

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

SEPTEMBER 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 five incidents of antisemitic hate crime this month. The incidents are classified as damage to property and hate speech. Stolpersteins were damaged and antisemitic statements were written on political posters. The incidents classified as hate speech included the cases when Márton Gulyás was Jew-baited and expelled from a Budapest event giving out potatoes, and when the President of the Hungarian Falconers Association made strongly antisemitic and racist statements.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents no case this month.

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

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 Anti-Zionism 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.

¹ EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: ANTISEMITISM - OVERVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2008 - 2018

² <https://global100.adl.org>

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 anti-Jewish 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.

II

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

– SEPTEMBER 2019

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

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Stolpersteins were damaged

Source: akibic.hu

18 September 2019 Gunter Demnig placed Stolpersteins¹¹ in 10 Hungarian cities. However, an inhabitant of a city not named but described as “a city of the Great Hungarian Plain, a rightly well-known and popular holiday destination around the world” expressed his disapproval. According to the descendant of the 4 victims commemorated by the plate, the Stolperstein was laid on 12 September outside of a house whose owner had expressed his disapproval of the Stolperstein in August. “One of the owners, the husband of an approximately 65-70-year-old married couple firmly and angrily objected the idea in August and said nothing like that would be placed in front of his house”.



source: akibic.hu

The old man smashed the brass plates of the Stolpersteins on the day they were laid in front of his house. Based on the descendant's account, the municipality has taken the necessary steps to address the issue.

Star of David and hangman on poster of opposition politician

Source: atv.hu; MTI

19 September 2019 A Star of David hanging from the gallows was drawn on the poster of an opposition candidate in Budapest. The antisemitic diagram was on the poster of Tamás Borka-Szász, mayor candidate of DK in Budapest District 7. Péter Niedermüller, also running to be mayor in the same district, stressed that “political culture is so vicious in this country that we cannot by no means tolerate this...”. Niedermüller filed a complaint in the matter.

Fidesz Erzsébetváros (Budapest District 7) sent a statement to MTI and said they condemn the antisemitic content written on the poster. They also called for authorities to find the offender as soon as possible and hold them liable for the incident. The statement said they strongly condemn such and similar unlawful acts, they consider them absolutely unacceptable and harmful to the whole community.



source: atv.hu

Swastika on an election poster in Szombathely

Source: ugytudjuk.hu; atv.hu

23 September 2019 In Szombathely's 1st constituency, unknown individuals paint sprayed all of opposition candidate István Péter György's election posters – wrote *ugytudjuk.hu*. Allegedly, there was not a single poster left intact, the candidate's face was scribbled out and the cross sign encouraging people to vote was modified into a swastika.

István Péter György released a statement regarding the vandalism. He stated he con-

¹¹ small, cobblestone-sized memorial for an individual victim of Nazism

demned every implication, expression or symbol which recalls one of the darkest times in history and he called for the offenders and their supporters to refrain from similar acts in the future.



source: ugytudjuk.hu

HATE SPEECH

Márton Gulyás Jew-baited at and expelled from an event giving out potatoes

Source: mandiner.hu

22 September 2019 Activist Márton Gulyás wanted to receive information about the organizers and the funding of an event giving out potatoes in Budapest District 7.

“Go to the Jews!” shouted an individual when Gulyás was asking questions from György Hunvald’s crew. Based on a video recording, members of the campaign staff were rather tense because of the inquiry and they asked the activist several times to leave the place. This is when someone told Gulyás to go to the Jews, but he was also told he would hurt himself, no one was interested in him and several similar remarks.

After Gulyás was removed from the building where the event was held, he asked the man who had sent him to the Jews what he meant by his words. The man replied “why; is Momentum not Jewish? They are the Jews, they are from SZDSZ... their grandchildren and children, right? The media says so, too!”

Antisemitic and racist statements from Hungarian Falconry Association President

Source: hirklikk.hu; 168ora.hu, hv.g.hu

25 September 2019 Members of the Hungarian Falconry Association are plan-

ning to distance themselves from the association’s president István Prágay and his racist statements by writing an open letter. Members do not want the 80-year-old association with

international relations to be associated with racist statements, like the ones that the president of the association posted on Facebook – wrote hv.g.hu. Prágay called German chancellor Angela Merkel a “Polish Jew” and referred to an unnamed ethnic group as “sand niggers”.

Hv.g.hu and a blog called ‘Magasles’ both wanted to ask Prágay about his post, but he removed it and did not wish to talk about the incident.



source: beirokonyv.blog.hu / facebook.com

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

Action and Protection League did not identify any incidents of this category over the course of its monitoring activities in September for Hungary. We do not include it in our most recent statistics due to its insignificant nature, the lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Slomó Köves: Opposition parties are extremely irresponsible

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

2 September 2019 *Hvg.hu* asked Slomó Köves's opinion about Oszkár Molnár. Molnár ran as an independent mayor candidate in the local elections enjoying Fidesz's support, and previously he had become well known for his anti-Roma and Jew-baiting statements. We presented the news in our previous monthly report.



source: magyarhang.org

Mayor of Edelény, who also used to be an MP for Fidesz, expressed his views that "Jewish big business" wanted to swallow up Hungary. In 2009, many disapproved of his statements, including the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH). Köves asked leader of MSZP at the time to make their socialist candidate step down from candidacy and let Fidesz's candidate to win in order to prevent Molnár from winning. Yet, this did not happen and Molnár was elected to be mayor of Edelény.

Hvg.hu contacted Slomó Köves who condemned Molnár's "racially motivated theories" but answered questions by analyzing the current political situation. The Executive Rabbi believes that common understanding was hindered by the opposition, he said that "unfortunately, contexts have changed rather devastatingly, and the paralyzing impact of how irresponsible today's opposition parties are is the most

apparent in these situations. When a racist and inciting party like Jobbik is seen as a strategic ally in strategic questions of maximizing votes instead of focusing on moral principles, then even the lowest democratic standards annul their validity.

When opposition parties who consider themselves democratic bring people like Gergely Kulcsár, Gábor Vona and Márton Gyöngyösi into politics as presentable representatives, when such parties undertake the immoral task of 'making them kosher' if you will, they do not release the negligible potential of Jobbik's political success into Hungarian politics but they make values relative in a discourse with no common consensus about democratic norms to be relied upon. Opposition parties managed to breach a ruling principle based on which Fidesz could be credibly criticized for supporting an independent candidate when Gergely Karácsony does not think one is antisemitic if they would like to enlist Jews or when neither LMP nor Momentum believes it is wrong to support a well-known Neo-Nazi."

Stolpersteins placed in Hungary

Source: mzsike.hu

11 September 2019 German artist Gunter Demnig traveled to Hungary in order to place a total of 53 Stolpersteins at 18 different locations in co-operation with civilians, municipalities and the Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association. A Stolperstein is a 10 by 10 centimeters brass plate inscribed with the names (and dates and



source: MTI

places of birth and death) of victims. The German artist lays them on the pavement outside the building which was the given victim's last home they chose freely. As a result of the initiation, there are more than 70,000 Stolpersteins around Europe, which means they make up the world's biggest decentralized memorial.

An important event of the visit was placing a Stolperstein for former forced laborer Jenő Rejtő in Budapest. Afterwards at the same location, the German artist was given the Hungarian Gold Cross of Merit in appreciation of his activities in Hungary. Further important locations included Pápa where following the placement of 19 Stolpersteins, Gunter Demnig received an antiracist award named after Miklós Radnóti in the Synagogue of Pápa.

EMIH finished Torah scrolls and announced government recognition

Source: MTI

23 September 2019 *"Today is history"* – said the Rabbi Slomó Köves at the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial at the event of inaugurating the community's two new synagogues along the Danube and two new Torah scrolls. He said he believed that never, or at least never since the Holocaust, did an event take place in Budapest when two Torah scrolls were ceremonially finished, and two community centers were inaugurated on the same day. *"Finishing the Torah and writing its last letters personally is always a pleasure but it is especially wonderful here in Budapest"* – said Slomó Köves.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs concerning national assets János Fónagy

said Hungary is a safe place in Europe for the Jewish community, Jewish culture has its renaissance in Hungary today and the government values this almost 6,000 year-long intellectual and spiritual heritage. Preserving this heritage and sharing it with future generations guarantee the survival of Jewry.

Representing the Chief Rabbinate of Israel and the whole State of Israel, Rabbi Eliezer Simcha Weiss acknowledged in his speech the Hungarian-Israeli close ties and friendship, and the mutual respect between the two nations.

The event then continued with inaugurating the new places of worship for the community in Szentendre and Lipótváros, the ceremonies included the instalment of the synagogues' new Torah scrolls.

"The Hungarian government and the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) have concluded a comprehensive agreement, whereby EMIH becomes an established church in the highest category" – announced Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén at the inauguration ceremony of the new synagogue in Szentendre.



source: MTI

Semjén said that, just as in the case of state and local government institutions, this meant the entitlement to funding institutions which undertake public services, let them be related to education, culture, social work or any other areas that affect public life. Based on the agreement, EMIH may set up a military chaplain's service at Hungary's armed forces – added the Deputy. He said it was important the agreement included the preservation and renovation of those Jewish places of

commemoration which no longer belong to any congregation.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that Jewish life and culture are enjoying a renaissance in Hungary today. He said thanks to the Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves and head of Budapest's Orthodox Rabbinate Rabbi Báruch Oberlander for their major role in this through reintroducing old traditions and filling the framework that had been shocked by the tragedy of history with life.

Acknowledging the activities of Action and Protection Foundation (APF), the Deputy Prime Minister explained that Hungarian and European Jews are under threat from three things. One is traditional antisemitism, with relation to which the Hungarian government has a policy of zero tolerance. He indicated that the other is inseparable from illegal mass Muslim immigration, and pointed out that when Hungary protects its borders, it is also protecting Hungarian Jews. According to the Deputy Prime Minister, the third threat is anti-Israeli sentiment, which we can be witness to every day, for instance within the European Union.

Rabbi of the new synagogue in Szentendre and head of the Jewish cultural and community center Myers Menachem and mayor of Szentendre Miklós Verseggi-Nagy also gave speeches at the event.

OTHER NEWS

Statue erected to Gyula Kornis – Parliamentary Secretary at EMMI attended the event

Source: merce.hu; 168ora.hu; facebook.com; MTI

3 September 2019 Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Human Capacities (EMMI) Bence Rétvári also attended the inauguration of the statue honoring Gyula Kornis, politician of the Horthy era, known for his antisemitic views. The statue was unveiled outside a high school in the city of Vác – reported an article of *Mérce*.

Gyula Kornis was State Secretary of Education between 1927 and 1931 at the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs headed by Kunó Klebelsberg. *“The Jewry, pouring in freely from the East, peacefully took away first the material, then the intellectual culture of Hungarians. (...) Their innate radicalism and utilitarianism tainted Hungarian spirit in half of a century”* – wrote Kornis in 1921, a year after the numerus clausus principle excluded Jews from higher education. He also wrote that in order to create education that teaches national self-awareness, it is needed to fight internationalism and Hungarian intellectuals should be re-Hungarized against their Judaization.

Bence Rétvári wrote in a Facebook post that *“after the inauguration of Gyula Kornis’s statue on Monday, left-liberal sites published statements which were falsifying history and were presenting former president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as antisemitic”*. According to Rétvári, the allegations are refuted by historical facts, Kornis was not a Nazi supporter, he was imprisoned by the Gestapo, he fought antisemitic student movements and stood by Jewish people he respected.

Mayor of Kecel with antisemitic and racist views runs for reelection

Source: hvg.hu

6 September 2019 *“Jewish people rule the world, but Roma children also deserve a slap in the face”* – said mayor of Kecel Ferenc Haszilló in 2014. Fidesz then asked him to resign but he was not expelled from the party in the end. He runs again as a Fidesz candidate to be head of the town in Bács-Kiskun County.

Based on recordings published on the website of Magyar Narancs at the time, Haszilló also mentioned that capital punishment should be reintroduced and that *“Orbán cannot do anything either, he cannot do more because the same Jews are present there, too. People who were party members should not be allowed to be MPs”*. Fidesz issued a communication in which they initiated to expel Haszilló.

Hvg.hu now wrote that according to the National Election Office’s data sheet Haszilló runs again to be reelected as mayor, he is registered as a Fidesz-KDNP candidate. In response to HVG’s inquiry, Fidesz said the management decided not to expel Haszilló from the party. Lajos Kósa, Fidesz’s campaign manager for the local elections added that *“Ferenc Haszilló (...) settled his relationship with the Roma minority, insomuch that he is a regular guest of the events organized by the local Roma community. Ferenc Haszilló restored his suspension at Fidesz party and he is now the party’s mayor candidate in Kecel. Fidesz does not tolerate racism in its circles, if someone takes a wrong step in this regard or uses ambiguous wording, they need to apologize and prove with their actions that they are in line with Fidesz’s values and politics fighting all forms of racism.”*

Holocaust-denier Gergely Kulcsár still runs in the elections

Source: 24.hu

10 September 2019 Our August report reported that Gergely Kulcsár was running in the local elections this fall. Kulcsár became well-known for his antisemitic expressions, he used to be MP for Jobbik and he is still the party's regional director. He was joint candidate of LMP-Jobbik-Momentum but following the strong press coverage his candidacy received, Kulcsár stood down.

Kulcsár referred to the Holocaust as "*Holohoax*", he once spat in the Shoes on the Danube Bank – a Holocaust memorial that honor Jews who were shot at the bank and fell into the Danube – and he wished happy new year with a swastika to other Jobbik members. However, he became second on Jobbik's list in Hajdú-Bihar County and therefore there is a fair chance he will make it to the county council after the local elections.

Apart from Kulcsár, another antisemitic Jobbik member runs as a joint candidate of the same parties in the elections. Gábor Balogh will appear on the parties' compensation list in Budapest District 4. In 2013, it was Gábor Balogh who wrote to former Jobbik member Csanád Szegedi, who had quit the party due to finding out about his Jewish origin, that "*you are nothing but a Jewish thief who was caught and now comes with antisemitism. And this proves every existing prejudice to be true of your kind*".

Experts working on establishing Hungarian literature curriculum left because of Mihály Takaró

Source: magyarnarancs.hu

25 September 2019 All six experts working on establishing the framework curriculum for Hungarian literature quit the re-

search group developing the new national curricula – *Magyar Narancs* was informed from several sources. The experts oversaw establishing the curriculum for Hungarian literature and grammar from Grade 5 to 12. Their contract expired on 30 June and even though they were offered a prolongation agreement, they all decided to leave the project. The reason behind this was the appearance of far-right literary historian Mihály Takaró in the group. We presented in our previous report that Mihály Takaró was commissioned to participate in the development of the new national curricula.

It is known that Mihály Takaró provoked scandals of different degrees with his statements praising far-right and antisemitic authors, and dishonoring writers who he does not consider Hungarian enough. The last incident occurred this summer when he explained to Hungarian teachers from Upper Hungary at a summer university course named after Mór Jókai that Péter Esterházy was destructive to culture and therefore he should not be taught about. Previously, Takaró questioned whether Imre Kertész was Hungarian, if György Spiró was human and he said he believed György Petri went to hell.

The central principle of Takaró's openly shared concept is that the Communist era lied about and marginalized national-conservative authors from the beginning of the century and between the two world wars, while it unduly preferred those associated with the Hungarian literary journal *Nyugat* (Hungarian for West). "*Mihály Takaró's goal is to rewrite the canon, it would be very disadvantageous for literary teaching if his views dominated the curriculum*" – believes László Arató, president of the Association of teachers of Hungarian Literature. He also thinks that Takaró falsifies facts as he reasons against the importance of *Nyugat* for example by saying only 900 copies were

distributed, yet its prestige at the time and its authors are stronger indicators of its importance than its circulation.

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE
LEGAL ACTIONS**

APL did not start any legal proceedings in September 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.	2nd of September	Slomó Köves: Opposition parties are extremely irresponsible	Community News And Responses
2.	3rd of September	Statue erected to Gyula Kornis – Parliamentary Secretary at EMMI attended the event	Other News
3.	6th of September	Mayor of Kecel with antisemitic and racist views runs for reelection	Other News
4.	10th of September	Holocaust-denier Gergely Kulcsár still runs in the elections	Other News
5.	11th of September	Stolpersteins placed in Hungary	Community News And Responses
6.	18th of September	Stolpersteins were damaged	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property
7.	19th of September	Star of David and hangman on poster of opposition politician	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property
8.	22nd of September	Márton Gulyás Jew-baited at and expelled from an event giving out potatoes	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
9.	23rd of September	Swastika on an election poster in Szombathely	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property
10.	23rd of September	EMIH finished Torah scrolls and announced government recognition	Community News And Responses
11.	25th of September	Antisemitic and racist statements from Hungarian Falconry Association President	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
12.	25th of September	Experts working on establishing Hungarian literature curriculum left because of Mihály Takaró	Other News

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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Publisher: Action and Protection League of Europe
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The publisher wishes to thank **Dr. András Kovács**, sociologist, Professor at CEU, for all the encouragement and helpful advice.

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The publishers expresses their gratitude for the self-sacrificing work of the volunteers who, under expert guidance, have put their continuous efforts into the preparation of this report over the past months.

Use of the Report or any part thereof requires written permission from the publisher and such use must properly cite this report as a reference.

2019 Budapest

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