

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT  
IN HUNGARY

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AUGUST 2020



ACTION AND PROTECTION  
LEAGUE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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A significant part of combating antisemitism is monitoring of the prevalence of antisemitic incidents. One of the aims of the Action and Protection League (APL) is to heighten the awareness of antisemitism in the society. The primary tool in achieving this is continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes in public life. Neither Jewish communities nor individual Jews can be protected unless there is data on antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes and that these are collected and analysed. The data collected by the Action and Protection League, 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 identified three incidents of antisemitic hate crime. The incidents are classified as hate speech. The first case involved a woman Jew-baiting and praising Hitler in Újlipótváros, Budapest. The second case concerned Jobbik politician László Bíró who is now an opposition candidate at the midterm elections in Szerencs and it was

revealed that the politician had previously posted antisemitic and racist comments on Facebook. The third incident involved a man who was photographed in the Tesco in Jászberény wearing a swastika T-shirt.

The section titled Further Hate incidents presents no cases 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.

APF did not initiate any legal proceedings this month and we were not notified concerning ongoing cases either.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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In the last decade there has been a rise in antisemitism in Europe. Surveys by e.g. the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)<sup>1</sup> and the ADL Global 100<sup>2</sup> show a broad spectrum of antisemitism and how it fluctuates over time.

The character of antisemitic incidents is quite different in the monitored countries concerning content, expressions, and perpetrators. Current antisemitism is mainly connected to Islamism, Far-right groups, and Far-left groups. Islamist expressions are most frequent in countries with large Muslim populations in Western Europe and uncommon in Eastern and Central Europe. Far-left expressions of antisemitism can often be found disguised as 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.

<sup>1</sup> EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: ANTISEMITISM - OVERVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2008-2018  
<sup>2</sup> <https://global100.adl.org>

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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The general opinion on, and treatment of, antisemitism often takes extreme forms. On the one hand, some voices try to belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion, one-off incidents are exaggerated in the public arena to such an extent that they give the impression that they are frequent or a regular part of daily life. Knowledge of the actual situation(s) is an indispensable condition for the treatment of real problems. Monitoring of antisemitic hate crimes and incidents<sup>3</sup> is one of the tools used in achieving this objective.

From 2019 the Action and Protection League has decided to monitor seven European countries. In the first stage, data is collected from seven countries: Austria, Czechia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Sweden, and more countries will be added later. All countries have their own particularities and vast differences when it comes to the monitoring of antisemitism – in some cases, there are several organisations with similar goals as the APL and in other countries, few or no similar activities. In no case will APL try to replace existing organisations, but rather seek cooperation and exchange of data.

Apart from the monthly reports, an annual summary review, including more detailed analyses on the incidents, is published. All reports are published in English, and almost all are published in the local language.

The fight against hate crimes is of utmost importance since it differs from many other forms of criminal conduct. On one level can these crimes and incidents can be considered as messages. They are not only about the victim in question but points to a larger group. Antisemitism and other hate crimes are thus not only attacks against individuals, but the social fabric of the society as a whole. This does not, of course, diminish the distress and psychological trauma which individual victims might

suffer. These crimes are often not “only” against property or lead to physical threat of individuals, but it also concerns self-dignity. The offenses indicate that the victim is not an equal member or a member at all of the society. Since hate crimes, in general, target victims due to some unchangeable characteristics (real or imagined), the victim becomes almost defenseless. Victims often fear that they may again be targets of similar incidents or worse atrocities if they identify perpetrators to relevant authorities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents may easily lead to secondary victimization where the victim can be led to believe that it was their fault, e.g., by not being careful enough, etc. This type of criminal act also, as mentioned, has an effect on the group as a whole. The victims of these crimes are often interchangeable, since they are not targeted at individuals and any other member could just as well have been targeted. This means that all members of the targeted group become potential victims and might live in fear of a future when they themselves may be the target of a prejudice-motivated crime. This situation is particularly poignant for groups that have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length why Jews belong among such groups. These crimes undermine the fundamental value that all members of a society are of equal value. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the society as a whole. Not only may it encourage the perpetrators to commit further crimes, but it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society as a whole<sup>4</sup>.

It is not an exaggeration to state that fewer hate crimes are reported and documented than are committed. The discrepancy between committed crimes and reported crimes vary significantly between different countries is not necessarily connected to the number of Jews. A contributing factor

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

<sup>4</sup> Levin & McDevitt 1999, 92-93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19-21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17-18; Perry 2001, 10).

to the under-reporting is that victims rarely report them to the police or relevant authority. There are several causes for this: many victims are not convinced that the authorities will handle the matter adequately, either because they lack the competence or that they are prejudiced. In addition, many victims are unaware of applicable laws or where to turn for help. Furthermore, some victims are worried that their concealed traits will be exposed and that they might suffer more by reporting incidents. Victims might also fear that authorities will not be able to prove a hate-crime motivation and

that reporting is thus useless.

It is civic organizations that can help remedy these problems. These organizations can cooperate with police and relevant authorities, but also an intermediary between victim and authority. Reports by civic organizations can be expedient in alerting official authorities on hate-motivated crimes, and long-term tendencies can be outlined through the use of collected data. Civil organizations can prepare cases for legal process, may provide legal defense for victims, and give other forms of aid and support.

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## METHODOLOGY

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The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows<sup>5</sup> (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people<sup>6</sup>
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a specific group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The heightened importance of individual hate crimes is indicated by the fact that the criminal code of numerous countries deals with these cases separately. Although there is a widely accepted definition of antisemitism (see IHRA 2017), there is currently no consistent definition of hate crimes in the countries monitored by the APL.

In addition are the legal consequences different in the monitored countries. This means that an incident which a crime in one country could be legal in another. The obvious example concerns the so-called Holocaust denial, which, e.g., is outlawed in Hungary, but legal in several countries monitored by APL. Since the Action and Protection League has a broad scope when it comes to data collection, everything is covered in the reports, but in some instances, similar acts are filed as a crime in one country and "only" an incident in another. In every case, we follow the definitions in the criminal code of the individual countries. We estimate that this problem will diminish over time due to the adaptation of the same definitions and legislation in the European Union.

Our reports contain detailed descriptions of the definition of hate incidents and our approach to solving the problems. The reports are based on sources taken from international, independent monitoring services, local informants as well as data collected by other organizations working with same or similar issues.

The monthly report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by antisemitism in the broadest possible sense: perpetrator, target, means, or message. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument, or other property. It is essential, however, that an antisemitic motivation can be established. This means that the perpetrator chose the given target on the basis that he/she was Jewish or perceived as being Jewish. It is thus not relevant whether the assumption is correct or not: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient.

In the course of monitoring, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are also considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code in the individual country (e.g. violent assault of a member of a community, incitement to hatred of a community, denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime, use of symbols of autocratic regimes etc.), but can also include other acts mentioned in the Criminal Code, if prejudice can be proven as a motivating factor.

When identifying hate incidents, various indicators are recorded during the monitoring period<sup>7</sup> and are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by antisemitism.

For the broadest possible scope in monitoring antisemitic hate incidents, the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. In addition to media monitoring, reports from local informants the Action and Protection League also rely on reports filed by victims. In Hungary, the Action and Protection League has a 24-hours-a-day Hotline that serves to 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

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behaviour would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

<sup>7</sup> These indicators are described in the Methodology section

the victim, a witness of the incident, or another civil organization.

It is a declared objective of the League to be in close contact with the authorities, since in some countries, they are the first to be approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent relevant sources: television, radio, as well as the printed and online versions of the press. An essential segment of the report is composed of monitoring the expressions of online hatred as a phenomenon that is continually growing.

The public discourses are monitored by a team of experts. One of our aims is to cover the increasingly large segment of the media with continuous monitoring. Monitoring extends to roughly all receivable TV and radio stations, all the printed press with high print-runs, as well as online material not only on news portals, but the social comment arenas and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried out systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

Among the monitored hate incidents, some are considered a part of the statistics, but some are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics.<sup>8</sup>

The categories for hate incidents that are included in the statistics are as follow:

- The hate incidents have to have occurred in the countries monitored; no matter whether the victim is a citizen of the country or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an antisemitic intent or content can be proven, or if the victim was attacked for being Jewish or due to an 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 statistics<sup>9</sup> :

- Antisemitic hate incidents that are related to the countries monitored and Jewry in these countries, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in the country in question, antisemitic intent cannot be proven, or the circumstances are unclear)
- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online forums, but have not been reported to Action and Protection League.
- Other news that only indirectly are linked to antisemitism

A number of the aspects of the registered incidents are recorded. The indicators that help decide whether a given incident was motivated by prejudice are mentioned above.

These indicators pertain to various characteristics of the perpetrator, data concerning the victim, the time and location of the 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.

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

<sup>9</sup> The criteria for hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics were modified, therefore the present description is different from the one we used in 2013.

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

Based on the *Facing Facts! Guidelines*, seven types of incidents are differentiated as follows<sup>10</sup>:

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

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

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

<sup>10</sup> CEJI 2012, 10–12

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

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## ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS – AUGUST 2020

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In the August monitoring activities, Action and Protection Foundation identified three Antisemitic acts of hatred under the hate speech category.

### HATE SPEECH

*Woman taken away by police for Jew-baiting and praising Hitler in Újlipótváros*

Source: 444.hu, hvg.hu, tev.hu

**4-7 August 2020** On 6 August, two days after the event itself 444.hu reported that an educated-looking woman around the age of 40-50 started to stroll among the guests of café Briós on Pozsonyi street, Budapest and was swearing and Jew-baiting. The waiters asked her to stop but as a response, she called them Jews.



source: tev.hu

Then she was still not finished. According to a witness, she was walking around the terrace of the café for about 20-30 minutes and Jew-baited rather skillfully. Sev-

eral people called the police, who arrived at the scene soon thereafter.

When the police asked to see the woman's documents, she first called them rude, then she said they were also Jews. As she was not willing to produce her documents and tried to evade the officers, she was handcuffed and taken away.

Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK) informed 444 that proceedings have been initiated for an offence of breach of peace.

*Antisemitic communicator as opposition candidate from Jobbik*

Source: magyarnemzet.hu, mandiner.hu, 24.hu, rtl.hu, tev.hu

**19-21 August 2020** Jobbik politician and opposition candidate at the midterm elections in Szerencs László Bíró had previously

posted antisemitic and racist posts on Facebook – wrote *Magyar Nemzet*.

A heated debate has arisen on migration below one of the politician's Facebook posts and Bíró also shared his opinion in the comment section:

*"I can see the guests of Hungarian wellness hotels. Here, in Tarcal, there is a 4-star hotel and a lölö<sup>12</sup>-type 5-star hotel full of Poles, Russians and Israelis. My dog gets crazy when those with lice slides pass my house!"* The term 'lice slide' probably refers to the sideburns, or side curls worn by some Jews, explains *Mandiner*.



source: magyarnemzet.hu/MTI

Below another one of his posts, Bíró engaged in a debate with a commenter about the ideological shift of Jobbik. The politician wrote:

*"And of course, the vow to the Holy Crown of Hungary means nothing. We actually have two local organizations established here with at least 20 people and I am more interested in this than in Judapest."*

Another time, Bíró shared a piece originally published on kuruc.info about signing the armistice that ended the Second World War. *"Whether you like it or not, after the National Socialists came to power, there was economic and political stability and order in Germany. During one parliamentary term, unemployment was eliminated, Jewish usury bank capital was disconnected from the economy, payments that were euphemized as war reparations to the countries of the Allies were terminated and it was proved that the economy may thrive and can only be healthy without the 'sacred' reign of bankers. An early welfare state was established in the middle of Europe so it became unacceptable for those who were politically correct at the time. Cosmopolitan-Zionist circles then decided to destroy Adolf Hitler's*

<sup>12</sup> Refers to Hungarian politician and businessman Lőrinc Mészáros

*regime*” – wrote the article explicitly praising Hitler and the Third Reich. One can easily conclude what the author’s opinion is about the Jews, which he thought was worth sharing on his profile – wrote Mandiner.

Later, these posts became inaccessible on Facebook and László Bíró apologized for his comments on the social media site:

*“There is only one greater fault than making a mistake: failing to admit it. As a Christian and God-fearing person, I admit I have made a mistake when in the heat of debate in social media, I submitted unacceptable comments. I apologize for my sin from those whom I offended.”*

Despite such history, DK, MSZP, LMP, Párbeszéd and Momentum all support the Jobbik candidate.

*Man wearing swastika T-shirt in Jászberény*

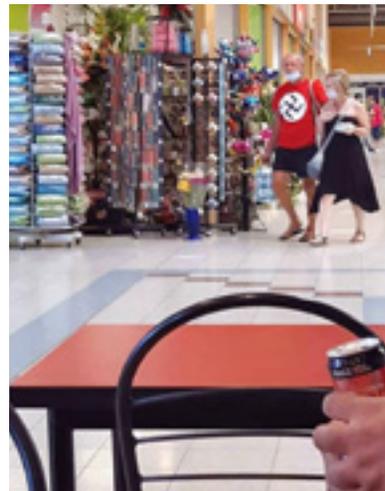
Source: facebook.com, akibic.hu

**21, 24 August 2020** Pictures of the man were posted on Facebook by the Roma rights and anti-racism page No Pasarán. Three days later, *Kibic.hu* also reported the event.

The man was doing shopping with a woman in the Tesco in Jászberény. It is unknown whether a complaint has been filed in relation to the incident. According to the com-

ments below the Facebook post, people were not disturbed by the man’s outfit.

Certain comments reasoned in defense of the man saying that the symbol on his T-shirt was a backwards swastika, which is not the symbol of Nazi Germany but an ancient Indian symbol. This explanation was indignantly rejected by many. The justification is implausible as the man’s T-shirt was red with a swastika in a white circle, which was the ‘design’ of the wristbands and the flag of Nazi Germany.



source: akibic.hu/facebook.com

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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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During August 2020 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified no incidents of antisemitic hate crime, which is classified as hate crime but we would not include it in our most recent statistics due to its significant nature, the lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*Jew-baiting historian receives state award*

Source: 444.hu

**19 August 2020** On the occasion of 20 August, 71-year-old historian, researcher at the Research Institute of Hungarianism, one of the founders of the Trianon Publishing Foundation and former Secretary of State for Defense of the Antall government Ern Raffay was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit.



source: 444.hu (MTV/MTV)

Many of Raffay's presentations in the past few years were similar to the period's consultation forums about the numerus clausus principle, updated with current anti-migrant propaganda. – wrote 444.hu. To provide proof, the

news portal mentioned and analyzed a particular presentation from 2015, available on YouTube. The presentation is entitled *Migration in Hungary during the 19th and 20th centuries*.

The historian makes the following statements about Jewish migration:

*"1867, after the Austro-Hungarian Compromise... a group of migrants arrived, multiplied... and subsequently supplanted us from our positions in science, in the schools, in the Academy, at the university, in the banking world, in the estates, and in the professions. All this should be a lesson for the people."*

In his opinion, Jews never actually assimilated in Hungary, not even when they pretended they did. No matter that in the 1890 census, 63,8 percent of those of Israelite religion said their mother tongue was Hungarian, for some reason Raffay branded this as interesting. In 1910, this proportion was 77 percent, but Raffay said these figures do not mislead him. He believes it is not relevant what Jews say about themselves but one should only look at, as Széchenyi once said, who works for the nation wholeheartedly.

*"That's the nub of it."* – he said.

Raffay also mentioned that at the beginning of the 20th century, thirty percent of the population in Zakarpattia Oblast was Jewish. *"This is crazy! This is crazy! The Romanians needed seven hundred years. The Jewish needed a hundred years. Do you understand? There was a very very aggressive Judaification there"* – Raffay pointed out.

About the Judaized press: *"I found data from 1920, 34% of journalists were Jewish, (...) this is the Jewish press in Budapest. As if it was today, just as if it was today: (...)23% of actors."*

At the end of the presentation, Raffay's own summary:

*"History indeed repeats itself. If we let migrants in because we are liberal, then the consequence is going to be that they dispossess us of our money, our positions, from everywhere. This is a very interesting issue. I know it sounds antisemitic but it is fact."*

444.hu asked Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás about the award at his weekly press conference. The Minister responded that:

*"Ernő Raffay is a respectable historian. One does not necessarily have to agree with a historian's every single sentence in order to decide his oeuvre deserves an award."* – said Gergely Gulyás, then added that *"Ernő Raffay had great history knowledge and his oeuvre is respectable, and no one for a long time, for decades, until after the change of the regime had ever questioned that"*.

In an interview given to Magyar Hírlap, Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves condemned Raffay's distinction.

*Slomó Köves talked about antisemitism in Hungary in Magyar Hírlap and Kossuth Rádió*

Source: magyarhirlap.hu, hirado.hu

**25 August 2020** Magyar Hírlap contacted Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) and founder of APF Slomó Köves in relation to the fact that László Bíró, who is the left-wing opposition's

joint candidate at the midterm elections to be held in Szerencs on 11 October, has previously made antisemitic and racist comments on Facebook.

Slomó Köves is not surprised that the candidate of the party which was established with a racist, anti-Roma and antisemitic program publishes antisemitic posts.

*“Although they have tried not to make such public statements in the past few years, it is unfortunately no doubt that Jobbik has not changed. Based on the surveys commissioned by Action and Protection Foundation, we can see that over sixty percent of Jobbik voters have antisemitic views. It is sad that opposition parties unwittingly legitimize antisemitism by supporting the candidate in question and dismissing previously declared moral norms. We would expect that Hungarian public life keeps a distance from the remains of Jobbik and its ideology: It is clear that honoring Ernő Raffay, Jobbik’s for-*



Slomó Köves - source: magyarhirlap.hu

*mer ideologist does not head in that direction.”* – said the Rabbi.

Slomó Köves said in the program entitled *Jó reggelt, Magyarország!* (Good morning, Hungary!) on Kossuth Rádió that antisemitism spreads in the west, not in Hungary. The head of EMIH believes that:

*“It is extremely strange that a German politician criticizes Hungary because in 2019, there were 1824 antisemitic incidents in Germany, while only 35 in Hungary. It is rather worrying that the figures stagnate in Hungary but they are rising year by year in Germany. Politicians should take*

*this issue more seriously instead of using it as an empty political bludgeon. In the everyday life of religious Jews, antisemitism is not about comfort but about living safely in their home country. The term antisemitism has eroded, and a new type of antisemitism, anti-Israelism has appeared. The situation has not become better and it is our common responsibility to do something about this.”*

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## NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

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*Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office believes the main reason behind the Article 7 procedure against Hungary was antisemitism*

Source: facebook.com, mandiner.hu, szombat.org, origo.hu

**22, 23 August 2020** German social democrat Minister of State for Europe Michael Roth accused Hungary of antisemitism. Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó denied accusations on his Facebook page and summoned the German Ambassador to the foreign ministry.

Michael Roth stated in response to a question during an interview which *Szombat* believes was originally published on t-online.de that:

*“Growing antisemitism was one of the key reasons behind launching the Article 7 procedure against Hungary.”*

Péter Szijjártó reacted to the accusations on Facebook:



Péter Szijjártó's Facebook page

*“Michael Roth took every opportunity he got to attack Hungary and Poland. And does so to this day. (...) He has, however, said something today that can't go unanswered. The German Minister of State put on the same old record again*

*and accused Hungary of antisemitism. (...), the Jewish community is safe in Hungary, our Jewish compatriots have nothing to fear, there is no need for armed soldiers at their cultural festivals, synagogues and Jewish cemeteries have been rebuilt with state funding, and last year we were the proud hosts of the European Maccabi Games.”*

The following day, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás also expressed his views on Facebook in relation to the case.

*“Michael Roth believes one of the key reasons behind launching the Article 7 procedure against Hungary is antisemitism. Instead of vulgarly labelling this blatant statement, let's concentrate on*



source: Gergely Gulyás Facebook's page

*hard facts: procedures could be launched against a dozen countries in the EU for antisemitism – especially against pro-migration member states. However, Hungary is among those few countries where Jewish communities live safely, Hungarian Jewish culture is flourishing and Hungarian Jewish organizations believe their situation is enviable compared to other Jewish communities in western Europe. Meanwhile, Hungary is accused of antisemitism by a politician from a country where Jews were killed on the street last year because of their Jewish origin.”*

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## OTHER NEWS

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*Szilárd Demeter compared himself to Jews sent gas chambers*

Source: origo.hu, akibic.hu

**9-11 August 2020** Director of the Petőfi Museum of Literature (PIM) Szilárd Demeter published a lengthy article entitled *Miért kellene szabályozni a Facebookot* (Why Facebook should be regulated) on *Origo*. Demeter complained in his article that Facebook blocked one of his post in which he expressed his outrage over an article of Magyar Narancs which, he believed, stated that there was a homoerotic relationship between him and Gábor Megadja. He wrote above a screenshot he shared that Magyar Narancs called him a *gay* in an anonymous article. Facebook blocked this post because Demeter used expressions able to incite hatred.

According to Demeter, Facebook is after right-wing thinkers and that is why they blocked the post, they use blanket rules to decide what is hate speech.



source: origo.hu

*“Facebook enters the political scene: just like Dr. Mengele, it judges people in the wagon and arbitrarily sends some of them to gas chambers”* – wrote Demeter in his article.

APF believes this rather exaggerated metaphor is an insult to the memory and the sufferings of the

victims of the Holocaust, and to the dignity of their relatives.

*Jewish organizations’ statement to management of Facebook*

Source: neokohn.hu, tev.hu, 444.hu

**10-12 August 2020** Over a hundred organizations penned an open letter to the

social media giant, calling for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of antisemitism – wrote *neokohn.hu* referring to the *Israeli Arutz7*.

Over a hundred international Jewish organizations joined the initiative, they would like to prevent the future spread of antisemitism on social media sites. An organization called the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, headed by former director-general of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Dore Gold, is also among the petitioners.

*“There can be no comprehensive effort against antisemitism without including the arena of Facebook and active social networks. Turning to Zuckerberg and Facebook executives is a first step in any comprehensive effort in the field of the war on antisemitism and expressions of hatred”* – said Gold.

During the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a spike in online antisemitism and a number of anti-Jewish conspiracy theories have been spread online. The letter also states that today’s antisemitism includes the delegitimization of Israel’s right to exist.

Facebook adopts stricter policies against hate speech and it will now take action against conspiracy theories about Jewish world domination and Jewish influence on the media, economy and governments.

ADL praised this decision but the organization with a focus on combating antisemitism also criticized Facebook for not banning posts that deny the Holocaust.



source: tev.hu - Mark Zuckerberg

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**ACTION AND PROTECTION  
FOUNDATION  
LEGAL ACTIONS**

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APF did not initiate any legal proceedings this month and we were not notified concerning ongoing cases either.

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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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All the incidents to be found in the report are presented chronologically in the table below. The *Category* column shows which part of the report deals with the given case in greater detail.

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	4-7th of August	Woman taken away by police for Jew-baiting and praising Hitler in Újlipótváros	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
2.	9-11th of August	Szilárd Demeter compared himself to Jews sent gas chambers	Other News
3.	10-12th of August	Jewish organizations' statement to management of Facebook	Other News
4.	19-21st of August	Antisemitic communicator as opposition candidate from Jobbik	Official and Civil Responses
5.	19th of August	Jew-baiting historian receives state award	Community News and Responses
6.	21,24th of August	Man wearing swastika T-shirt in Jászberény	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
7.	22-23rd of August	Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office believes the main reason behind the Article 7 procedure against Hungary was antisemitism	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
8.	25th of August	Slomó Köves talked about antisemitism in Hungary in Magyar Hírlap and Kossuth Rádió	Community News and Responses

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## CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection League is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread antisemitic manifestations.

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**

Contact details for Action and Protection League

Address: 1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium

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