

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

JANUARY 2020



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Excecutive Summary	3
	Action and Protection League	4
	About the Report	5
	Methodology	7
2	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – January 2020	10
	Hate Speech	10
	Discrimination	11
	Further Hate Incidents	12
	Community News and Responses	14
	Official and Civil Responses	19
	News and Opinions About Antisemitism in Hungary	20
	Other News	21
	Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions	24
	The Month's Chronicle	25
	Contact and Support	27
	References	27
	Contributors and Publisher Information	28

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 Foundation (APF) identified four incidents of antisemitic hate crime this month. Three incidents are classified as hate speech, one is categorized as discrimination. In the first event, APF received a notification about some antisemitic writing from unknown individuals on an empty advertising hoarding at a tram stop. The second case we registered involved a picture posted on the Facebook wall of KDNP's Pécs-Baranya organization, the picture was originally designed to spread Nazi propaganda. The third case involved a couple from Dusnok, whose child

was taken away from them because they had not registered him or her at birth due to a specific ideology. A person, known to be antisemitic and linked to the family, described in a video recording that ‘the synagogue of the Parliament’ and ‘Juda-pest’ should be put in their places. In the case of the event classified as discrimination, a patient was insulted while receiving medical care.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents one case this month. This section includes incidents which are classified as hate crimes but we would not include them in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature, the lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown. The case presented

this month is about the objections to Beatrix Siklósi’s appointment as head of Kosuth Rádió.

APF initiated one legal proceeding in January. We received notification of a case classified as discrimination. After having symptoms of quinsy, the notifier contacted a medical on-call service on 24 December 2019. The doctor in the medical institution was offensive and discriminatory towards the notifier, at one point the doctor said that “*You wouldn’t come here if you watched a film about Jesus, yet you wouldn’t understand it since you apparently profess a different religion*”. APF initiated proceedings at the Equal Treatment Authority (Egyenlő Bánásmód Hatóság) and the Hungarian Medical Chamber (Magyar Orvosi Kamara).

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 factor

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).

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 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

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

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 assumed 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 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 differ-

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.

entials 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.

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

– JANUARY 2020

Action and Protection Foundation identified four antisemitic hate crimes over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of January. The incidents are classified as hate speech or discrimination.

HATE SPEECH

Antisemitic writing at a tram stop in Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation



source: Action and Protection Foundation

January 17, 2020 APF received a notification that an antisemitic writing had appeared on an empty advertising hoarding at one of the tram stops in Fővám tér, Budapest. With black marker pen, unknown individuals wrote “*homo cocksucker [sic] Jewish Momentum*” on the glass surface.

Volunteers of APF removed the writing.

KDNP Pécs spread Nazi propaganda on their Facebook wall

Source: szabadpecs.hu

January 28, 2020 Szabad Pécs published that a picture was posted on the Facebook wall of KDNP’s Pécs-Baranya organization, a picture which was originally designed to spread Nazi propaganda. The picture in question is attached below:

The article of Szabad Pécs presented that the original picture – with an SS bolt removed in this case – is believed to be the work of Harald Damsleth, most online sources state the same. There are Norwegian, English and German Wikipedia pages about the Norwegian illustrator, originally from Germany, who is mostly known for his Nazi propaganda posters. One of the archetypes of Nazi symbolism is a white man protecting his family and there are usually pithy messages written over it in fonts resembling

the Gothic alphabet. The article also quotes from the Fundamental Law of Hungary, a part¹² which is rather controversial and deemed discriminatory by its critics. The Gothic writing on the picture says that “*Man is the protector of family; Woman is the heart of family; Children are the future of family; Man and woman, a union as nature intended.*”

Szabad Pécs wrote it was possible that those who manage the Facebook page did not know about the source and style elements of the picture but it was also added that timing was rather unfortunate since the picture had been posted a day after Holocaust Memorial Day – and KDNP’s local organization had posted in relation to that, too.

However, since the individual who manages that page simply deleted the picture without any comments soon after the Szabad Pécs article was published, it is plausible they had known its origin.



source: szabadpecs.hu/Facebook.com

“Hungary is an Israeli firm registered in New York”

Source: index.hu; youtube.com

January 29, 2020 An antisemitic conspiracy theory and an individual well-known for his or her extremist views are linked to a couple from Dusnok, who were not willing to register their child at birth – the case was broadly covered by Hungarian press.

As is known, with the help of the police, the guardianship authority took a four-month-old child from his or her parents in Dusnok, Bács-Kiskun County. This hap-

¹² The Fundamental Law of Hungary Article I (1) Hungary shall protect the institution of marriage as the union of a man and a woman established by voluntary decision, and the family as the basis of the survival of the nation. Family ties shall be based on marriage or the relationship between parents and children.

pened because the parents were not willing to register the newborn at birth, the infant did not receive the mandatory vaccinations and the parents refused to cooperate with authorities.

The support group that helps the family consists of members of the so-called MAG movement (MAG stands for ‘Mintaként Alkalmazott Gondviselés’ – ‘Care Applied like the Standard’) and some radicals in connection with the movement. MAG’s ideologies are based on subsistence agriculture and a spiritual worldview with nationalistic tendencies, on building small communities and finding possibilities to partially withdraw from society. However, some more radical views not recognizing the state are also present in the network. According to such views, newborns receive a registration number when they are registered at birth so they become properties of a foreign firm. Hungary does not even exist, it has lost its sovereignty and it is now nothing more but an Israeli firm registered in New York. If registered at birth, children will be the slaves of this firm.

An article presented that Imre Posta, well-known for his extreme antisemitism, also appeared in relation to the case. Posta has military background, he used to be a psychologist at the Republican Guard. He and his supporters are now trying to help the couple from Dusnok to get their child back and they believe taking away the infant from the parents was an “*international, armed kidnapping*”.

Posta took video recordings¹³ of his attempts to get the infant back. There are antisemitic statements and threats audible in the recordings, like: “*We should show these police bastards that we could step on the c*ck any time. Obviously, the message goes to the*

synagogue of the Parliament and to all the other mobs for what they do in Judapest.”

Imre Posta has a blog on *postaimre.magyar-nemzetikormany.com*. He writes about various conspiracy theories daily using antisemitic statements and language, he uses expressions like “*Jewish Masonic conspirators*”.

DISCRIMINATION

Discriminatory case at medical institute

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

January 27, 2020 APF received a notification about a discriminatory case. The notifier informed us that he or she visited a medical on-call service on 24 December 2019 because of having symptoms of quinsy. The doctor at the medical institute greeted him or her with the question “*What do you want, you idiot?*”. After the notifier mentioned his or her health problems, the doctor further insulted him or her and pronounced an antisemitic message: “*You wouldn’t come here if you watched a film about Jesus, yet you wouldn’t understand it since you apparently profess a different religion*”. Then after the medical examination, the doctor said loudly to the medical assistant when prescribing drugs “*right, let’s give this moron something!*”

Following the incident, the medical assistant apologized to the notifier via email for the doctor’s behavior (on behalf of the doctor, too) and said he or she would take the necessary measures.

The notifier contacted APF to request help and our legal assistance services took the necessary steps. We also present this case in the section titled Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions.

¹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i32E3pt1Tag>

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During January 2020 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified one incident of antisemitic hate crime which is classified as hate crime but we would 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.

Objections to appointing Beatrix Siklósi as head of Kossuth Rádió

Source: media1.hu; merce.hu; MTI; Action and Protection Foundation; 168ora.hu; terjed.ahang.hu; neokohn.hu

January 7, 10 & 27-28, 2020 Action and Protection Foundation addressed a letter to László Budai, Dr. Ágnes Hankiss, László Meszleny and Károly Szadai, members of Médiatanács (Media council) with management rights over MTVA. APF asks them to review the decision of appointing Beatrix Siklósi as head of Kossuth Rádió, following Mariann Mucsányi, because of Siklósi's extremist statements and activities that have recently become public knowledge.



source: hvg.hu

“The role of public broadcasting is to create and represent national unity. Only individuals whose previous activities are not controversial or exclusionary but stand for unity and tolerance shall be appointed to such an important position.”

It's worth to remember that as a result of pressure from traditional churches in 2014, Siklósi had to be removed from her post as head of the state television's religious programs because she regularly published antisemitic posts, racist jokes and articles from kurucinfo on Facebook. In 2018, Siklósi was appointed as head of cultural channel M5, which has broadcasted programs discussing for example that soldiers fighting in the Budapest formation of Waffen SS deserve

to be called heroic. APF objected to Siklósi's appointment in 2018 because we believed she was unsuitable to the position in all respects. We strongly stick to our opinion now that the media worker known for her antisemitic provocations has been appointed as head of Kossuth Rádió.”

Three opposition members of Közzolgálati Közalapítvány's (Public Foundation of Public Service) Board of Trustees József Debreczeni, László Kránitz and Máté Silhavy issued a statement of objection against Beatrix Siklósi assuming Marianna Mucsányi's post as head of Kossuth Rádió.

They wrote in their communication, published by Média1, that Siklósi “made hateful comments on various platforms” and traditional churches distanced themselves from her in a joint statement in 2014 by stating “we find her intolerable. Her openly discriminatory and antisemitic comments and statements make her unsuitable to organize religious programs.”

Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Közzolgálati Közalapítvány László Balogh criticized Debreczeni, Kránitz and Silhavy in his response to their letter and highlighted that the dissenting opinion shall not have any impact on Siklósi's

appointment. With regards to the objections of 2014, Balogh said that “the quotes were the products of a previous media hysteria and their accuracy is doubtful”.

Siklósi first stirred up a scandal in 2003 when she spoke to prominent British Holocaust denier David Irving in a program entitled Éjjeli menedék (Night Shelter) broadcasted by MTV1. Irving said in the program that the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was an “antisemitic rebellion and pogrom” against “Jewish rule”. The channel terminated the program after the scandalous interview. Irving was imprisoned in Austria for Holocaust denial in 2006.

The last time Beatrix Siklósi was in the news was when Kristóf Trombitás's program on channel M5, edited by Siklósi, presented homosexuality as an illness, which people could be "cured" of. A guest of the program, a Catholic priest also voiced this opinion. In another program, Siklósi said soldiers fighting in the Budapest formation of Waffen SS were heroic.

Later, the press presented that over 20 Jewish and other organizations signed the petition calling for Siklósi's removal from her position. The Holocaust Memorial Center, the Jayne Lauder Jewish Community School, Haver Foundation, Bálint House, the March of the Living Foundation, Sim Shalom Congregation, the Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association (Mazsike) and the Scheiber Sándor School were among the organizations signing the petition.

However, CEO of MTVA Dániel Papp stirred even more emotions when he stated he strongly agreed that antisemitism was intolerable in public life. Supporting this, he wrote that "cultural channel M5, which was previously headed by Beatrix Siklósi, was honored to

have Executive Rabbi Slomó Köves himself as a guest once, and the Rabbi did not mention he had any concerns or problems with Beatrix Siklósi."

Yet, Action and Protection Foundation had expressed objection against Siklósi's appointment as mentioned above.

Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) reacted that "I do find and I have found all of Beatrix Siklósi's appointments, including the latest, intolerable both personally and organizationally. I resent the public statement referring to my opinion." Rabbi Köves added that "*The racist and antisemitic imagery of Beatrix Siklósi's work, Magyar Média Iskola (Hungarian Media School) being advertised on kuruc.info and her Facebook posts about Jewish pilgrims in Tokaj-Hegyalja all vividly portray the views of Beatrix Siklósi, editor of the program entitled Éjjeli menedék (Night Shelter) which at times opened with quotes from Szálasi. A person who has invited in her programs Holocaust denier David Irving, György Budaházy and Lóránt Hegedűs Jr is absolutely unsuitable to hold a position in public broadcasting*".

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

This year's Raoul Wallenberg Prize awarded
Source: varosikurir.hu

January 16, 2020 Born on 4 August 1912, as secretary of the Swedish Embassy in Budapest Raoul Wallenberg saved the lives of thousands of people in 1944 (twenty thousand according to some sources) by issuing Swedish passports or sheltering people in safe houses. On 17 January 1945, Wallenberg set off to Debrecen to meet members of the Temporary National Government and the Soviet General's headquarters but he never arrived. The complete and accurate history of his imprisonment in the Soviet Union is still unknown.

The Raoul Wallenberg Association, the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation and the Ministry of Human Resources (EMMI) initiated the Raoul Wallenberg Prize in Wallenberg's memory in 2010. Founders of the prize wanted to set an example and an ethical standard in Hungarian social and political life by issuing the award. They would like to annually honor the work, humanity and social-minded behavior of people and organizations whose lives and activities are showing examples of advocating the disadvantaged and victims of discrimination. Founders of the prize wish to fight against prejudice, racism, antisemitism and anti-Roma behavior.

75th Anniversary of Budapest Ghetto Liberation commemorated

Source: MTI; hirklikk.hu

January 17 and 19, 2020 *"Hatred and hateful people shall not be remembered with hatred but with dignity"* – said Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves at the event held in Budapest to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Budapest Ghetto.

Slomó Köves said that *"the question is*

not who our parents were but what we do with their memory: (...) Our common task is to make commemorations meaningful even when survivors, people who have personal experiences of the Holocaust, will not be with us anymore".

Köves talked about how Fidesz mayor of Budapest District 12 Zoltán Pokorni's words about his grandfather were received. *"Not only was I surprised by his honest words but also by how they were received, how few people received them with reasonable openness and sensitivity."*

Köves added that *"just as it is not a merit to be descendants of survivors, it is not sinful to be the grandchildren of offenders."*

Mayor of Erzsébetváros Péter Niedermüller said that *"commemoration is always a moral and a political act. What happened in District 7 and in the whole of Budapest in the winters of 1944 and 1945 is our country's shame. It is unforgettable and unforgivable (...) a burden we all need to live with"* – said the politician.

"The darkest sin of Hungarian history is we could not protect our Jewish compatriots, or we did not want to protect them since a series of anti-Jewish laws were already introduced in the 1920s (...). We have had to face this liability up to this day" – said Niedermüller.

The hatred that initiated the events of the Holocaust is a terrible sin and therefore it is one of our most important duties to speak up against hate speech and discrimination – added the Mayor.

Israeli Ambassador to Hungary Yakov Hadas-Handelsman highlighted in his speech that when walking on the streets of Budapest, several memorial sites prompts us to *"stop and contemplate on the outrageousness of the past"*. Commemoration is especially important nowadays when antisemitism is growing in Europe, when people are publicly attacked



source: MTI

because of their religious and ethnic backgrounds – stated the Ambassador.

Head of Budapest's Orthodox Rabbinate Rabbi Báruch Oberlander recited a Kaddish in memory of the victims, then attendees of the event lit memorial candles.

A commemoration was held in the Dohány Street Synagogue, too. Chief Rabbi of the Synagogue Róbert Frölich said that the tragedy of the Jewish community in Hungary did not start when the first trains left for Auschwitz. The persecution of Jews started with words, ideologies, writings, a change in public discourse, thoughts and emotions that set the course towards setting up ghettos. *"We cannot let ourselves forget because then we will be damned to be forgotten"* and in that case, nothing prevents history from repeating itself – said Rabbi Frölich.

Deputy State Secretary responsible for civil society relations at the Prime Minister's Office Vince Szalay-Bobrovniczky stressed that every generation must contemplate on the sins of the past in order to be able to *"understand and communicate the painful sacrifice of our ancestors"*. Hungary unites and faces the past so that no members of a national, ethnic or religious community would be a victim of infringement – stressed the Deputy State Secretary.

President of the Budapest Jewish Congregation Tamás Mester and Israeli Ambassador to Hungary Yakov Hadas-Handelsman also spoke at the event.

A few foreign news agencies and newspapers covered the commemoration in Budapest.

A regulation of the Ministry of Interior defining the borders of the 'Great' Budapest Ghetto was published on 29 November 1944. The territory enclosed by Dohány Street, Nagyatádi Szabó (today: Kertész) Street, Király Street, Csányi Street, Rumbach Sebestyén Street, Madách Imre Street, Madách Imre Square and Károly Avenue were locked off on 10 December. 40 thousand people were moved to the 4,513 flats of the

ghetto from yellow-star houses around the city. Then the numbers increased rapidly, 70-80 thousand flats were involved by the beginning of the following year. At the time of the liberation on 18 January, 3,000 unburied dead bodies were found just on Klauzál Square.

"75 years later, is Auschwitz really liberated?"

Source: tev.hu

January 22, 2020 EU diplomats and high-ranking representatives of several European countries attended the event in Poland that marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The recently established Action and Protection League (APL) introduced itself at the joint event of the European Jewish Association (EJA) and the International March of the Living. President of APL is Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) and founder of Action and Protection Foundation (APF) Slomó Köves. APL was established with the cooperation of European Jewish organizations and it builds on the methodology and the best practices of APF.

In his opening speech, Head of EJA Menachem Margolin warned that the fight against antisemitism is the fight between good and evil. Hungarian Justice Minister Judit Varga, former President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani from Italy, Minister-President of Flanders Jan Jambon and President of the Austrian National Council Wolfgang Sobotka spoke at the event. MPs for MSZP Attila Mesterházi and Tamás Harangozó, MP for KDNP István Simicskó and Deputy State Secretary responsible for international and EU affairs István Kovács were members of the Hungarian delegation.

President of Action and Protection League (APL) Slomó Köves said that initiatives against the Jewish community are still experienced 75 years after Auschwitz and therefore the

fight against ideologies is motivated by duty. This fight needs clear and unambiguous guidance, as well as unity between political groups and those who shape public discourse – stressed Rabbi Köves. The head of APL, which is now present in 12 countries, stated that they offer methodological innovations to European countries, giving more thorough and comprehensive overviews of antisemitism than before. Besides the disclosure of antisemitic attitudes, APL's new, pan-European data collection method provides a solution to the monitoring of antisemitic attacks.

Judit Varga called Auschwitz one of the biggest cemeteries, our Jewish compatriots who died there will be forever missed – she said. According to the minister, Western-European examples show that there are people who have not learned from Auschwitz, yet one should not be worried about similar cases happening in Hungary as besides the national memorial days and educational programs, legal frameworks ensure the security of the Jewish community.

President of the Austrian National Council and former Federal Minister of the Interior Wolfgang Sobotka, Director of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) seated in Vienna Michael O'Flaherty, Senator and Vice-Chair of the European Affairs Committee in the French Senate André Gattolin, intelligence officer in the Israeli Defense Forces Keren Knoll and Chief Rabbi of the Netherlands Binyomin Jacobs gave speeches at the event. Rabbi Jacobs stressed that his grandchildren go to a school where the wire fence makes it look like a prison. “75 years later, is Auschwitz really liberated?” – he asked.

At the end of the event, presenters spoke about positive initiatives and best practices,

which could be standards to follow in some other member states of the EU. Frank Müller-Rosentritt spoke about the law submitted to and approved by the Bundestag, which forbid the state to support the BDS movement in any way. Deputy Chairman and General Director of the International March of the Living Aharon Tamir talked about the results of the organization's activities, while Portuguese Secretary of State of Education Joao Costa held a presentation about the possible steps to counter hatred and fake news being spread online and targeting mainly young people.

Guests of the event attended an official commemoration ceremony Tuesday morning at the former concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.



source: MTI

Commemorations held on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Source: MTI; neokohn.hu; mazsihisz.hu

January 27-28, 2020 “It is up to us whether we learn from the past and gain strength from the sacrifice the victims of the 20th century made and from the examples of people who saved lives” – said the Hungarian Minister of State for Public Administration of the Ministry of Human Resources (EMMI) Csaba Latorcai at the commemoration held on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Budapest.

Minister Latorcai said that “we are responsible for the whole world and for the future of Europe. It is up to us whether we support peace or our worlds will be overcome by unrest”.

The Minister of State said that in the past 9 years, the government has achieved

significant results in preserving the memory of the Holocaust. The programs offered and the government measures laid new foundations for facing this dark era of Hungarian history. With the politics of memory, the identity of Hungarian communities has strengthened.

Latorcai also said it was worrying and sad that 75 years after the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, today's Europe – whose identity has for centuries been defined by the traditions of Christian-Jewish culture – is about to set off on a dangerous journey which threatens the continent's defining and identity-shaping basic foundation.

Director of the Holocaust Memorial Center Tamás Kovács said it cannot be overemphasized that a third of the victims killed in Auschwitz were deported from the territory of Hungary. The only sin of these people was that they were Jewish or Roma or they were not liked by leaders of the regime for some other reasons. Kovács said it was important that generations born after World War II get to know the complete history, background and after-effects of the Holocaust. Therefore the memorial center organizes programs for students, holds trainings for teachers and cooperates with a number of foreign memorial centers and research institutes – stated the director.

Secretary-General of the UN António Guterres's message for the Remembrance Day was read out at the event. Guterres wrote that 75 years ago, the bloodshed was over with the liberation of the death camps and the world was outraged when the crimes committed by the Nazis were revealed. 75 years later, there are Neo-Nazis again and there are people who proclaim the superiority of white people, and there are people who continue to try and lessen the severity of the Holocaust and deny or diminish the liability of perpetrators. However, just as hatred persists, so should our decision to counter it – said the Secretary-General.

Israeli Ambassador to Hungary Yakov Hadas-Handelsman said that 75 years after the end of World War II, antisemitism is growing again worldwide. Growing xenophobia and hatred of others go together with denying and relativizing the Holocaust. This is manifested in speeches, writings, and even in schools. The Ambassador stressed that antisemitism is not only the problem of the Jewish community but also of the society in which it unfolds. Antisemitism may be the forerunner of other forms of discrimination and hatred, which endanger the stability of society and usually affect people who are different from most of the society.

Russian Ambassador to Hungary Vladimir Sergejev said they were proud of their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers who liberated “one of Hitler's greatest death factories”, the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Ambassador Sergejev stated that on 18 January 75 years ago, soldiers of the Red Army liberated the Budapest Ghetto, too, where 70,000 people were kept. During the commemoration, an exhibition of the Russian Holocaust Research and Education Center and the Russian Jewish Congress was opened.

Rabbi Péter Simon Radvánszki recited a Kaddish at the end of the event, and attendees placed candles at the memorial wall of victims. In Páva Street, anyone could visit the exhibition entitled “*A jogfosztástól a népirtásig*” (From deprivation of rights to genocide) free of charge.

27 January, the day when the Auschwitz death camp was liberated in 1945, was designated as International Holocaust Remembrance Day by the United Nations General Assembly on 1 November 2005.

Commemorations were held at several locations nationwide – said multiple press organs.

The municipal administration of Budapest District 8 held a commemoration at the Kis-Varsó (Little Warsaw) memorial plate on Népszínház Street, remembering victims

killed by Nazis and members of the Arrow Cross Party. Mayor András Pikó, member of the so-called Teleki '44 research Kata E. Fris and rector of the Budapest University of Jewish Studies Károly Vajda delivered speeches at the event. Rabbi István Darvas said a Kaddish at the ceremony.

Statements issued by opposition parties highlighted the importance of action against incitement to hatred and of mutual responsibility on Monday, on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

MSZP sent a communication to MTI and wrote they were commemorating the millions of people who became victims of the politics of hatred 75 years ago. Besides paying tribute, we need to remind ourselves of our mutual responsibility and we shall remember not to let the darkest era of history happen ever again – said the statement.

President of Demokratikus Koalíció wrote a Facebook post recalling his previous trip to Washington and visiting the Holocaust Memorial Museum. *“Honor to people who remained humane in those times. There were painfully few of them.”* – said the post.

LMP communicated that the political community of the party remembers with grace the millions of victims, including the

innocent 600,000 Hungarian compatriots killed. They said that human dignity shall not only be protected from physical violence but from written and verbal abuse and harms caused by political propaganda, too.

The statement of Magyar Liberális Párt drew attention to the fact that between 1941 and 1945, with the involvement of Hungarian authorities, over 400 thousand Hungarian Jews were deported and killed. Over a million people lost their lives in Auschwitz-Birkenau, and every third of them was Hungarian. The anti-Jewish laws passed by the Hungarian parliament paved the way of the cruel killings – said the communication.

Párbeszéd highlighted in their statement that *“we shall not forget how tragic and inhumane consequences exclusion, discrimination and prejudice may have”*. Leaders and every man in the world shall be vigilant and we should reject all forms of incitement to hatred together – they said.

At the venues called 'Emlékpont' (Memory Point) and 'Magyar Tragédia 1944' (Hungarian Tragedy 1944) in Hódmezővásárhely, a quiz and a book launch were held and people paid tributes to observe International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Police could not find attacker of cantor from Nyíregyháza – investigation terminated

Source: hirklikk.hu; mазsiszem.hu

January 1, 2020 Cantor and Chairman of the Commemorative Committee for the Hungarian Jewish Freedom Fighters (MAZSISZEM) Dániel Imre Rosenfeld was victim of an antisemitic assault in August 2019 in Nyíregyháza. APF presented the case at the time. The police terminated the investigation, without findings, in January this year.

The cantor was surrounded by a group of five young men who were spitting, swiping their arms and saying that *“filthy Jews belong to gas chambers, Jews to gas chambers, sieg heil...”*.

According to MAZSISZEM’s communication, the police terminated the investigation, they were unable to find the perpetrators.

Man damaging Holocaust monument in Makó detained

Source: szegedma.hu

January 22, 2020 Police officers in Makó arrested a 64-year-old local man who had damaged a monument in the center of Makó – stated the county’s police headquarters.

An individual wrote *“Jews are murderers”* on the pedestal, resembling the Star of David, of the Jewish monument in Makó – presented APF in our December 2019 report.

The monument stands at the site of the former Neolog synagogue on Csanád vezér Square, directly in front of the Makó police headquarters. Allegedly, this was not the first instance of such a damage, but the writing was easily removed.

Based on statement from the police, the man appeared again at the monument on 3 January (!) and when he was convinced that no one saw him, he wrote something on the pedestal of the monument using black crayon. Then, he left the site on his bicycle.

During data collection, investigators identified the alleged offender, he was questioned at the Makó police headquarters for reasonable suspicion of damage to property. The suspect pled guilty and he confessed he had committed damage to property at the same site on two previous occasions.



Source: delmagyar.hu / APF report of December 2019

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Memory of victims of Nazism and Fascism shall be respected

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

January 19, 2020 At the ministerial meeting of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) held in Brussels, it was said that greater weight should be given to preserving and respecting the memory of victims of Nazism, Fascism and the Holocaust.

Sources knowing details about topics discussed at the meeting stated that participants committed themselves to promote remembrance of Jewish victims of the Holocaust, victims of the genocide of the Roma and other persecutions and create broader awareness of these in society. Attendees declared they wanted to promote Holocaust education and preserve the memory of the Holocaust. They committed themselves to increase political support of research on the Holocaust and make greater efforts to preserve historical data about the persecution of victims.

Member countries of the IHRA agreed to cooperate in countering anti-Semitism and preventing its growth.

The Stockholm Declaration of 2000 stated that the unprecedented character of the Holocaust will always hold universal meaning, and member countries of the IHRA have now decided to lead efforts to promote education, remembrance and research on the Holocaust.

The goal of the IHRA is that political and social leaders create broader awareness about the Holocaust to citizens of member countries and to international public opinion. Hungary assumed the chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in 2015.

János Áder met Hungarian Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem

Source: MTI

January 24, 2020 President János Áder met Hungarian Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem and told them about the Hungarian government's measures to fight antisemitism and promote Holocaust education, then he lit a candle in memory of Holocaust victims.

János Áder earlier attended the World Holocaust Forum and during the meeting held in Jerusalem, he talked about his experiences at the international forum and the most important learning, the promise of 'never again'.

The President highlighted the speech given by Buchenwald survivor and Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau who said he could not forgive or forget what had happened 75 years ago. Using a reference to Noah's Ark, Rabbi Meir called for peaceful coexistence, friendship and peace between people and for fight against common enemies, illness and natural disasters.

Áder told the Hungarian Holocaust survivors that Hungary and Israel have excellent relations which is further strengthened by the good personal relations of the two prime ministers. In response to a question by honorary consul Josi Weiss, the President said that in international comparison, hate attacks against Jews were extremely rare in Hungary.

Áder talked about a renaissance of Hungarian Jewish communities and mentioned that outside Hungary in Europe, Holocaust denial constitute a crime only in Austria, Germany and France. He also stressed that Hungary maintained zero tolerance against antisemitism.

In response to a question, the President said

that students in 8th grade of primary schools are taught the history of the Holocaust as part of the curriculum and their knowledge is also broadened through films and literary works at art classes.



source: origo.hu

At the end of the meeting, Áder lit a candle in memory of Holocaust victims. He and the participants wished the flourishing relations of Hungary and Israel would continue.

OTHER NEWS

21

Statue of Albert Wass inaugurated in community center named after Miklós Radnóti in Csepel
Source: szombat.org; varosikurir.hu

January 8-9, 2020 Mayor of Csepel Lénárd Borbély and former Lord Mayor of Budapest István Tarlós inaugurated a new bust of Albert Wass in Csepel, in the garden of the Radnóti Miklós Community Center.

The mayor said they commemorate Albert Wass every year on the day of the poet's birthday. Participants of the ceremony – the camera would not show them but it was said there were plenty of them – were told that Fidesz had raised money on the 100th anniversary of Wass's birth for the statue. The fundraising was led by Szilárd Németh.

“At the time, we were not able to do this in a public place because we were in opposition” – said the mayor in his speech. He added that *“The renovated statue of Albert Wass was placed not*

far from Miklós Radnóti's statue because I believe the fates of these two people are rather similar”.

Former Lord Mayor of Budapest István Tarlós gave a speech at the event, he stated that Albert Wass was *“one of his most liked authors”*.

Albert Wass included in national curriculum

Source: magyarnemzet.hu; szombat.org; 444.hu

January 9, 2020 There will be more emphasis on the works of Albert Wass and Magda Szabó, while István Csukás, Ferenc Herczeg and even the English detective novel writer Agatha Christie will be parts of the updated national core curriculum (NAT), published soon.

Albert Wass's novel entitled *Give me back my mountains!* was included in the curriculum. The work is often debated and

causes political scandals repeatedly. It is well-known that the author, who published some antisemitic works of non-fiction and his literary works also include antisemitic elements sometimes, and his involvement in politics have been controversial for years.

Jewish organizations objected that Wass's works would be included in the National Core Curriculum. They requested that Wass would either be left out from the curriculum or there would be some contextualization, i.e. his works would be read critically and his antisemitic and far-right activities would also be taught so that students would get a complete picture of his career.

A draft curriculum was completed by the end of 2018, but it was found that its approach was not patriotic enough. Therefore, President of the Klebelsberg Institute Gabriella Hajnal was appointed to review the draft. Later, literary historian with far-right views Mihály Takaró was also involved in developing the new curriculum. As a result, all six experts on the research group building the framework curriculum for Hungarian literature quit the project.

Volume entitled 'Bálint Hóman and his trial at the People's Tribunal' launched in Székesfehérvár

Source: MTI

January 13, 2020 Fidesz MP László L. Simon, who had written the prologue of the book, highlighted that *"a collection of essays has been written, they establish a different approach to Hóman and force readers to reinterpret a number of things in relation to him"*. According to the politician, historian Bálint Hóman's rehabilitation should have been started with this and only afterwards should have the decision be made of whether

erecting a statue of him was necessary.

László L. Simon said that double standards shall be eliminated. He explained that philosopher György Lukács, personally responsible for the death of ten people, is still member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), and in terms of his scientific work it is fair. However, the former Minister of Education and Religion, later acquitted by the court, has not been rehabilitated by MTA. *"Scientific work and involvement in politics shall be separated because Hóman was one of the major figures in Hungarian science of history but he made mistaken political decisions and his misconceptions cannot be denied"*.

Mayor of Székesfehérvár András Cser-Palkovics stated that the debate around the statue was mainly about issues that had not even been discussed at the original trial. He said that now no possibility exists for a statue of Hóman to be erected in Székesfehérvár, no proposals have been made for years and no one is planning to erect such a statue. *"The issue would breach public peace and therefore erecting a statue is not opportune."* According to the mayor, voting to pass anti-Jewish laws is intolerable in the case of Hóman and everything should be done in order not to let anything similar happen again as at the time, over two thousand respectable citizens from Székesfehérvár were deported and the majority of them never returned.

Editor of the volume and teacher at Kodolányi János University Gábor Ujvári said that *"Hóman was charged with a number of crimes at first instance, and he was charged with only one them at second instance. Due to his leadership position, he was charged with war crime. The verdict of 2015 did not acquit Hóman from his political decisions but from war crimes"*.

Ujvári stressed that the late scholar



source: origo.hu

could be described as an antisemitic politician from 1938 but he was very different from most Hungarian intellectuals. According to Gábor Ujvári, Hóman said the Jewish question featured in Hungary because he wanted to counter the cultural and economic overrepresentation of Jews. This was the basis of his antisemitism, it was motivated by political calculations, which aggravates it. On the other hand, in 1944, it was him who exempted numerous Jewish artists and public figures from deportation following the German occupation.

Historian, scholar and politician Bálint Hóman was born in 1885 in Budapest. He was teaching from 1925 and was director of the National Széchényi Library and of the Hungarian National Museum in the early 1920s. He was member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1929 and was head of the Academy between 1933 and 1945. He served as Minister of Religion and Education in the 1930s and 40s under different governments. He kept this position even after the coup d'état of the Arrow Cross Party. He later fled from the Soviet army, he wanted to get to Germany but American troops captured him. In 1946, the People's Tribunal sentenced him to life imprisonment for war crimes, arguing that Fascism gained more and more ground in public education while he was Minister of Education. He died in prison in 1951 in Vác due to the brutality of the captors. He was buried in an unmarked grave in a prison cemetery.

According to the standpoint of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) in 2016, Bálint Hóman was liable for building and strengthening Hungary's relationship with the autocratic and National Socialist Germany.

Jobbik requested Gergely Kulcsár to return mandate

Source: nepszava.hu

January 27, 2020 The new presidency of Jobbik requested Gergely Kulcsár to return his mandate.

In 2015, it caused a great scandal that Jobbik MP Gergely Kulcsár spat on the Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial commemorating Holocaust victims. His party condemned the act, Kulcsár apologized.

Last October, Gergely Kulcsár ran in the local elections: he was an independent candidate in Debrecen supported by Jobbik, LMP and Momentum. Then, the left-wing opposition and leaders of LMP and Momentum found his act intolerable. In the end, Kulcsár announced to step down from candidacy. He was still elected to Hajdú-Bihar County's council.

Following Jobbik's renewal congress on Saturday, the party held a presidential meeting. Elected President of the party Péter Jakab informed Népszava that at their first meeting, the new presidency of Jobbik requested Gergely Kulcsár to return his mandate. The presidency considers their decision symbolic.



source: 24.hu

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Proceedings requested at Equal Treatment Authority

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

January 27, 2020 APF received notification of a case of discrimination. As presented in the section entitled Antisemitic Hate Incidents, we were informed that the notifier had visited a medical on-call service on 24 December 2019 for having symptoms of quinsy. At the medical institute, the doctor greeted the notifier with the question “*What do you want, you idiot?*”. After the notifier told the doctor his health problems, the doctor further insulted him or her and then pronounced an antisemitic message that “*You wouldn’t come here if you watched a film about Jesus, yet you wouldn’t understand it since you apparently profess a different religion*”. Then after the medical examination, the doctor

said loudly to the medical assistant when prescribing drugs “*right, let’s give this moron something!*”

Following the incident, the medical assistant apologized to the notifier via email for the doctor’s behavior (on behalf of the doctor, too) and said he or she would take the necessary measures.

The notifier contacted APF to request help. The doctor’s behavior seriously breached the rules of medical ethics, and the reason behind it was the supposedly Jewish origin of the notifier.

APF provided legal assistance to the notifier and requested proceedings at the Equal Treatment Authority (Egyenlő Bánásmód Hatóság) and reported the case to the Hungarian Medical Chamber (Magyar Orvosi Kamara). APF also asked the doctor’s employer to investigate the case.

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 January	Police could not find attacker of cantor from Nyíregyháza – investigation terminated	Official and Civil Responses in Hungary
2.	7, 10 & 27-28th of January	Objections to appointing Beatrix Siklósi as head of Kossuth Rádió	Further hate incidents
3.	8-9th of January	Statue of Albert Wass inaugurated in community center named after Miklós Radnóti in Csepel	Other News
4.	9th of January	Albert Wass included in national curriculum	Other News
5.	13th of January	Volume entitled 'Bálint Hóman and his trial at the People's Tribunal' launched in Székesfehérvár	Other News
6.	16th of January	This year's Raoul Wallenberg Prize awarded	Community News And Responses
7.	17th of January	Antisemitic writing at a tram stop in Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
8.	17 and 19th of January	75th Anniversary of Budapest Ghetto Liberation commemorated	Community News And Responses
9.	19th of January	Memory of victims of Nazism and Fascism shall be respected	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
10.	22nd of January	"75 years later, is Auschwitz really liberated?"	Community News And Responses
11.	22nd of January	Man damaging Holocaust monument in Makó detained	Official and Civil Responses in Hungary
12.	24th of January	János Áder met Hungarian Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
13.	27th of January	Discriminatory case at medical institute	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Discrimination
14.	27-28th of January	Commemorations held on International Holocaust Remembrance Day	Community News And Responses
15.	27th of January	Jobbik requested Gergely Kulcsár to return mandate	Other News

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	27th of January	Proceedings requested at Equal Treatment Authority	APF Legal Actions
17.	28th of January	KDNP Pécs spread Nazi propaganda on their Facebook wall	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
18.	29th of January	"Hungary is an Israeli firm registered in New York"	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

Contact details for Action and Protection League

Address: 1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium

Phone:

web:

e-mail:

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CONTRIBUTORS AND PUBLISHER INFORMATION

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Kálmán Szalai, Executive Director

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Editors: **Krisztián Nádasi**, research scholar, head of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Dr. Kristóf Bodó, legal advocate,
Gábor Bodó, research scholar, member of the the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Bálint Bethlenfalvy, translator

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Contributors: **Dániel Bodnár**, philosopher, Chairman of the Action and Protection Foundation Board of Trustees

2020 Budapest

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium
<http://www.apleu.org>

