

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

JUNE 2020



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Executive Summary | 3 |
| Action and Protection League | 4 |
| About the Report | 5 |
| Methodology | 7 |
| Antisemitic Hate Incidents – June 2020 | 10 |
| Vandalism | 10 |
| Hate Speech | 10 |
| Further Hate Incidents | 11 |
| Community News and Responses | 12 |
| Official and Civil Responses | 13 |
| Other News | 14 |
| Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions | 15 |
| The Month's Chronicle | 16 |
| Contact and Support | 17 |
| References | 17 |
| Contributors and Publisher Information | 18 |

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 be-

haviour 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.

This month there were three Antisemitic hate crime identified by our Foundation. Two of these incidents were classified as vandalism and one as hate speech. The first vandalism was a swastika graffitied onto a wall of a Jewish High School, the second was also a swastika sprayed onto a fence in the city of Debrecen. The hate speech involved an anti-Jewish sign that was held by a protester in a protest in Budapest against racism.

There were two news that involved hate crime in our “Other” category. This category collects news that although are hate crimes by nature, their time or perpetrator is unknown, or due to its intent, is not

part of our statistics.

Our Foundation received notice this month from the police of the termination of a formal procedure due to statute of limitations.

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 Chakrabarti 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 CEJI 2012, 10–12

¹¹ These descriptions, in particular, are held to be the most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 16).

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

– JUNE 2020

In its June monitoring activities, the Action and Protection Foundation identified three antisemitic hate crimes that fell into the category of vandalism and hate speech.

VANDALISM

A swastika was drawn on a poster of a Jewish high school in Budapest

Source: tev.hu, neokohn.hu, zsidó.com, akibic.hu

9-10 June 2020 A note was received by our Foundation according to which the 13th district, corner Gyula Hegedűs and Miklós Radnóti Streets, a swastika was drawn on a poster advertising the Maimonidész English-Hungarian Bilingual Jewish High School.



source: tev.hu

Huge swastika in Debrecen

Source: tev.hu

19 June 2020 A notification was received on the hotline of our foundation that in Debrecen, Rákóczi St. 41, a huge swastika was painted by strangers on a fence. According to the pictures, they may have



source: tev.hu

tried to smear it off, with partial success. Our foundation filed a complaint with the police for the use of a 20th century totalitarian symbol and signaled to the municipality of Debrecen to ensure the disappearance of the swastika.

HATE SPEECH

Blackboard with anti-Jewish text at a protest in Budapest

Source: mandiner.hu, hvg.hu

20 June 2020 A protest was held in Budapest with the slogan „*Opposition to racism*” in front of the American Embassy. The organizers of the demonstration expressed their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and their peaceful response to the extremism.



source: mandiner.hu

At the beginning of the demonstration, the far-right organizations of Légió Hungária and Hatvannégy-vármegye arrived on the scene and interrupted the first speaker with shouts, but no serious stroke occurred due to the rapid intervention of the standby police.



source: hvg.hu

One of the far-right protesters had the following text on the board: **DOWN WITH JEWISH RACISM FREE PALESTINE**

In the opinion of our Foundation, the text of this board goes beyond acceptable anti-Israel political communication because it serves to incite traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes as it incites hatred against the Jewish community.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During the monitoring activities of the Action and Protection Foundation in June 2020, it identified two cases which, although an act of hatred, its perpetrators unknown at the time or are not part of the statistics due to their insignificance or lack of clarity of anti-Semitic intent.

Churchill's statue in Budapest was damaged

Source: index.hu, facebook.com, mandiner.hu, MTI

16-17 June 2020 Statue of Winston Churchill in a Budapest city park was damaged, wrote *Index* on the evening of the 16th, citing a reader who also sent photos of the vandalism. BLM (short for Black Lives Matter), NAZI and RACIST are painted on the pedestal of the statue.



source: index.hu

"The Budapest Police Headquarters has launched an investigation into an unknown perpetrator on suspicion of vandalism", the police wrote to Index the next day.

Meanwhile, Mayor Gergely Karácsony indicated in a Facebook post that he *"considered it unacceptable to humiliate the Churchill statue in the city park and took action to 'wash away the disgrace'. The statue was washed down by civilians, the original condition was restored by the staff of the Metropolitan Public Space Maintenance"* - read on the Facebook post.

(The statue of Winston Churchill, a British politician and prime minister in a city park, has been damaged many times in the past, most recently in 2009, when the face of the statue was painted red, with the stars of David and the words "ZIONIST" and "KILLER" on its pedestal.)

Gergely Karácsony was compared to Ferenc Szálasi in a photo

Source: index.hu, tev.hu

17-18 June 2020 A photo montage appeared on the Facebook page of Fidesz of Budapest, on which the head of Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony was mounted on the body of the Arrow Cross "national leader" Ferenc Szálasi.



source: Fidesz Budapest / Facebook

The iconic photo of Ferenc Szálasi was taken when Szálasi was taken to the banks of the Danube during the 1946 People's Court trial to confront the destruction in Budapest, with the Chain Bridge blown up by German troops in the background of the image.

Our foundation issued a statement about the photomontage:

"The image in question does not comply with the Criminal Code.

The fact that the National Socialist genocide or other acts against humanity are not denied, questioned, portrayed in insignificant colors and does not seek to justify it is a factual situation set out in Section 333."

"Nevertheless"- according to the Action and Protection Foundation, "the image has chosen an offensive pictorial mode of political expression that is disrespectful to Holocaust victims, survivors, and relatives of these individuals."

The Action and Protection Foundation



source: index.hu

sees the picture just as tasteless as when the Magyar Narancs portrayed Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán with a mustache that was notoriously worn by Nazi dictator

Adolf Hitler.

“Such offensive images are tasteless expressions of opinion that cannot be part of the Hungarian political and media culture.”

COMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Imre László from the DK party admired the work of Adolf Hitler

Source: hirtv.hu, index.hu, 168ora.hu

26-29 June 2020 *Hír TV* took possession of a video recording in which Imre László, the mayor of Újbuda DK, praised part of Adolf Hitler's work at a municipal meeting.

According to the recording, the mayor said:

“In 36 or '37, Time magazine chose Hitler as the Man of the Year. Deserved? Yes. Because the work he has done so far has practically brought about the rise of Germany, after the global economic crisis. What happened later no longer really fits into that picture.”

This inaccurate revelation, which testifies to the lack of accurate historical knowledge, does not correspond to the facts. Hitler was chosen by Time magazine as the man of the year in 1938, the referenced title page appeared on 2 January 1939. At that time, anti-Jewish laws called Nuremberg Laws had been in force in Nazi Germany for years, and in 1938 many Antisemitic incidents happened, including the wave of antisemitic violence known as Anschluss and Crystal Night.

Imre László said the sentences about Hitler at a municipal meeting, after a debate of naming a public domain. The item on the

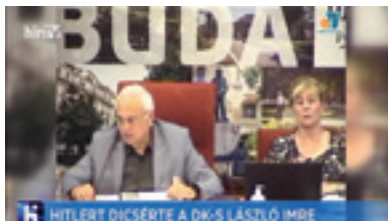
agenda and the debate were on whether there should be an 11th district public area called Nelson Mandela Park. This was initiated in 2018 by István Tarlós, former mayor, then withdrawn, and now it was submitted again by Gergely Karácsony in the 11th district. In the long debate, Mandela's historical role was debated by pros and cons.

The mayor then issued a statement in which he wrote the following:

“No one can seriously think that I apologized to Adolf Hitler. I come from a Jewish family. My grandparents, three uncles, and two aunts never came home from Auschwitz, only my mother survived by divine fortune. No one can seriously think that I apologized to Adolf Hitler. I have just cited him as an example in connection with a motion to rename a public space that the work of every historical person can only be viewed in its entirety. Anyone who has gone down in history as a Nazi dictator, a murderer of millions, including the

killers of my family, cannot be excused in retrospect by referring to periods of one kind or another. In this matter, however, misworded what I tried to convey in a way that may have been easily misunderstood, contrary to my convictions,

against my will, I think it was perhaps the most unfortunate sentence of my life. That is why I apologize to everyone! Of course, as mayor, as someone from Újbuda, a leftist and Democrat, I



source: hirtv.hu

believe in the equality of the people and the universality of human dignity, and I reject anything that is contrary to that.”

The founder of TEV, Slomó Köves, managing rabbi of EMIH - Association of Hungarian Jews, published an article at *168 Óra* magazine regarding the above case that had caused a great turmoil. In this, among other things, Köves states:

“Imre László’s public statement can only be condemned. The text – whatever the thought was behind it – is defenseless. If a politician says it, you have to take the consequences. Nevertheless, Imre László is certainly not a Nazi. If we may have had any doubts about this before, his statement issued after the accused’s statement made this clear.”

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Charges were filed against the “guards”
Source: MTI, neokohn.hu, huppa.hu

3 June 2020 Five people were indicted who, despite the legal ban, took part in uniform at the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the election of Miklós Horthy as governor on March 1, Tibor Ibolya metropolitan attorney announced.



source: merce.hu

According to the indictment, the five men - four men and a woman - appeared at the last venue of the commemoration, wearing the uniforms of an association, previously abolished by the court, in Vértanúk Square in the 5th district. (This group was the Hungarian Guards. The Hungarian Guard Preservation and Culture Association and the Hungarian Guard Movement were finally dissolved by the Metropolitan Judgment Board on July 2, 2009.)

According to the Prosecutor General's Office, the accused violated the Law on the Right of Assembly, according to which it is forbidden to appear at the meeting wearing paramilitary or similar clothing that may

be confused with it, that mediates or intimidates violence.

The Prosecutor's Office filed an indictment with the Central District Court of Pest for the violation of the freedom of assembly committed by the accused in violation of the restrictions ensuring peaceful character - wrote Tibor Ibolya.

The V. and XIII. District Prosecutor's Office proposed that the court impose a fine on two men in absentia and try three of their comrades on probation.

As reported in our March report, our Foundation filed a complaint against László Toroczka, the President of Mi Hazánk, for his speech at the aforementioned Horthy commemoration for the crime of inciting against the community. At the same time, TEV drew attention to the illegal resurgence of banned far-right paramilitary organizations in Hungary. The Foundation initiates proceedings against any person who, at a public event, displays the uniform, or like it, of the dissolved Hungarian Guard Association.

OTHER NEWS

Miklós Horthy's grandson apologized on behalf of his grandfather for the Holocaust

Source: 24.hu, neokohn.hu

7 June 2020 In connection with the 100th anniversary of the Trianon, a documentary was presented online, in which Miklós Horthy's grandson, the nearly 80-year-old István Horthy Jr. talks about his grandfather.

István Horthy Jr. did not know his own father either, as he was only one and a half years old when István Horthy died, but he had a close relationship with his grandfather, whom he also considered a kind of father figure in his childhood. The new documentary presents, from the perspective of his family, subjectively one of the most divisive figures in twentieth-century Hungarian history.

The issue of responsibility and political omissions is mentioned several times in the film, as is Miklós Horthy's relationship with the Nazis and Hitler.

"It's clear to me that Grandpa didn't know what to do with a man like Hitler. When things get worse, people hope a powerful villain will fix things somehow" - said István Horthy Jr. in the film.

The man said his grandfather had no power over the deportations, as he had already been pushed aside by this time and claims



source: 24.hu (photo: from the film of József Sipos)

that his grandfather did not know until July 1944 what was going on in the death camps.

There is also an apology in the documentary:

"But if someone feels it was his responsibility - and of course he was the head of state, so maybe he was legally responsible as well - I would most deeply like to apologize to those who have suffered on behalf of my family and my grandfather (...). Because we are all human and we make mistakes. It is impossible that my grandfather did not make a mistake. Of course, he made a mistake. Only

God can act perfectly. So, it is appropriate for me to apologize" - said István Horthy Jr. in the film.

First World War memorial will be made of the turul-statue in the 12th district

Source: magyarnemzet.hu, index.hu, azonnali.hu

20-25 June 2020 As we reported in our report last November, there were serious problems with the turul-statue in the 12th district in 2005 that was erected to commemorate the military and civilian victims of WW2.

It was then unexpectedly revealed that one of the victims on the monument, who was the grandfather of the mayor



source: index.hu

of Zoltán Pokorni, was not really a victim, but an archer himself and had been actively involved in massacres. The mayor then took his grandfather's name off the statue and asked a committee of historians to review the full list of victims on the monument and make a proposal on the fate of the turul-statue. The investigation found that the list on the market statue included the names of 17 Arrow Cross party members, 4 of whom had also been involved in massacres.

On June 25 this year, the district assembly decided to remove from the statue the names of those who were linked to murders. There will be no public discourse regarding statue, but an apology will be issued. The statue will remain in place but will become a WW1 memorial. There will be a tender for the creation of a new WW2 memorial to be erected in Városmajor. A representative of both the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Hungarian Academy of Arts will be invited to the judging committee and HUF 50 million will be provided for the statue.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Decision to close the procedure

Source: TEV

17 June 2020 The Criminal Department of the Székesfehérvár Police Headquarters informed our Foundation that it would terminate the proceedings that was filed in 2015 against an unknown perpetrator due to a well-founded suspicion of a crime of public denial of the crime of the National Socialist system - as the act expired on 6 May 2020.

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. | 3rd of June | Charges were filed against the "guards" | Official and Civil Responses |
| 2. | 7th of June | Miklós Horthy's grandson apologized on behalf of his grandfather for the Holocaust | Other News |
| 3. | 9-10th of June | A swastika was drawn on a poster of a Jewish high school in Budapest | Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism |
| 4. | 16-17th of June | Churchill's statue in Budapest was damaged | Further Hate Incidents |
| 5. | 17-18th of June | Gergely Karácsony was compared to Ferenc Szálasi in a photo | Further Hate Incidents |
| 6. | 17th of June | Decision to close the procedure | APL Legal Actions |
| 7. | 19th of June | Huge swastika in Debrecen | Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism |
| 8. | 20th of June | Blackboard with anti-Jewish text at a protest in Budapest | Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 9. | 20-25th of June | First World War memorial will be made of the turul-statue in the 12 th district | Other News |
| 10. | 26-29th of June | Imre László from the DK party admired the work of Adolf Hitler | Community News and Responses |

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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