

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

MARCH 2020



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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

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 three incidents of antisemitic hate crime this month. All of them are classified as hate speech. The first case involved President of Our Homeland Movement (Mi Hazánk Mozgalom) László Toroczkai making antisemitic statements at a Horthy commemoration. The second incident was the appearance of an antisemitic poster of Harvey Weinstein in Budapest. The third case concerned antisemitic comments shouted

at an MTK football match.

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

APF pressed charges against President of Our Homeland Movement László Toroczka for incitement against a community,

based on Section 332 of the Hungarian Criminal Code. We received a communication from the Equal Treatment Authority in relation to a case of discrimination APF had initiated before.

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.

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.

Apart from registering incidents, it is also important to capture the qualitative differentials between them. The typification of cases is carried out in two ways. According to one of the systems of categorization, the following types are differentiated: incitement against members of a community, violence against members of a community, use of symbols of autocratic regimes, and Holocaust denial.

Based on the *Facing Facts! Guidelines*, seven types of incidents are differentiated as follows¹⁰:

- Homicide: any attack on a person that causes loss of life
- Extreme physical violence
 - Any attack on a person that potentially causes serious bodily harm
 - Any attack involving weapons, or other tools that can cause bodily harm
 - Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - Bombs and letter bombs
 - Kidnapping
- Assault
 - Any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not serious
 - Attempted assault, which fails due to self-defense, or if the victim runs away
 - Throwing objects at a person or people, including where the object misses its target
- Damage to property
 - Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
 - Desecration of property
 - Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson

- Threats
 - Any clear and specific threat, whether verbal or written
 - Any “bomb” which is assessed to be a hoax
 - Stalking
 - Defamation
- Hate speech
 - Public hate speech
 - Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media
 - Abusive behavior
 - Abusive literature sent to more than one person
 - Hate speech in literature and music
- Discriminatory incidents

Placing hate incidents in context is also a priority. These actions do not exist in empty space and are by no means independent of the social and cultural environment in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often the processes, rather than separately occurring events (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which leads to a better understanding of the environment surrounding the incidents.¹¹ In presenting timelines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹⁰ CEJL 2012, 10–12

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

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

– MARCH 2020

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

HATE SPEECH

Horthy commemoration in Budapest

Source: 168ora.hu, nepszava.hu, neokohn.hu, akibic.hu

1 March 2020 Hungarian far-right organizations, including Our Homeland Movement, Horthy Miklós Society, Trianon Society, Independent Smallholders Party, MIÉP, Outlaws' Army, Sixty-Four Counties



source: nepszava.hu

Youth Movement and National Legal Aid Service held a joint commemoration on Sunday 1 March marking the 100th anniversary of Miklós Horthy's election as regent. Members of Délvidéki Magyar Polgári Szövetség (Southland Hungarian Civic Alliance) also attended the event, which took place with about 200 participants on Szent Gellért Square. People wore scarves and held flags of Greater Hungary and Horthy in the crowd,



source: MTI/Mohai Balázs

some marched in old guard uniforms. A bronze bust of Horthy was erected temporarily on Szent Gellért Square for the event. Deputy Leader of Our Homeland Movement Előd Novák opened the event and greeted participants. He mentioned in his speech that his party has requested several

times that an equestrian statue of the former regent is erected on Szent Gellért Square and Budapest awards Horthy a posthumous honorary citizen. About 100 meters from the square and separated by a line of policemen, around 60 anti-fascists demonstrated against the far-right marchers.

Participants of the commemoration then marched to the Parliament. They were led by four traditional riders, three on white horses and one on a smaller brown horse. President of Horthy Miklós Society Lóránt Hegedűs gave a speech by the Monument of National Martyrs at the Parliament. The number of participants grew from what was a few hundred in Buda to about a thousand by this time. Hegedűs called for Horthy's social political rehabilitation and the removal of the Hitler-henchman, fascist and nationalist stigmas.

President of Our Homeland Movement László Toroczkai also spoke at the event. He said people who attack Horthy, falsify history. *"In the past few days and weeks, we have constantly had to explain (...) and talk about whether Horthy was liable for the extermination of Jews. One immediately wonders then that how could those who are raising this question be survivors?"* – this is how László Toroczkai started to challenge the Jewish community. He then said that Jewish community leaders have still not faced and begun to speak about why almost every single destroyer of Hungary and leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic were of Jewish origin. Toroczkai requested Jewish leaders to talk about the responsibility of Jewish leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic in the bleeding, disarmament and destruction of Hungary. When counter-protesters arrived from the direction of Nádor Street during Toroczkai's speech, he pointed at them referred to them saying it was important to realize there are still such worms in Hungary's body.

Antisemitic poster in Budapest – APF had it removed – no police investigation

Source: magyarnarancs.hu, tev.hu



source: narancs.hu

3 and 6 March 2020 A vulgar and antisemitic poster was spotted at a tram stop on 32-esek tere, at the crossroad of József Blvd and Baross Street by a colleague of Magyar Narancs, who also took a photo of it. The black and white poster was made and placed on an electrical control panel by an unknown individual. The poster depicted American film producer Harvey Weinstein with an antisemitic text. The Hollywood producer was accused of sexual violence; the jury found him guilty in February this year. Text on the poster clearly implied that Weinstein committed his crimes against non-Jews because of his Jewish origin. Colleagues of APF arrived at the scene and removed the antisemitic poster.



source: tev.hu

A few days later, Magyar Narancs contacted the police and inquired about how the investigation was going. The Budapest Metropolitan Police Headquarters (BRFK) replied as follows:

“We hereby inform you that the Budapest Metropolitan Police Headquarters examined the content of the poster concerned. There have been no suspected offenses to be prosecuted ex officio.”

Antisemitic comments shout-

ed at Kazincbarcika–MTK football match

Source: rangado.24.hu, origo.hu, mlsz.hu

9 and 10 March 2020 The Kazincbarcika–MTK NB II football match was played in Putnok on Sunday 8 March. According to reports, antisemitic and racist comments were shouted in the spectator area. The Hungarian Football Association (MLSZ) published on their official Twitter site that they initiated disciplinary proceedings.

Two days later, the disciplinary committee of MLSZ took a disciplinary decision and published it on their website:

“With regards to the Kazincbarcika–MTK match, the disciplinary committee orders Kazincbarcika to pay a fine of HUF 1,000,000 for the antisemitic expressions and the comments inciting hatred pronounced by their fans.”



source: 24.hu

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Slomó Köves: There is primarily verbal and ideological antisemitism in Hungary

Source: zsidó.com, neokohn.hu

4 March 2020 Founder of the European organization Action and Protection League Slomó Köves talked at the biggest pro-Israel (AIPAC) conference held in Washington about the results of the most recent comprehensive research focusing on the current situation in Europe.

Slomó Köves provided results from the research commissioned by APL and conducted by market research firm IPSOS at the end of 2019. The research was based on personal interviews and studied antisemitism in Europe. It was led by András Kovács, professor of CEU, and was unique in its kind as it collected almost 500,000 data points from a sample of over 16,000 people in 16 countries – Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Poland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Romania and the UK –, and it provided a comprehensive and country-specific picture on the levels and patterns of antisemitism in Europe.

During the research, participants were asked 45 questions focusing on three main issues: typical antisemitic behavior and the hatred of Jews, the Holocaust, and the state of Israel. 25 percent of the respondents did not agree that the Jewish population is to their country's advantage. 21 percent of the respondents replied with a yes when asked whether there was a significant difference between the interest of most of the population and the interest of the Jewish population. 15 percent of the respondents believe the Jews have too much influence. 21 percent think Jews talk too much about the Holocaust and they use the memory of the Holocaust for their own requirements. 30 percent said they suffered the same way as

Jews during the Holocaust, and 25 percent did not approve Israel's right to legitimate self-defense. Only 25 percent of the respondents agreed with the statement that Israel was the only democratic state in the Middle East. 25 percent agreed with the statement that antisemitic attitude was justified by Israel's response to the Palestine question. 25 percent believed Israel treated Palestinians in a Nazi way. It gives cause for optimism that 35 percent agreed Israel was an important ally in the fight against Islamic terrorism.

“The fight against antisemitism should be considered a fight, a war, and one should be aware of what we are fighting. While antisemitism in Europe is a growing security and national security risk, there is primarily verbal and ideological antisemitism in Hungary strongly interlinked with the nation's memory of the history of the Holocaust. I hope this conference strengthens us and reinforces our relations



source: neokohn.hu

with the AIPAC, Israel and the world's Jewry”
– highlighted the founder of APL.

In Hungary, the number of insults was 35 in 2019, none of them were physical attacks. Yet, antisemitic topos negatively influence people's attitude towards Jews and the Holocaust.

In this connection, Köves mentioned the Hungarian community of around 100,000 Jews is having a revival, Budapest is the most Jewish European city. The downside of this is why Action and Protection was established in close co-operation with the Hungarian government. This is the main reason behind launching the education and course book program—the monitoring of antisemitism in Europe and conducting the abovementioned comprehensive European survey. The common goal of these is shaping the society's attitude towards the Jewish community. Antisemitic attitudes are still widely present in society. It is important to have educational materials, initiatives for new legislations,

legislative amendments and procedures on which the Hungarian government and the Jewish community has worked together.

Besides members of the Hungarian government and diplomacy, leaders and religious leaders of European Jewish communities also attended the conference.

APF Secretary Kálmán Szalai invited to Heti TV (Weekly TV) program 'Pirkadat' (Daybreak)

Source: breuerpress.com

10 March 2020 Journalist Péter Breuer interviewed APF Secretary Kálmán Szalai about the activities of APF and the establishment of the new European organization Action and Protection League (APL).

Kálmán Szalai said that Action and Protection Foundation announced the formation of the new European organization Action and Protection League at an international conference organized in collaboration with the umbrella organization European Jewish Association (EJA) held in Paris. The League operates in Brussels and is professionally managed from Budapest by Action Protection Foundation established by Slomó Köves. APL prepares monitoring reports on antisemitic incidents in seven countries, and has conducted international research covering 16 countries on antisemitic prejudice in the countries concerned. Kálmán Szalai shared they asked questions about viewpoints on Israel during their research and the results were intriguing. 29 percent of European population agreed Israel has a right to its own security, while 20 percent think the opposite. 20 percent of the respondents agreed with the statement that Israelis treat Palestinians in a Nazi way. Such mentalities shall be addressed and this was one of the topics covered in Paris. The conclusion was only education can achieve results in the long run.

Besides its monitoring activities conducted in Hungary, APF also has activities focused on education and legal protection. 35 incidents of antisemitic hate crime were identified in Hungary last year, but there were fewer legal proceedings initiated than in the year before. APF Secretary added that authorities examine every case and notification carefully, it is another question that their opinions regarding the results of the examinations differ from APF's. Kálmán Szalai said they were encouraging everyone, no matter whether they are Jewish or not, to notify authorities if they are insulted in any way, even if not all antisemitic acts give rise to legal proceedings.

"We notice that Holocaust denial, for example, has disappeared from public discourse in recent years, not least because Hungary's justice system handles such incidents in accordance with the spirit and the letter of legal provisions concerning Holocaust denial that are taken very seriously; every single incident is sanctioned" – said Kálmán Szalai.

APF issued a statement about the National Core Curriculum (NAT) of Hungary, and wrote it was experts and those working in the field of education who shall come to an agreement first and APF does not wish to express their opinion before such a specialist debate held, which should have been done before introducing a new curriculum.

APF Secretary also noted there was no significant difference between Jewish organizations in how they perceive antisemitism.



NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

US State Department's annual Human Rights Reports published

Source: : MTI, hirado.hu

12 March 2020 The United States Department of State published its annual Human Rights Reports. The reports analyze human rights conditions in countries throughout the world. The report was produced by staff at US embassies and State Department team members in Washington, the work was led by Assistant Secretary Robert Destro.

Secretary of State Michael Pompeo introduced the reports, which document countries throughout the world and provide information on the given country at the beginning of each country report. There is a report on Hungary among the country reports, too.

(Hereby we only present information that concerns anti-semitism in Hungary.)

(...) the media

were active and expressed a wide range of views”

– states the report about Hungary and adds there were some formal restrictions on hate speech and provisions of the Criminal Code deal with such incidents.

With regards to antisemitism, the report refers to data from Action and Protection Foundation. According to that, there were 32 antisemitic hate crimes registered in 2018, 19 cases were classified as hate speech, there were 10 cases of vandalism and three of assault. The report shares there are concerns about the House of Fates in Budapest and includes that Mazsihisz (Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary) issued a statement last September and condemned that government officials participated in the unveiling

of a statue of Gyula Kornis in Vác. The Federation also criticized Our Homeland Movement's march commemorating the anniversary of Horthy's entry to Budapest.



source: hirado.hu-(photo: EPA/Shawn Thew)

OTHER NEWS

József Nyírő, Arrow Cross parliament and Nazi propaganda

Source: szombat.org, maszol.ro, magyar-nemzet.hu

3 March (26 and 28 February) 2020 A researcher might miss an event that becomes important later, this is what happened in this case.

On 3 March, Jewish political and cultural journal *Szombat* published a press review presenting that Transylvanian site *Maszol.ro* presented a critical writing on 28 February about a *Magyar Nemzet* article from two days earlier. On 26 February, *magyarnemzet.hu* published Tamás Pataki's interview with 75-year-old Csaba Balázsfi, the grandson of Transylvanian Hungarian writer, politician, journalist and MP József Nyírő. The article on *maszol.ro* of Cluj-Napoca was written by József Bálint-Pataki, according to whom the whole interview is an „awkward whitewash and falsifies history”. The title of the article on *Magyar Nemzet* translates as *József Nyírő fought to not lose Transylvania*, the subtitle states the Transylvanian writer's family reject accusations and reports against him. Bálint-Pataki believes the interview “did not try to acknowledge József Nyírő as a writer – being at the center of controversy again these days – and his literary works but stepped into dangerous waters and wanted to reason for the rehabilitation of Nyírő as an unacceptable politician.”

Bálint-Pataki refuted one by one every single “surprisingly untrue and false allegations” of *Magyar Nemzet*'s publication.

Nyírő's grandson thinks allegations against József Nyírő for remaining member of the national assembly even after the Arrow Cross coup are unfair. Reaction: it is cynicism to say the so-called Association of National Lawmakers whose members fled to Sopron and assisted the acts of the most infamous putschists of Hungarian history is regarded

as the Hungarian ‘national assembly’. Out of the previously elected 372 members, only 55 attended the national assembly of the Arrow Cross Party and they appointed Szálasi as Nation Leader.

Csaba Balázsfi said József Nyírő was not member of the fascist party, he cannot be described as a propagandist of fascism. Reaction: between 1 December 1944 and 16 March 1945, József Nyírő was representative of a Transylvanian party at meetings of the Arrow Cross national assembly held in Sopron which had long been illegitimate and had not existed by then (About fascist propaganda). József Nyírő's words, which he published in *Keleti Újság* (Eastern Journal) on 4-5-6 November 1941 about Goebbels were the following:

“Now I know who you are! The leader of German intellectual life, in the middle of cataclysm, while you fight gloriously for your nation, you are amazed by the purity of your mother tongue. This explains everything: it explains who Josef Göbbels Reichsminister is and the reason why Germany is so great and undefeatable!” Nyírő also praised Goebbels like this: *“This not only great but also good man is the pride of German youth and German nation, he shall be and is worthy to be loved!”* In his last parliamentary speech on 16 January 1945, Nyírő talked about Hitler and said “... we ask competent government members to send our respectful request about liberating Budapest to the Leader of the German Empire and express the admiration we have towards the heroism of German soldiers!”.



source: wikipedia

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

APF pressed charges for Toroczkai's antisemitic speech

Source: tev.hu, hirklikk.hu

3 and 5 March 2020 As is well-known and presented previously in the section titled *Antisemitic Hate Incidents*, President of the Neo-Nazi Our Homeland Movement László Toroczkai gave a speech on 1 March at the event commemorating the 100th anniversary of Miklós Horthy's election as regent. In his inciting speech, Toroczkai recalled the old antisemitic topos that used to be very popular among far-right circles in Hungary between the two world wars. That is, Jews were responsible for everything, for Trianon, for the Hungarian Soviet Republic, for the destruction of Hungary, because leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic were of Jewish origin. This collective stigmatization of Hungarian Jewry led to the Holocaust. President of Our Homeland Movement said Jewish community leaders have still not faced and begun to speak about why almost every single destroyer of Hungary and leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic were of Jewish origin.

Action and Protection Foundation filed a complaint against László Toroczkai for incitement against a community based on Section 332 of the Criminal Code of Hungary.

APF also highlighted that there is a revival of prohibited far-right paramilitary organizations in Hungary. APF initiates proceedings against every person who has participated or participates in public events wearing the fear-inciting uniform of the dissolved Hungarian Guard Association or any uniform like that.

Two days later, online portal *Hirklikk* interviewed APF Secretary Kálmán Szalai about the complaint filed.

"Why did you file a complaint?" – asked the journalist. *"Because the leader of Our Homeland Movement accused the Jews collectively and asked when they would talk about their crimes*

committed during the Hungarian Soviet Republic. We believe this constitute as incitement against a community and incitement to hatred. In our opinion, this type of collective accusation and the recall of antisemitic topos (...) constitute hate speech which is sanctioned by law." – said Kálmán Szalai. *"APF contacted the authorities through our legal representative"* – continued the Secretary. *"We talk about expressions that accuse Jews collectively of being responsible for certain events in the 20th century and this scapegoating eventually led to the Holocaust. Based on the rules of Hungarian language, the speech in question says that Jews need to face something – the statement refers to the Hungarian Jewish community collectively and that means it accuses them collectively. (...) Leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic were Hungarian citizens whose religious origin had no role in their political activities as Communists at the time. On the contrary, they were hostile with all religious communities. This is why the speech is outrageous and the idea that Jews need to face anything is incomprehensible."*

Doctor did not admit behaving discriminatorily

Source: tev.hu

9 March 2020 In our January report, we presented a doctor's discriminative and antisemitic behavior. Someone told us on 24 December 2019, he or she contacted a medical on-call service 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 the notifier 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"*. 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 assis-

tant 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 after this.

The Equal Treatment Authority told APF the doctor and the doctor's lawyer do not wish to conclude a settlement with the notifier because they claim the incident did not take place as claimed by the notifier. They denied the antisemitic statement or any other offensive and humiliating expressions attributed to the doctor. They also attached a

statement from the medical assistant claiming he or she agreed with the doctor.

APF responded the medical assistant had previously written a letter and expressed his or her regret over the incident and wrote he or she would take the necessary measures. APF also highlighted in our response that the medical assistant had a relationship of dependence with his or her employer and therefore he or she was unable to provide an impartial answer. APF still believes it is necessary to start proceedings.

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 March	Horthy commemoration in Budapest	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
2.	3rd and 6th of March	Antisemitic poster in Budapest – APF had it removed – no police investigation	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
3.	3rd of March (26th and 28th of February)	József Nyírő, Arrow Cross parliament and Nazi propaganda	Other News
4.	3rd and 5th of March	APF pressed charges for Toroczkaí's antisemitic speech	APF Legal Actions
5.	4th of March	Slomó Köves: There is primarily verbal and ideological antisemitism in Hungary	Community News And Responses
6.	9-10th of March	Antisemitic comments shouted at Kazincbarcika–MTK football match	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
7.	9th of March	Doctor did not admit behaving discriminatorily	APF Legal Actions
8.	10th of March	APF Secretary Kálmán Szalai invited to Heti TV (Weekly TV) program 'Pirkadat' (Daybreak)	Community News And Responses
9.	12th of March	US State Department's annual Human Rights Reports published	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary

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.

The Action and Protection Foundation is the partner of the Action and Protection League in Hungary.

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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