

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT  
IN HUNGARY

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OCTOBER 2019



ACTION AND PROTECTION  
LEAGUE



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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 Foundation (APF) identified two incidents of antisemitic hate crime this month. The incidents are classified as hate speech. The first case involved the press publishing articles about one of Jobbik's antisemitic correspondences in 2015. The second one concerns an antisemitic message addressed to independent candidate Ákos Hadházy.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents two cases this month. Zsolt Bayer wrote a blog post suggesting that individuals of Jewish origin have interfered with the local elections in October. The other incident involved several dozens of far-right supporters raiding a community place called Auróra in Budapest District 8 on 23 October. Raiders took off the rainbow flag at the entrance and set fire to it, and they

put stickers with Neo-Nazi writings all over the place's entrance.

APF received a communication this month about one proceeding. During the so-called 'Breakout Memorial Walk' this year, a participant was holding a swastika flag. APF and a few MPs filed charges against an unknown individual. Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK) suspended the investigation. Their decision stated that the offender could not be identified.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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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)<sup>1</sup> and the ADL Global 100<sup>2</sup> 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.

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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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 incidents<sup>3</sup> 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 whole<sup>4</sup>.

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-

<sup>3</sup> See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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## METHODOLOGY

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The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows<sup>5</sup> (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 people<sup>6</sup>
- 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 period<sup>7</sup> 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

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

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 statistics<sup>9</sup> :

- 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

<sup>8</sup> The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

<sup>9</sup> 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 follows<sup>10</sup>:

- 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.<sup>11</sup> In presenting timelines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

<sup>10</sup> CEJI 2012, 10–12

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

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## ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS – OCTOBER 2019

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Based on the known sources, Action and Protection Foundation (APF) found two antisemitic hate incidents over the course of its monitoring activities in October. The incidents are classified as hate speech.

### HATE SPEECH

*News portal reporting about Jobbik's Holocaust denial from 2015*

Source: [elemi.hu](#); [hirtv.hu](#); [magyarnemzet.hu](#)

**4 October 2019** A correspondence entitled “*The Blue Danube Waltz*” was started by Jobbik members on the international day of commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. MP Ádám Mirkóczki and other politicians were making jokes about victims of the Holocaust in their letters. The correspondence from 2015, which *elemi.hu* wrote about, attacked and denied the Holocaust.

Ádám Mirkóczki wrote the first letter, which said the following:

*“Quotes from the news on M1 today: ‘during the three-year-long operation of the Auschwitz death camp, almost two million people were killed...’ This means that 2,000 people were killed and burned to ashes every day for three years! If they missed one day; 4,000 people had to be killed the day after. This is very realistic...”*

It was Zoltán Dobos who first responded to Ádám Mirkóczki’s letter. He was working

at Jobbik’s press services at the time. He is a journalist at Alfahír right now. He wrote:

*“Please, do not deny the Holocaust, but support it instead! :))))”*

Mirkóczki did not reply to Dobos’s letter, but another party member wrote:

*“Yes, counting is unlawful in itself, except if it is counting compensation by those entitled:))))...”*

The next commenter was András Balasi, who was at the time and is still a colleague of Jobbik’s press services, he is now also Jobbik’s local candidate in Budapest District 5. He called attention to an article about the fact that the number of Raaberbahn (GY-SEV) passengers rose in 2014. As a result, the number of railway company’s passengers exceeded six million.

*“File a complaint against me! I cannot say anything”* – reacted Mirkóczki to Hír TV, when he was confronted with what he had written. DK has stood by Jobbik, too, as spokesperson of the party said that *“Jobbik used to have unacceptable statements and issues, but since then, they have acquired the same standards as the democratic opposition has.”*

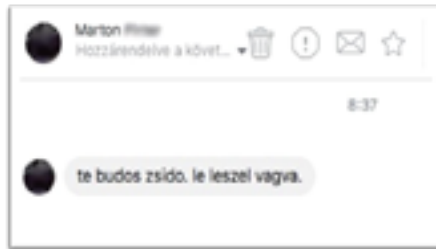
*Politician received antisemitic message*

Source: [facebook.com](#); [24.hu](#)

**28 October 2019** In his TV program, Zsolt Bayer talked to Máté Kocsis about whether violence could be applied toward opposition MPs. By that, Bayer was referring to Ákos Hadrázy and what he did in the parliament on 21 October. The MP in question was holding boards below the Prime Minister’s podium while the PM was giving his speech opening the new parliamentary term. Hadrázy received numerous threatening and antisemitic messages after this: Hadrázy reacted to the TV program on his own Facebook timeline by sharing some of the messages he recently received. He wanted to show that violence has already been applied and, in his opinion, the media *“incites hatred and susceptible people act upon it. To make it clear*



*what happens, I attach a few messages of those I have received over the past week. We can protect ourselves from violence in only one way: we should not engage in physical fights but take action against hateful propaganda!”*



source: facebook.com

## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During the October 2019 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified two 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.

*Extremists raided Auróra in Budapest District 8*

Source: index.hu; MTI

**23-25 October 2019** Several dozens of far-righters raided a community place called Auróra in Budapest District 8 on 23 October. Although the community place was closed at the time, raiders took off the rainbow flag at the entrance and set fire to it. They put stickers with Neo-Nazi writings all over the place's entrance – said Ádám Schönberger, who runs Auróra, to Index.

Schönberger said it was supposedly a radical group called Légio Hungária (Legion Hungary) that raided the place without having reported their assembly to the police.

Mayor András Píkó and the police chief of Budapest District 8 also arrived at Auróra an hour after the raid. The place opened after the crime scene investigation was finished, and a complaint was filed against the offenders. The far-right group painted their name on the concrete outside Auróra, which was removed.

According to

the communication issued by Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK), they were notified at 2.08 pm that unknown individuals removed, set fire to the flag, and vandalized the walls of Auróra cultural community center on Auróra

Street. The notification said there was no one injured. BRFK started an investigation into vandalism against unknown offenders, police have begun to identify perpetrators - wrote MTI.

In the evening of 23 October, *444.hu* wrote that “the new far-right group called Légio Hungária held their ‘commemoration’ in Corvin köz. Based on the pattern of their clothing and the writings they painted on the walls, members of this group were the ones who had set fire to a rainbow flag outside Auróra Wednesday afternoon.”

The press published several statements about the incident. The US Embassy in Budapest condemned the ‘Nazi attack.’ Ambassador Cornstein had a meeting with the founder of Auróra and the leaders of Pride and Háttér Society. On 25 October, the Embassy of Israel also expressed their disapproval of the neo-Nazi incident. It said they thought it was unacceptable that extremists take advan-



source: index.hu



source: facebook.com

tage of the 'heroic Hungarian revolution' such a way. US Senator Ben Cardin and US Congressman and Chairman of the US Helsinki Commission Alcee L. Hastings also published communications about the incident on 25 October.

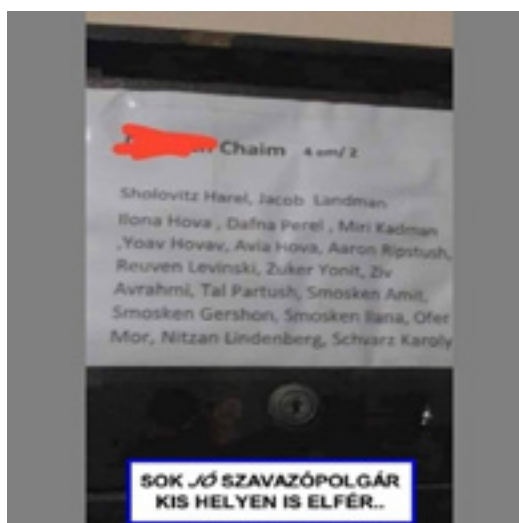
*Antisemitic statement behind Zsolt Bayer's post?*

Source: [badog.blogstar.hu](http://badog.blogstar.hu); 444.hu

**24 October 2019** There is a post entitled *Hát nem érdekes?* (Isn't it interesting?) on Zsolt Bayer's blog, attached is a photo of a postbox with several foreign names on them. Under the supposedly Jewish names, writing says, "GOOD voters fit into small spaces."

There are also questions in the post, sometimes written in bad Hungarian, about how 18 people could live in a single flat.

[444.hu](http://444.hu) also saw the post. Their article said that the picture and the texts might refer to the theory that foreigners, whose declared place of residence is in Budapest, and therefore they are entitled to vote, have influenced the outcome of the Lord Mayor's election. The article stated that based on the names, the people are of Jewish origin, many of them live in the same place, possibly illegally, and the person who took the photo believed without a doubt that they had the right to vote.



source: [badog.blogstar.hu](http://badog.blogstar.hu)



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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*House of Jewish Excellence in Balatonfüred successful*

Source: MTI

**16 October 2019** In 2018, a cultural service center for the local community and a modern museum complex called together the House of Jewish Excellence opened its doors in the building of a former synagogue and a new building attached to it in Balatonfüred.

The Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association (MAZSIKE) received funds for the museum's content development from the Prime Minister's Office. Balatonfüred town council and MAZSIKE agreed that MAZSIKE gave the results of the content development to the council, and they would operate the museum from their resources.

A group of respectable scientists and experts decided on the 130 physicists, biologists, chemists, physicians, computer scientists, mathematicians, and architects, including many Nobel prize-winners, who are honored by the museum and its exhibition. Articles of the exhibition are written in Hungarian, English, and Hebrew.

The House was opened on Einstein's birthday on 14 March in 2018. Over thirty events have been held in the community place of the former synagogue since the off-season organization. The museum's permanent exhibition has had over 7,000 visitors so far, one of them wrote after his or her visit that "finally a place which doesn't give me a stomach cramp," which also shows the success of the new museum.

*Who's liable for the Hungarian Holocaust? – book launch*

Source: mandiner.hu

**21 October 2019** László Bernát Veszprémy's book entitled *Gyilkos irodák – A magyar közigazgatás, a német megszállás és a holokauszt* (Murderers' offices – the Hungarian public administration, the German occupation, and the Holocaust) was launched in Libri Könyvpalota. The author of the book is a Ph.D. student at ELTE BTK (Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Humanities) and research assistant of the Institute of Hungarian Jewish History at the University of Milton Friedman. Dr. Tamás Kovács, Director of the Holocaust Memorial Center, led the discussion of the book.

The first question concerned the book's title. The author said he wanted something that triggered curiosity and

was scientifically informed at the same time. Based on his research, people working in public administration served as accomplices in the genocide during the Holocaust, and therefore they could be called 'murderers.'

About the local historical research results he used for writing his book, Veszprémy said that previous research results were unfortunately unevenly scattered around the country. "Unfortunately, there are some dark spots. The degree of literature processed is not complete; not all archive materials were used. We do not know everything about Budapest," – said the author.

One of the strongest statements of the evening was saying that compared to the

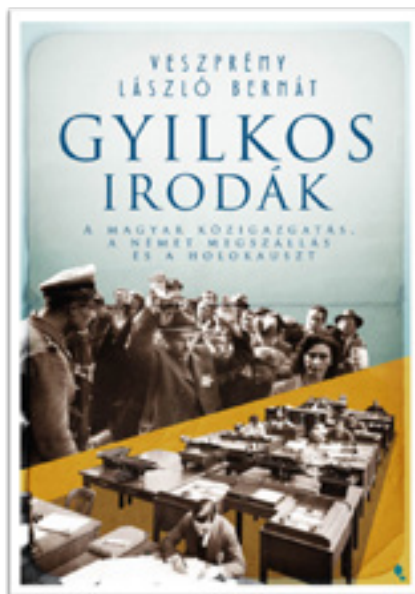


source: mepszava.hu

situation of the Dutch public administration during the German occupation, Hungarians had more flexibility. Members of the Hungarian bureaucracy had a choice. They needed to decide. About possible punishments for resistance, the writer said he had never heard of any Hungarians having been deported or killed because of refusing collaboration. Veszprémy added that if public servants had taken the liberty of mass passivity, the violent measure would have probably been taken against them.

The writer believes that deportations depended on collaborators from public administration, and even though Germans appeared in Hungarian areas and they intervened in a few ghettos, it was mainly collaborators who did the job. He brought up the counterexample of Kassa, where German commanders appeared in police documents. The national picture shows, however, that orders were coming from the collaborative Ministry of Interior.

*“There were a lot of tiny details, time and space also influenced the collaboration, and therefore cases were all individual cases,”* – said the author.



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## NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

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*Kathrin Meyer: Hungarian government committed to cooperation*

Source: [magyarnarancs.hu](http://magyarnarancs.hu)

**6 October 2019** Executive Secretary of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Kathrin Meyer gave an interview to Magyar Narancs. When talking about the association's work, Meyer said the IHRA is an intergovernmental organization. Only countries can be members, and IHRA's network includes experts from the most important institutions, like Yad Vashem, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Anne Frank House.

In response to a question about the situation in Hungary, Meyer said they have been following the case of the House of Fates since 2014 and have expressed what the minimum requirements are which the future museum needs to meet. She added that *"the Hungarian government is committed to co-operating with the IHRA, and they believed it was very important. IHRA was asked to have a look at the concept of the museum, and their international experts will comment on the materials."* She also said, *"it was important that the head of the Hungarian delegation conveyed Viktor Orbán's words, according to which the museum would not open until the issues around it are peacefully settled. (...) This commitment is much appreciated."*

Meyer also talked about the fact that they no longer support traditional, frontal education. She mentioned the Anne Frank House as an example, which, in her opinion, uses modern technology very well, similarly to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. *"In relation to historical fidelity, Meyer said the Holocaust Memorial Center on Páva Street is outstanding, it does not avoid unpleasant issues, and it is internationally exemplary in this regard."*

Finally, Meyer said that *"dealing with the past, and especially with a nation's darkest, most difficult period is always hard. The Holocaust is important to be remembered because it was the collapse of society, democracy, and even civilization in Europe. We should not be afraid of ask-*

*ing difficult questions. A debate about a museum, about how it will be part of a nation's history is hard but necessary. This is a learning process in itself, and that is good."*

*Fiamma Nirenstein: V4 as role model in fight against antisemitism*

Source: [mandiner.hu](http://mandiner.hu)

**31 October 2019** Italian-Israeli journalist and former politician Fiamma Nirenstein was a member of the Italian Parliament for Silvio Berlusconi's party between 2008 and 2013. Since 2013, she has lived in Israel. She works as a journalist and at the think-tank called the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. Mandiner conducted an interview with Nirenstein about immigration, antisemitism, and the relation of today's European politics to Israel.

Nirenstein said she saw a difference between the foreign policies of the V4 and European mainstream: *"Hungary and Czechia's politics are much better."* These two countries have set up different types of delegations in Jerusalem. The V4 consistently refrain from condemning Israel in EU politics and at sessions of the UN General Assembly. Nirenstein appreciated that Hungary did not criticize the US when President Donald Trump moved the US Embassy to Jerusalem.

Nirenstein said she saw the V4 as critical representatives of the fight against antisemitism. In her opinion, modern antisemitism manifests itself today against *"a collective Jew,"* Israel that is. *"Anyone may take the example of the V4 in fighting antisemitism,"* – said the journalist to Mandiner.

At this point, Nirenstein highlighted she did not think that allegations against Prime Minister Viktor Orbán that his conflict with George Soros was motivated by antisemitism were reasonable. Nevertheless, Nirenstein thinks Hungary has been at the forefront of the fight against antisemitism, and the country should now start leading the battle. It would receive fewer attacks, she believes, if it

fought against anti-Zionism.

Nirenstein was also asked about immigration, mass migration, and the impact of such phenomena on the European Jewish community. Nirenstein said the problem was not immigration itself since Polish immigrants, for instance, do not beat up Jews in Western Europe. Yet, Islamist immigrants and followers of the Muslim Brotherhood do pose a problem. According to Nirenstein, *“it is a fact that a substantial number of immigrants coming from the Arabic and Muslim world have antisemitic sentiments.”*

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## OTHER NEWS

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*Parents not interested in Lóránt Hegedűs Jr's teachings*

Source: hirklikk.hu

**26 October 2019** Lóránt Hegedűs Jr was going to be a religious teacher in some primary schools in Budapest. Parents were told that Lóránt Hegedűs Jr would himself teach religion, but the mothers, who were informed about events in Hungarian public life, did not want the pastor to teach their children.

Hegedűs was first reprimanded by the Reformed Church of Hungary when he breached their laws at a service following the inauguration of a Horthy statue in the Church of Homecoming. According to the delegated judge, Hegedűs used words during the church service, which could cause contention and shock in people. The judge tactfully did not repeat the incriminated phrases but said in his final decision that Hegedűs's aim was not following Christ but serving a distorted political view.

Meanwhile, KLIK (a Hungarian central office managing and monitoring public educational institutions) decided, possibly accepting a proposal from the reformed church, that Hegedűs could teach primary school students. Despite their fear, parents expressed their disapproval, and one after the other, they took their children out of the religious course. They referred to the Fundamental Law of Hungary and the freedom of conscience.

*Roundtable discussion about Bálint Hóman*

Source: nepszava.hu

**31 October 2019**A roundtable discussion was held in the Hungarian National Museum, where participants were honoring Bálint Hóman. The reason why Hóman appeared on the agenda was that a second and revised edition of the studies entitled *Hóman Bálint és népbírósági pere* (Bálint

Hóman and his trial at the people's court) was published. The work includes photo illustrations and its 670 pages not only describe events of the period but also deal with Hóman's rehearing from 2015. Budapest-Capital Regional Court (which studied Hóman's whole career) posthumously acquitted Hóman from war crime charges.

*"He was an essential figure of Hungarian cultural politics between the two world wars"* – Director-General of the Hungarian National Museum Benedek Varga praised Bálint Hóman at the roundtable discussion. After the legal rehabilitation has been established, *"some intellectual rehabilitation"* is yet to come.

Fidesz politician and vice-president of the cultural committee László L. Simon, who contributed to the book's foreword, also spoke at the event. He highlighted that a statue of Hóman could not be erected in Székesfehérvár in 2015, and he believed it was unprecedented and even absurd that then US President Barack Obama also had something to say in the case.

The MP also stressed that the book was an academic work and not an attempt for political rehabilitation. Bálint Hóman's life may not be set as an example in its entirety. He may not be politically rehabilitated. In Simon's opinion, however, Hóman can be rehabilitated academically. *"It was a serious mistake that the debate about him did not start after this book was ready"* – said Simon with self-criticism. He added that people's justifiable sensitivity was not considered; *"they put the cart before the horse."*

Lawyer and MP for MDF previously and now for Fidesz István Varga was the one who initiated the rehearing of Bálint Hóman's trial. Varga said it was outrageous that the Hungarian Academy of Sciences did not reinclude *"one of their most famous academics,"* Bálint Hóman, but expressed his hopes that they would do so following the committee's renewal.

Editor of the book and historian at the

VERITAS Research Institute for History Gábor Ujváry also supports Hóman's academic rehabilitation. He believed it was especially justifiable given that there are academics who are not deprived of their memberships even though their professional performance is negligible and were compromised during the times of the single-party state. Political rehabilitation is a different issue as Hóman supported some unacceptable measures – said the historian.

Historian Tibor Zinner also attended the roundtable discussion about Bálint Hóman. Many participants mentioned Hóman was a “*controversial figure*,” yet the term ‘antisemitic,’ probably out of excessive modesty, was not pronounced.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

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*Articles about suspended procedure in the press*

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; varosikurir.hu

**1 October 2019** A participant of the 'Breakout Memorial Walk' was holding a swastika flag during the tour. The incident was photographed, based on which APF and several MPs filed charges against an unknown offender. BRFK suspended investigations because they were unable to identify the offender.

Demokratikus Koalíció (Democratic Coalition) expressed their anger in a communication. They wrote that the police "*decision was outrageously cynical and showed a high level of inattention. If the police had wanted to identify the man with the swastika flag, they could have easily found him using the pictures published in the press and the testimonials of summoned witnesses.*"

As presented in our February report, the so-called 'Breakout Memorial Walk' was organized by Börzsöny Akciócsoport and held on 9-10 February this year. Index.hu reported that a presumably German citizen was holding the swastika flag during the walk, in the area between Normafa and Csacsi-rét in Budapest District 12. Author of the Index article highlighted that the unknown individual used the swastika flag in a public space.

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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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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 October	Articles about suspended procedure in the press	APF Legal Actions
2.	4th of October	News portal reporting about Jobbik's Holocaust denial from 2015	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
3.	6th of October	Kathrin Meyer: Hungarian government committed to cooperation	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
4.	16th of October	House of Jewish Excellence in Balatonfüred successful	Community News And Responses
5.	21st of October	Who's liable for the Hungarian Holocaust? – book launch	Community News And Responses
6.	23-25th of October	Extremists raided Auróra in Budapest District 8	Further Hate Incidents
7.	24th of October	Antisemitic statement behind Zsolt Bayer's post?	Further Hate Incidents
8.	26th of October	Parents not interested in Lóránt Hegedűs Jr's teachings	Other News
9.	28th of October	Politician received antisemitic message	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
10.	31st of October	Fiamma Nirenstein: V4 as role model in fight against antisemitism	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
11.	31st of October	Roundtable discussion about Bálint Hóman	Other News





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## 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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