; hvg.hu

24-25 November 2019 Posters appeared in several places in Budapest portraying two Index journalists, Gábor Miklósi and András Dezső in front of the Israeli flag, with the inscription “*We also came from across the border.*” The caption below said “*Index – constant whining, latent antihungarians, treason.*” It is not clear from the poster who made it.

The two journalists were not picked by chance: they are the victims of a targeted campaign by certain parts of the media as well as the radical party, Our Homeland. As we have reported, Gábor Miklósi stated that he had not stood at the opening of the Puskás Arena when they had played the song *Without You*. András Dezső, in a video montage, cut out a concert recording of the song and merged it with pictures of refugees. Initially they were labeled outsiders in various forums, then Our Homeland indicated that they would press charges against Index for “*inciting against the Hungarian people.*” The two stories entwined: the “*radical*” “*opposition*” politician, László Toroczkai, president of Our Homeland found the context to comment and express his views in public media.

Then the street posters appeared. Szabolcs Panyi, journalist of *Direkt 36*, found a poster on Rákóczi Square, took a photo and posted it on his social media site.

Immediately after the incident, APF began collecting data and indicated that they

were going to file a complaint. *“The Action and Protection Foundation is filing a complaint about violence against members of the community; as posters appeared in several public places in Budapest portraying two journalists of Index, Gábor Miklósi and András Dezső in front of the Israeli flag”* APF reported on its social media site.

“I find them repulsive and hateful,” commented Slomó Köves, the leader of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation to hvg.hu. He added that he supported the APF and considered it important to report the case for violence against members of the community.

Several organizations and politicians condemned the case:

The Embassy of Israel in Budapest stated, *“We strongly condemn the poster with antisemitic and anti-Israel symbols and insinuations. There is no room for racism, incitement and hatred in the dialogue. We are confident that the appropriate Hungarian authorities will remove these posters.”*

András Heisler, President of Mazsihisz (Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities) wrote that it was an irresponsible and stupid act, denying the unity of the nation, to begin Jew-baiting and using antisemitic remarks when someone feels offended in their Hungarian identity. *“It would be decent if everyone could get out of the trap of aggressive self-justification and not have to deal with (...) unworthy, substandard, shameful things. We express solidarity with the journalists involved,”* concluded the President in his statement.

“The government has expressed zero tolerance on this issue, and we strongly condemn and reject what has happened,” answered government spokesman István Hollik to hvg.hu on what they were doing to protect Hungarian jour-

nalists from antisemitic attacks.

Gergely Karácsony, the mayor of Budapest, also stated on his social media site, *“In our Budapest, it just not possible! We don't give way to hatred! Please, write here in the comment section or send a message about where you saw these and by tomorrow, I will have all such horrors removed!”*

Bernadett Szél also responded on her Facebook page: *“Today, openly antisemitic posters appeared in public squares in Budapest, invoking the darkest times, depicting two Index journalists. Our Homeland (...) is a Nazi party in the government media, on M1 they were free to incite against journalists whom they considered ‘antihungarian, foreign at heart,’”* wrote the politician.

Péter Niedermüller, politician of DK (Democratic Coalition), mayor of Erzsébetváros (Budapest's 7th district), also issued a statement: *“The openly antisemitic posters evoke an age with stomach-churning memories that will never allow history to repeat itself. This is our common responsibility,”* the politician wrote demand-



source: twitter.com/444.hu

ing the immediate removal of the posters. He remarked, *“we will file a complaint for inciting against the community; the authorities have a duty to find those responsible for the hate crime!”*

The US Embassy in Budapest also condemned the antisemitic posters depicting the Index journalists. On their Twitter page, they wrote, *“such repulsive posters have no place in the modern world. We urge the competent authorities to take appropriate action.”*

“Hitherto unknown perpetrators have posted antisemitic, hateful posters in Budapest about two Index journalists. The National Association of Hungarian Journalists condemns the organized assaults on the dignity and all forms of stigmatizing and intimidation of journalists and calls for

immediate official action against this campaign of abuse that is unacceptable under the rule of law,” wrote MÚOSZ in their Monday statement. *“With regard to the phenomenon, which goes far beyond the boundaries of good taste and lawfulness, MÚOSZ recalls: In Hungary, where freedom of the press and freedom of expression are constitutionally protected, and existing law prohibits, inter alia, the incitement to racial, ethnic or religious hatred, no previous conduct in connection with the lawful work of a journalist shall give any legal basis for racist incitement and the intimidation or stigmatization of journalists,”* they added. The journalist association also offered legal assistance to the journalists of Index.

Upon inquiry, the authorities said a report had been filed with the Budapest Police Headquarters regarding the offending posters of the two Index journalists, and a decision had been made to open proceedings after reviewing the contents of the submission.

Lajos Kósa made an antisemitic statement at the Fidelitas Congress

Source: hvg.hu; merce.hu; 168ora.hu; propeller.hu

30 November 2019 Several news portals reported that Lajos Kósa analyzed the results of the municipal elections in his speech delivered at the Fidelitas Congress, organized to elect new officials. The politician spoke as the head of the municipal election campaign for the ruling party Fidesz and engaged in a lengthy discussion about how the political conditions had changed, saying that *“the Hungarian right-wing extremist political force (i.e. the Arrow Cross) voted for the neo-liberals, globalists joined forces with antiglobalists, while the radicals nationalists voted for the left-liberal side, which had so far only attacked the Hungarian nation.”* In this context, the Minister also noted that *“the Jews were compelled to and might have even enjoyed vote for the ‘knight’ of the Arrow Cross, thus delegating him to the General Assembly of Hajdú-Bihar County.”* He

went on to name the representative of The Movement for a Better Hungary (Hungarian: Jobbik) in the Hungarian parliament who he was speaking about, Gergely Kulcsár, who had previously been known for his harsh displays of antisemitism. He once spat in one of the iron Shoes on the Danube, a memorial erected on the embankment to honor the Jews who were shot into the River Danube by fascist Arrow Cross militiamen during World War II, and then informed his fellow politicians in Jobbik about his antisemitic act in a light-hearted, humorous letter.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During the November 2019 monitoring, Action and Protection League identified three incidents. We did not include them in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature, the lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

Előd Novák would make Miklós Horthy an honorary citizen

Source: 24.hu

14 November 2019 *“Our Homeland has taken the initiative to posthumously award Miklós Horthy the title of ‘Honorary Citizen of Budapest’ as well as to ensure that Miklós Horthy has his own white horse statue on Gellért Square,”* declared Előd Novák, XI. district candidate for the party in District 11.

Előd Novák emphasized in his speech that *“comparing the 25 years of the Horthy era with those of the last decades since the change of regime, the situation clearly called for a statue and an honorary title.”*

According to Novák, the performance of the Regent, who was responsible for adopting the antijewish laws and deporting hundreds of thousands of Hungarian citizens, was marked by *“stunning economic development”* and *“cultural effervescence”*, which is to be remembered in times when *“Budapest is again dressed in red rags.”*

According to 24.hu, the relaxed and permissive atmosphere of the press conference was characterized by the fact that Novák called Ferenc Zetényi Csukás the greatest Hungarian expert of the Horthy era. People of the far-right party had already come to the

event with a small gypsum statue - which was shown during a march planned in memory of Horthy.

Far-right march and horse parade in commemoration of Horthy – counter-demonstrators disrupted the event

Source: nepszava.hu; propeller.hu; atv.hu

16 November 2019 Hungarian newspaper *Népszava* reported that about 300 people took part in the Horthy Parade, organized by the extreme far-right Our Homeland Movement (Hungarian: MHM/Mi Hazánk Mozgalom) in Budapest. The parade recreated

and commemorated Admiral Miklós Horthy’s march into the capital a hundred years ago. (Admiral Miklós Horthy served as Hungary’s Regent during the Interwar Era and entered Budapest at the head of the National Army on 16 November 1919.) The police



source: nepszava.hu

started the procession along Bartók Béla Road (formerly Horthy Miklós Road), which was closed in one direction, and notably an almost white horse was being led in the front. There were military songs and marches playing, and one of the detachments of another neo-Nazi organization called the Army of Outlaws (Hungarian: Betyársereg) was present as well. There were about a hundred antifascist counter-demonstrators on St Gellért Square, trying to disrupt the event by waving European Union and Hungarian flags, and carrying a banner depicting a swastika sign smashed by a clenched fist. They also protested by sounding sirens, horns and whistles, and chanting the words *“filthy Nazis”*.

According to reports, no serious atrocity occurred, except for a minor incident. Two young women from among the counter-demonstrators went closer to the far-right demonstrators and shouted, “f*** Horthy!” One of them said that “a courageous man spat me in the face.” The police confronted both the spitting Horthy fan and the two counter-demonstrators, asking for identity papers. At the event organized by the Our Homeland Movement, a plaster bust of a statue that the far-right party would erect in honor of the governor was also unveiled. At the same time, the radical nationalists want Budapest to bestow the status of honorary citizenship on Admiral Miklós Horthy. Vice chairman of the far-right party, Előd Novák announced that Our Homeland Movement and the Miklós Horthy Society are taking the initiative to award Miklós Horthy the title of honorary citizen. Also, as a representative of the New Buda (Hungarian: Újbuda) Municipal Council, he is initiating the erection of a statue of Admiral Horthy on Horseback on St Gellért Square.

Leader of the Our Homeland Movement political party, national radical László Toroczkai also delivered a speech. Labelling the new opposition-led administration of Budapest “*Modern Reds*”, he said they had reverted Budapest to a “*sinful Bolshevik city dressed in rags*” (a quote from Miklós Horthy’s keynote speech in 1919) and were set to do the same as their 1918–1919 predecessors: break the nation. “*Our Homeland Movement, on the other hand, wants to be worthy of those who marched into Budapest one hundred years ago. Therefore, we are going to tear off all the red rags and rainbow flags and throw them on a bonfire, and recapture not only Budapest, but Hungary as a whole, as it is our homeland,*” vowed Toroczkai.

Referring to Admiral Miklós Horthy’s entry in Budapest at the head of the National Army on 16 November 1919, the President of the Miklós Horthy Society, Ferenc Zetényi-Csukás said that the capital city had celebrated and “*embraced*” the faithful son of

the nation. He added that it had also marked the beginning of a quarter-of-a-century-long construction of an independent and Christian Hungary.

The newly-elected Mayor of Budapest, Gergely Karácsony noted on his Facebook page that “*According to historians, the people of Budapest were not all that enthusiastic even a hundred years ago as Miklós Horthy marched into the city, parading on a white horse. Today, I am watching with unequivocal repugnance and disdain as the pseudo-opposition branch of Fidesz hold a procession in the city to commemorate that day.*”

Several parties, including the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP/Magyar Szocialista Párt), the Democratic Coalition (DK/Demokratikus Koalíció) and Dialogue for Hungary (Párbeszéd/Párbeszéd Magyarországért) also protested the Horthy Parade and the plan of erecting a Horthy Statue on St Gellért Square. As Hungarian news agency MTI reported, the opposition parties call for rooting out neo-Horthyism and protesting the radical nationalist Our Homeland Movement parade in Újbuda to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Interwar Regent Miklós Horthy’s return to Budapest.

Deputy Mayor of Újbuda and Párbeszéd spokesperson Richárd Barabás said, “*neo-Nazis intend to march along the main cultural thoroughfare of the district in support of ‘evil ideologies.’*”

János Lázár took flowers to Miklós Horthy’s grave – he was condemned by the National Association of Victims of Nazi Prosecution (NÜB)

Source: nepszava.hu

16-18 November 2019 Fidesz MP and former Head of the Prime Minister’s Office János Lázár posted a video on Facebook, showing how he took flowers to Miklós Horthy’s tomb in the village of Kenderes to pay homage to the Interwar Regent. “*Miklós Horthy saved Hungary along with his comrades*

and allies. He was a heroic soldier and a true Hungarian patriot who we must pay obeisance to,” the former PMO Head said in his Facebook video. The National Association of Victims of Nazi Prosecution (Hungarian: NÜB/Náci Üldözöttek Országos Egyesülete) protested in a statement, saying that “it is historically and politically tragic, as well as disgraceful that one the leading politicians of Fidesz, former Head of the Prime Minister’s Office János Lázár publicly praised Miklós Horthy over the weekend, taking flowers to the tomb of the Interwar Regent Horthy; who drove the country into deep humanitarian and economic disaster.” The statement was issued by NÜB President János Schiffer.

According to the organization, János Lázár praising Miklós Horthy as a “heroic soldier, a true Hungarian patriot, who we must pay obeisance to” is a deep insult to the memory of the hundreds of thousands of victims who lost their lives due to the fatal mistake of Horthy-era politics and the Interwar Regent’s inadmissible world view.



source: 24.hu

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Slomó Köves: “The existence of God was declaredly denied during the period of the Red Terror”

Source: MTI; klubradio.hu; neokohn.hu

1 November 2019 The reconstructed Hungarian Monument of National Martyrs has been re-inaugurated. The original statue, which aimed to commemorate the victims (including Jewish people) of the 1918-1919 Red Terror, those that is, who perished during the period of heightened political tension and suppression during the four-month period of the Hungarian Soviet Republic (Hungarian: Tanácsköztársaság), had first been inaugurated on 18 March 1934, by Miklós Horthy and had been demolished after WWII in September 1945. President of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér delivered a speech at the re-inauguration of the memorial and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán also took part in the inaugural ceremony. Representatives of the Christian historical churches blessed the memorial and prayed for the victims.

The current Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (Hungarian: EMIH/Egységes Magyarországi Izraelita Hitközség) Slomó Köves spoke briefly before his prayer, saying that the Hungarian Soviet Republic was the first event in millennial Hungarian history when God was declaredly denied. *“590 people are a lot of victims. But is there a unique and independent lesson to be learnt from the 133 days of the communist Red Terror? (...) What is the unique lesson taught that makes the scary memory of the Hungarian Soviet Republic even more unique among such 20th-century historical events than WWI, the White Terror and WWII that claimed more – or significantly far more – casualties in numbers?”* asked Slomó Köves in his speech and he immediately gave a definite answer to his own question: the absence of God. *“We are talking about the first event in millennial Hungarian history where God was declaredly denied. It was the very first national tragedy to be directly*

caused by an ideology of godless collectivism, which inevitably led to the erosion and eradication of individual moral responsibility.” *“Without God there is no personal responsibility; without personal responsibility there is no morality; without morality solely destruction remains.”*

The Executive Rabbi of EMIH gave several biblical examples to illustrate the relationship between God and human responsibility, and then settled on the story of Babel – a story of collective godlessness. *“The story of Babel is about the misleading and destructive consequences of godless collectivism. The builders of Babel promoted the idea of a collective and complete earthly unity, and the construction of a supranational tower. They proclaimed an eternal, universal, indestructible structure and collective earthly redemption. They wanted to attain eternity without the Eternal and against the Eternal.”*

Unveiled in 1934, the Memorial of National Martyrs commemorates the victims who died during the 133-day dictatorship of the Hungarian Soviet Republic, as well as former Hungarian Prime Minister Count István Tisza, who was assassinated in October 1918. On top of the almost five-meter-high monumental stone pillar there is a stone coffin decorated with motifs from the Hungarian Conquest at the turn of the 9th and 10th centuries. In front of the pillar, the female figure of *“Hungária”* stands, symbolizing the resurrection of Hungary, while the other side shows a muscle-bound man fighting with a dragon (i.e. delivering the final blow to a serpent-like monster), which symbolizes the defeated beast of Bolshevism.

Later, the Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves was severely criticized for his speech and participation in the inaugural ceremony. He then appeared on the programme entitled *“No Need to Panic”* (Hungarian: Csak semmi májré!) on Club Radio and started by saying that he denounced all kinds of terror and was acutely aware of the Horthy era crimes and antisemitic propaganda. *“The Horthy era used the antisemitic cliché in a very insidious way*

to legitimize their own political antisemitism, insinuating that red terror was actually Jewish terror,” said the EMIH Executive Rabbi, adding that, “the real question is what strengthens the cliché more: if a rabbi goes to the inauguration of such a memorial or if he stays at home. I believe that the smaller evil out of the two bad options is if one goes to the inaugural ceremony and thus symbolically conveys the message to a significant part of the country that the Red Terror was not ethnically-based, but it was ideologically-based terror in an already very turbulent time period.”

The exhibition “Between Life and Death” arrived in Budapest

Source: MTI

6 November 2019 The travelling exhibition “*Between Life and Death. Stories of Rescue during the Holocaust*,” opened at the Budapest Holocaust Memorial Centre. To date the exhibition has visited Brussels, The Netherlands, Slovakia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. *The exhibition was created by a team of international experts working with ENRS, the European Network for Remembrance and Solidarity*, said Director of ENRS Rafal Rogulski at the opening of the exhibition.

Director of the Budapest Holocaust Memorial Centre Tamás Kovács emphasized that besides the names of the victims, we must also remember those who confronted the evil and helped their persecuted fellow human beings of Jewish descent. He added that the exhibition is about the persecution of Jews during World War II, as well as those who saved Jews, with the focus being on man and all that is human.

Secretary of State for Public Education Zoltán Maruzsa pointed out that the *European Network for Remembrance and Solidarity* was set up to create and develop a common remembrance policy focused on the treatment of the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes, Nazism and communism. Zoltán Maruzsa believes the

exhibition would set an example for visitors, showing people who were the ones able to remain human beings in those troubled times.

The European Network for Remembrance and Solidarity is an international project dedicated to preserving the memory, researching, documenting and promoting the history of 20th-century Europe, with reference to dictatorships, wars and oppressive societies.

Kálmán Szalai: “We are watching the alliance of the opposition and Jobbik with much concern.”

Source: origo.hu

13 November 2019 In answer to a question by the news website Origo, the Secretary of the Brussels Institute at the APF in Budapest, Kálmán Szalai expressed his opinion about the fact that the left-wing liberal parties teamed up to support far-right Jobbik candidate Lóránt Budai for the mayoral election in the town of Jászberény.

“We are concerned about the collaboration of parties calling themselves ‘democratic opposition’ and the extreme right-wing racist Jobbik, which is fatal not only in terms of politics and power, but also in terms of the social legitimacy of racism and antisemitism,” said Kálmán Szalai. He also emphasized that the detrimental effect of this collaboration on public thinking is also reflected in the fact that it “regards the hatred that hundreds of thousands of our fellow countrymen once feared as venial and weightless,” as well as “blurs and trivializes the crime of incitement to violence and hatred targeting communities recently leading to racist murders.”

Kálmán Szalai also added that Jobbik was merely trying “to dust off the shame of the past” with words and had not yet distanced themselves from their past or apologized in public.

With reference to Lóránt Budai from Jobbik, Kálmán Szalai wrote that the mayoral

election in Jászberény is also especially worrying because the town is home to one of the largest kosher slaughterhouses in Europe, where dozens of rabbis and kosher inspectors work every day.

“We hope that the earlier views of the mayor delegated by Jobbik will not affect their everyday security; but in any case, TEV is going to keep a close eye on and monitor the events in Jászberény,” said Secretary of TEV warily. As it is known, the Jobbik politician recently posted messages praising Adolf Hitler and the leader of the Arrow Cross Party – Hungarist Movement, Ferenc Szálasi.

The government entered into a comprehensive agreement with EMIH

Source: MTI

19 November 2019 The Government and the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation concluded a comprehensive agreement. The document was signed on Monday by Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén and EMIH Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves in the Carmelite Monastery in Budapest.

Semjén said that in Hungary all three Jewish communities: the Federation of the Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz), the Autonomous Orthodox Jewish Community of Hungary (MAOIH) and EMIH are recognized to a high degree, but *“the highest category of recognition in material and symbolic terms”* is when the government concludes a specific contract with a particular denomination. In the agreement, the government entrusts EMIH with the task of the rehabilitation, preservation and revival of rural Jewish places of commemoration that no longer have congregations as they were *“orphaned”* by the Holocaust. The document also states that the government fully supports Milton Friedman University. *“The institution can be a stronghold of Jewish scholarship and it can also convey Jewish values to non-Jews,”* said the Deputy Prime Minister.

Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves talked about

the fact that the main purpose of setting up EMIH in 2004 was to show the values of European Jewry and *“to make it available to all the Jews in Hungary by revitalizing it.”* Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves also mentioned that András Kovács’s research on Jewry, published in 2018, confirmed that the 15-year-long work done by EMIH had borne fruit.

This research was a repeat of a survey twenty years ago. The study found that while twenty years ago 70 percent of the active synagogue-attending members of a Jewish community followed their parents’ habits and only 30 percent were *“re-entrants”*, i.e. the synagogue-attending children of non-synagogue-attending parents, today this ratio is reversed. EMIH Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves added that more than 80 percent of the participants in the research said the work of EMIH was essential to rebuilding the Jewish community.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel David Lau has emphasized that the agreement preserves the values of the past and at the same time provides guidance for building the future. In his view, Hungary also does its citizens good by concluding an agreement with the Jewish organization, because people can see that preserving old values has meaning and purpose, the mutual recognition of each other is valuable and thus, helps to build a peaceful, conflict-free future.

On Monday, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel David Lau had a meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Following their meeting, he said he could feel that the Prime Minister attached great importance to respecting the past and wished to create a brighter future on the foundations of the past.

“You are clearly committed to the Jewish people and support the important role that Jews played in the cultural, civil and economic development of your great country,” wrote European Jewish Association (EJA) head Rabbi Menachem Margolin in a letter addressed to Prime

Minister Viktor Orbán. Both the EMIH and APF, set up by EMIH Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves, are members of the European Jewish Association (EJA), which mostly includes Chabad affiliated organizations and institutions.

Slomó Köves: “Religious Jews can by no means identify with the violence represented by atheist Marxism”

Source: magyarhirlap.hu

23 November 2019 EMIH Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves gave an interview to a Hungarian daily newspaper Magyar Hírlap, where he talked about the agreement he concluded with the government, community-building and the House of Fates.

“The agreement was modelled upon the one concluded between the Catholic Church or rather, the Vatican and the state back in the 1990s, but since then there has been a similar agreement with the Reformed Church, and in 2000, Mazsihisz, which represents the Neologs (the other large communal organization among Hungarian Jewry), also signed a similar agreement.”

EMIH Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves added that the document gives priority to settling the relationship between the church and the state, recognizes the historical past, and expresses mutual respect for each other’s values. In fact, it establishes the rights and obligations already settled in the Church Act within the framework of a bilateral agreement. EMIH is automatically entitled to financing in the same manner as state and local government institutions that are performing a public service, be that in relation to education, culture, social work or any other area that affects public life.

The meeting of Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel David Lau and the Prime Minister of Hungary was also mentioned in the newspaper interview – as reported above by our Foundation. *“The Chief Rabbi of Israel very closely monitors the situation of Hungarian Jewry. (...) In recent years, he has also forged a close*

personal relationship with the Prime Minister. At their last meeting, they talked about the fundamental values that can ensure the spiritual and moral well-being of today’s societies, but the friendly relationship between Hungary and Israel was also discussed.”

There was also talk of community building, about which the EMIH Executive Rabbi said that *“signing the agreement should by no means mean that it is not in the essential interest and duty of the Hungarian Jewish community to put more emphasis on and enforce the institution of self-care.”* He added that he wished that there would not be a district in Budapest in ten years’ time where there was no synagogue.

Regarding the discussion about the House of Fates, Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves said that the new concept, which has been designed by a group of museologists and historians, is ready. *“We interviewed about sixty Holocaust survivors in Hungary, the United States, Israel, and France, and took the first steps toward obtaining a large collection of exhibits for display, which is essential for the museum.”* He estimates that in a year and a half, a global scale, completely unique Holocaust museum will be created.

Towards the end of the interview, EMIH Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves was asked about the inauguration of the reconstructed post-WWI monument dedicated to the martyrs of the communist Red Terror in 1919. Rabbi Slomó Köves said that although there were large numbers of men of Jewish descent in the revolutionary terror groups, i.e. among the infamous *“Lenin Boys”*, these men declaredly denied their Jewish origin or Judaism.

“In the first half of the twentieth century, it was common for the Hungarian Soviet Republic to be consistently identified as ‘Jewish terror’. Partly because this is how some people were able to create a moral reference for their own antisemitism. If a rabbi, along with the representatives of other churches, says a prayer for the victims at such an event, we might be one step closer to allowing a significant part of majority society to symbolically

identify the Jews with the victims, and not with the perpetrators, or much rather, to understand that the Red Terror was not an ethnic issue, but an ideological question.”

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Nine people were arrested in connection with the neo-Nazi attack on Aurora

Source: MTI

13 November 2019 Police arrested nine people in connection with a flag-burning in Aurora Street on 23 October, reported the Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK) on their website on the evening of 13 November.

The statement recapped that their police station was notified at 2:08 pm on 23 October that unknown perpetrators tore down the flag from the Aurora Cultural Community Center in Aurora Street, set it on fire and damaged the walls of the building. No one was hurt.

The BRFK conducted an on-site inspection and ordered an investigation against unknown perpetrators in connection with the incident.

Police identified and caught eight men and a woman from various parts of the country and interrogated them as suspects for being accomplices to group vandalism and willful damage. They conducted house searches in the homes of those apprehended. The suspects did not file complaints for the allegations. They were released and would continue to defend themselves at large during the remainder of the proceedings, the BRFK wrote.

Our Foundation also reported on it in its October report that dozens of extreme right-wing groups attacked Aurora community center in the 8th district on 23 October. The attackers took down the rainbow flag swinging at the entrance and set it on fire and flooded the entrance with stickers with neo-Nazi inscriptions.

Zoltán Kovács: "Jewish communities live in safety"

Source: MTI

15 November 2019 Zoltán Kovács, Secretary of State for International Communications, published his views in a post on his Of-

fice's website that he sent to the Washington Post (WP) in response to an article criticizing Hungary.

Zoltán Kovács recalled that the author of the WP article, written on the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, lamented in an emotional tone that the joy over the fall of the wall was naivety as *"the politics of the 1930s are still decisive in Eastern Europe."*

The author accused Hungary of antisemitism, irredentism, the rehabilitation of Governor Miklós Horthy, the *"stealth"* formation of an authoritarian political system, and illiberalism. Zoltán Kovács wrote about the accusation of antisemitism that in Hungary the Jewish community lives in such security of which their brothers in Berlin or Paris can only dream. He concludes that Hungary and the surrounding region have many good reasons to celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Remembrance event for the creation of the Pest ghetto

Source: MTI

28 November 2019 *"The tragedy of our Jewish compatriots is a tragedy for all of us, the darkest period of Hungarian history,"* said Peter Niedermüller, Mayor of Erzsébetváros in Budapest, during the commemoration on the 75th anniversary of the Pest Ghetto.

At the commemoration of the municipality on Klauzál Square in the 7th District, in the area of the former ghetto, the mayor said, *"It is not enough to remember in silence, we have to say out loud what happened in the winter of 1944-45 in Budapest."* He stressed that we must tell our children and grandchildren that hate and hatred, stigmatizing and excluding other people, assaults on human dignity, aggression liberated, the production of enemy images, and xenophobia can have unforeseeable consequences, as it happened in the winter of 1944-45 in Budapest. Peter Niedermüller said it was deplorable that *"there are people in the country who consider themselves historians who believe that deporting Jews to Kamenets-Podolsk*

was a law enforcement procedure.” “It is also devastating that sculptures are raised for the openly antisemitic Ottokár Prohászka and József Nyírő, or for Gyula Kornis, who claimed that the Jews had corrupted the spirit of the Hungarians,” he said.

At the commemoration, Chief Rabbi Peter Kardos prayed for the humiliated, the tortured, and the murdered. Afterwards, people lit candles and placed their stones of commemoration.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

The JTA news agency wrote about the boom in Jewish life in Buda

Source: jta.org; neokohn.hu

29 November 2019 *“They tell a remarkable story of revival following the devastation of the Holocaust and decades of oppression under communism,”* writes Cnaan Lipshiz on JTA’s site. The author remarks that the Hungarian capital’s approximately 20 synagogues are concentrated in three districts in Pest, along with five Jewish community centers, several Jewish schools and kosher shops in the part of the city east of the Danube. The Jewish community made a slow but significant development in Buda in the past ten years, according to the author. The latest addition to Jewish institutions in Buda was also the most symbolic one. Lipshiz accentuates the newest and most symbolic Jewish institution, the Buda Castle Synagogue, the oldest in the city, that was reopened last year. *“At first, Jews built synagogues in Buda because that was the only place they were allowed,”* said Rabbi Slomó Köves, the head of Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) to JTA. Later Jews mostly moved and settled on the Pest side, especially in the 19th century, because their businesses were on the East side of the Danube.

After the devastation of World War II, the ratio of Jews began to grow, but this time on the Buda side, as opposed to the overpopulated Pest. This led to Buda becoming the center of Jewish life in the capital, states the author.

The article also engages János Lang, 82-year-old Holocaust survivor, who says that the spirited Jewish life has not come about without the help from the Hungarian government, often accused of being antisemitic. Lang does not agree that the campaign against George Soros is a proof of the government’s antisemitism, he emphasizes that the Hungarian Prime Minister is a good friend of the Jews and the State of Israel.

OTHER NEWS

Pokorni initiated the removal of his grandfather's name from the district's Turul statue

Source: index.hu

9 November 2019 12th District Mayor Zoltán Pokorni initiated the removal of his grandfather's name from the district's Turul statue at the meeting of the district council.

The monument, which previously caused much controversy, lists the names of the district's victims of World War II, one of the names is Pokorni's grandfather. Recently, however, it has become known that József Pokorni was actively involved in the Arrow Cross massacres. He was not charged as a war criminal as he was shot in his spine and killed during the siege, and he was not alive to be held accountable. A study by László Rab, a former journalist of *Népszabadság*, describes Pokorni's grandfather's Arrow Cross past in detail. However, his name appeared in the works of other authors even before, including Gábor Zoltán's novel, *Orgia*, about the Arrow Cross massacre at Városmajor.

József Pokorni, the father of eight children, worked as an electrician at MOM. In 1944, he joined an infamously brutal section of the Arrow Cross movement led by the Catholic monk, Páter Kun. In the winter of 1944-45, Páter Kun's men carried out several massacres in the district's Jewish establishment, at the hospital buildings, in the hospice on Alma Street and at the Arrow Cross house at 37 Városmajor Street.

Antisemitism has increased slightly in Hungary, according to ADL

Source: magyarnarancs.hu

21 November 2019 One in four Europeans is antisemitic: the hatred towards people of Jewish descent is growing in Eastern European countries, while in the West, it is mostly unchanged. Different Hungarian

media have looked at the research results of the New York-based Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

Their previous surveys were conducted in 100 countries, the current research, however, covers only the following 18, mostly European countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, South Africa, United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, Canada, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and Ukraine.

According to their findings, antisemitism is the strongest in Poland on the continent. 48 percent of the population share this view, which is a significant increase from 2015's 37 percent. Ukraine has seen the largest expansion: while antisemitism was prevalent in 32 percent of the country's population in 2016, it has grown to 46 percent today. Hungary is next in line, where the percentage growth is by no means significant (from 40 to 42 percent), but the general level of antisemitism is still quite high. They remarked regarding the situation in Hungary: the media campaign against George Soros as a possible cause.

In Western Europe, the spread of antisemitic views stagnated, while in Britain, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, and Austria it declined. In Denmark, it rose from 8 to 10 percent, in Belgium from 21 to 24 percent, the figures remained unchanged at 17 percent in France and 4 percent in Sweden.

In six Western European countries, the survey also looked at the impact the large number of Muslim immigrants arriving since 2015 had on antisemitic attitudes. According to the survey, there was a larger inclination towards antisemitism among Muslims in Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain than in the general population. However, they were more likely to have been in contact with Jews and had a better opinion of Israel than Muslims in the Middle East and North Africa.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Complaint on suspicion of violence against members of the community

Source: *Action and Protection Foundation*

25 November 2019 As we reported in this month’s chapter on Antisemitic Hate Crimes, posters appeared in several public places in Budapest portraying two journalists of Index, Gábor Miklósi and András Dezső in front of the Israeli flag, with the inscription “*We also came from across the border.*” The caption below said “*Index – constant whining, latent antihungarians, treason.*” APF started collecting data immediately after the incident and filed a complaint. “*The Action and Protection Foundation is filing a complaint for violence against members of the community, as posters appeared in several public places in Budapest portraying two journalists of Index, Gábor Miklósi and András Dezső in front of the Israeli flag.*”

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 November	Slomó Köves: "The existence of God was declaredly denied during the period of the Red Terror"	Community News And Responses
2.	6th of November	The exhibition "Between Life and Death" arrived in Budapest	Community News And Responses
3.	9th of November	Pokorni initiated the removal of his grandfather's name from the district's Turul statue	Other News
4.	13th of November	Kálmán Szalai: "We are watching the alliance of the opposition and Jobbik with much concern."	Community News And Responses
5.	13th of November	Nine people were arrested in connection with the neo-Nazi attack on Aurora	Official and Civil Responses
6.	14th of November	Előd Novák would make Miklós Horthy an honorary citizen	Further Hate Incidents
7.	15th of November	Zoltán Kovács: "Jewish communities live in safety"	Official and Civil Responses
8.	16th of November	Far-right march and horse parade in commemoration of Horthy – counter-demonstrators disrupted the event	Further Hate Incidents
9.	16-18th of November	János Lázár took flowers to Miklós Horthy's grave – he was condemned by the National Association of Victims of Nazi Prosecution (NÜB)	Further Hate Incidents
10.	19th of November	An Index journalist was portrayed in an antisemitic manner	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
11.	19th of November	The government entered into a comprehensive agreement with EMIH	Community News And Reactions
12.	21st of November	Antisemitism has increased slightly in Hungary, according to ADL	Other News
13.	23rd of November	Slomó Köves: "Religious Jews can by no means identify with the violence represented by atheist Marxism"	Community News And Reactions
14.	24-25th of November	Antisemitic posters appeared on the streets of Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
15.	25th of November	Complaint on suspicion of violence against members of the community	APF Legal Actions

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	28th of November	Remembrance event for the creation of the Pest ghetto	Official and Civil Responses
17.	29th of November	The JTA news agency wrote about the boom in Jewish life in Buda	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
18.	30th of November	Lajos Kósa made an antisemitic statement at the Fidelitas Congress	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection League is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread antisemitic manifestations.

In case anyone faces insults or antisemitic 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 League:

The Facebook page:

Action and Protection League'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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