

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

JULY 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.

Our Foundation identified three antisemitic acts of hatred this month, all three under the hate speech category. Two of these were antisemitic slurs, the first by the mayor of Pápa, the second on behalf of a Facebook page. In the third case, a black flag was raised on a house in Leányfalu, bearing the SS-symbol.

No news was listed in the category of Further Antisemitic Incidents this month. This chapter contains news and events, which may qualify as hate-crimes, but their time is unknown or they do not be-

come part of the statistics due to their insignificance or the ambiguity of the Antisemitic motive.

The court passed a decision in a case brought to them with the involvement of

the Foundation's legal aid service. The crime was committed as early as in April 2018, when a man assaulted a Canadian rabbi in Budapest, in the Árkád mall.

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

– JULY 2020

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

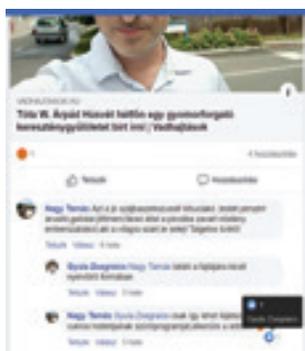
HATE SPEECH

Antisemitic slur by the mayor of Pápa

Source: papa.ezalenyeg.hu, vadhajtasok.hu

14 July 2020 *Ez a lényeg* (That's the point), the online news portal of Pápa wrote that Gyula Zsegráics, the Fidesz-supported mayor of Pápa liked a Facebook comment containing antisemitic slur and added another comment in the same spirit.

This took place on Facebook, in the group *Közösen Pápáért* (Together for Pápa), where someone shared an article from *Vadhajtasok.hu*, the extreme far-right, “the wildest right-wing portal”, as they put it. The title goes: *Árpád Tóta W.¹² had the nerve to write a sickening Christian hatred (sic) on Easter Monday.* Before quoting the entire Tóta W. article, the *Vadhajtasok* journalist asks the following question: ‘All we want to know is the reason why this Tóta W. doesn’t get the hell out of here to Israel, to follow Péter Dániel¹³?’ One group member commented the article as follows: “That cocksucking, kibbutz-dwelling, whoring cunt of a Galician out-cast whom the pharaoh chased to hell and who shat you into this world, you unwanted, Taigetos-surviving scum!” Gyula Zsegráics liked this and commented: ‘a witty description of their lot, if



source: papa.ezalenyeg.hu

in the form of a tongue-twister.’

Later the mayor’s comment disappeared from under the still available post, and he also left the group, the online news site of Pápa wrote.

Antisemitic slur on behalf of a Facebook page

Source: vbt.pestisracok.hu

23 July 2020 Tamás Varga-Bíró, blogger at *PestiSrácok.hu* noticed an antisemitic comment on Facebook.

This Foundation has written about Tamás Varga-Bíró’s antisemitic past on several occasions. We last mentioned him in our January 2018 report, when the Foundation protested openly with ECHO TV for putting the violently antisemite, extreme right wing former correspondent of *Kurucinfó* on screen, who also wouldn’t refrain from relativising the Holocaust. Varga-Bíró then apologized and decided to take a leave from public life for an undetermined period and stop writing.

The comment appeared under the photos of the resigning *Index* journalists, and was written by Bogdán FanPage, the fan group of the recently deceased mayor of Cserdi, László Bogdán, or more precisely by the admin of this group. The comment goes:

You don’t have a single Roma worker, you only rely on the kazinczy (sic) street community¹⁴. Good riddance. You are inbred and you are boring.

‘At the first sight this is antisemitic incitement written by the Roma, challenging the *Index* office about the numerus clausus law,’ TVB writes for *Pesti Srácok*.

Then he asks the following:

‘As the admin writing this post made a statement on behalf of over 110 thousand fans and 135 thousand followers, may we find out who this person might be? We want their



source: vbt.pestisracok.hu

¹² Árpád Tóta W. Hungarian author, journalist and blogger (translator’s comment)

¹³ Péter Dániel lawyer, known for his violently anti-Fidesz and anti-Orbán articles and controversial political performances, who moved to Israel to escape from what he perceived as strengthening antisemitism in Hungary (translator’s comment).

¹⁴ Reference to the Budapest Orthodox community, whose offices and synagogue are located in Kazinczy St (translator’s comment).

name and face. Once they had the guts to write that no Roma are working for the Jewish Index.

Has the writer of the comment checked with the other admins (i.e. if there are several), and does this comment represent the view of the operators of the entire virtual community?

To what extent do members of the community agree with this statement?’

Later this antisemitic slur was deleted from the comments.

SS-sign on a house in Leányfalu

Source: 444.hu, Tett és Védelem, neokohn.hu, 168ora.hu

27-28 July 2020 A reader of news portal *444.hu* sent the photo to the editors, which shows a black flag with an SS-sign hanging on a weekend house in Leányfalu.

The sight enraged a passer-by, who started taking pictures of the building. He then told 444, that a woman came out of the house when she saw him, followed by another man. The lady explained that they were celebrating her husband’s 44th birthday, and that is a figure 44 on the flag. When the man taking the photo explained to the other man, who caught up in the meantime,



source: 444.hu

that this was an SS-sign, a banned symbol of authoritarianism, and as a Jew he found it disturbing, the man allegedly answered, that they happen to be Nazis, and this passer-by has a train to catch¹⁵. The man taking the photo then left but showed the picture to a friend of his living close by, who reported it to the police. The police soon arrived at the site. Once the police have completed

the inspection, they gave the following answers to 444:

‘Following a report about an SS flag, the police have arrived at an address in Leányfalu in the evening of 25 July 2020, where a birthday party was in progress. It turned out, that the participants, electricians by profession, made this flag for the birthday boy, where the lightning signs were supposed to symbolize the figure 44. When the police pointed out the resemblance to the forbidden symbology of authoritarianism, the flag was immediately removed. The police found no indication of any crime committed, therefore did not launch a criminal proceeding.’

Our Foundation issued this statement:

‘TEV is baffled and taken aback at the police’s position, which is absurd at best, otherwise it is downright cynical. The present police action is incomprehensible and surprising, as they have always investigated similar cases with uncompromising professionalism and conscientiousness. In addition,

the statement of the Pest County Police Headquarters defies the zero tolerance against antisemitism represented by the government of Hungary, and it deals a serious blow to the public trust vested in the police force.

TEV deeply condemns the events at Leányfalu and offers legal aid to the citizen, who took the photo. TEV declares that the owner of the property insulted the passer-by, who had commented on the SS sign, and his choice of words qualified as a grave violation of a community’s right to dignity, as stipulated by the law.’

¹⁵ i.e. to Auschwitz, a frequent form of antisemitic insult (translator’s comment).

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

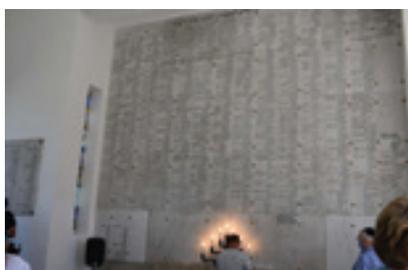
The monitoring activity of Action and Protection Foundation did not identify cases in July 2020 that may qualify as hate-crimes although their time is unknown or they do not become part of the statistics due to their insignificance or the ambiguity of the antisemitic motive.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Holocaust memorial events in the Western Transdanubia

Source: kisalfold.hu, zaol.hu, vaol.hu

5-6 July 2020 A memorial event on Sunday in the Jewish cemetery in Sopron paid tribute to the nearly two thousand men, women and children, who were marched from the ghetto to an industrial building on 29 June



source: kisalfold.hu

1944, to be deported to Auschwitz a few days later. Cziprián Farkas, the mayor of Sopron said that every third victim in Auschwitz came from Hungary. The wound their absence left in the invisible fabric of the city's life will never heal, and the posterity will have to weave that in. He added that everyone in Sopron can practice their religion in safety today. The events 76 years ago send the message, that we may not give free rein to hatred and must do everything in our power to prevent the expansion of hostility and exclusion.



source: zaol.hu

A memorial event was devoted to the Holocaust victims deported from around Keszthely, at the Wailing Wall of Hévíz. At the Holocaust memorial raised at the site of the former synagogue of Hévíz in 2000, dr Lajos Szarka historian,

chairperson of the Immanuel Hungarian-Israeli Friendship Society recalled that the local Jews and those in Hévíz were collected in the Keszthely ghetto in May 1944, then transported to Zalaegerszeg at the end of June, and finally the train departed with them to

Auschwitz on 5 July. They met their fate in the gas chambers two days later, these were the words of the historian, who described their tragedy. The Jews who returned to the West-Balaton region chose the first Sunday of July as the memorial day. The event was concluded with István Goldschmied's (on the right) prayer, recited in Hebrew and Hungarian.

A Holocaust memorial event was held at Szombathely as well. Batthyány Sq. was the venue, where those present recalled the most tragic day in the city's history. On 3-4 July 1944, 3600 of our fellow countrymen were deported, and most of them never returned. It was a hot summer day seventy-six years ago today, just like this one. 3-4 July could have been just like any other day in any year other than 1944. These rank among the most tragic days in Szombathely's history, when

over 3600 of our Jewish citizens were herded into cattle cars on their way to Auschwitz, and most of them never got the chance to re-

turn. Sándor Márkus, the chair of the Szombathely Jewish Community made a reference to the ongoing pandemic when he said that such an ordeal only made the community stronger, just like several earlier times in history. Despite the unusual circumstances, the Jewish community of the city remains strong and compassionate, never forgetting their past. We will never forget!

Dr János Székely, diocesan bishop read out an excerpt from Anne Frank's diary, then talked about those responsible; since he was unable to attend, a video recording conveyed his message.



source: vaol.hu

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

The Parliament launches an investigation into the antisemitic comment of a Jobbik member.

Source: hirado.hu, tev.hu

14-15 July 2020 Tamás Deutsch contributed to the Parliament's debate on the economic recovery package on 14 July. The Fidesz MEP explained that the planned distribution of the EU funds is unfair, not in the least because rule-of-law strings are attached. Tamás Deutsch added that the MEPs from the opposition parties neglect the Hungarian interests and attack and accuse the government instead in Brussels.

'If those casting mud were in the government today, they would make list of the Jewish people and those with Jewish origin in public life prompted by their political buddies in Jobbik, and the mayor of Budapest, also from their ranks, would find no fault in drafting such lists,' said Tamás Deutsch.

The chair then gave the floor to Miklós Soltész from KDNP, who said that one member of the Jobbik group made antisemitic comments and gestures about Tamás Deutsch.

'Tibor Nunkovics' comments and gestures were difficult to misunderstand, and then he pointed at Tamás Deutsch, talking at the lecturer. Honourable Member, several of us saw you,' Miklós Soltész added.

The chair then suggested that an investigation may be launched.

Tibor Nunkovics argued that he believed he never offended anyone, although he admitted to making a loud comment during Tamás Deutsch' speech. He never explained what exactly he said though.

'I apologise for the interruption, however my comment has nothing to do with what you are insinuating, as the minutes will show,' Tibor Nunkovics, a Jobbik member emphasized.

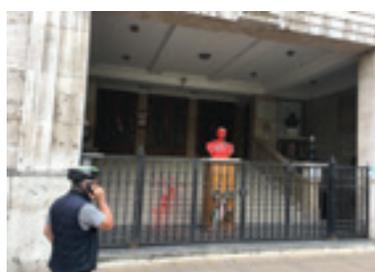
Márton Gyöngyösi, now an MEP from Jobbik, talked in the Parliament in 2012 about having to draft a list of the Jewish members of the government and the Parliament. This was not his first statement of this kind: In February 2012, MSZP reported him for Holocaust denial. The two parties have joined forces since then and supported the same candidates in several constituencies last year, at the municipal elections.

OTHER NEWS

Red paint poured on Miklós Horthy's statue

Source: hetek.hu, index.hu, magyar-nemzet.hu

3-4 July 2020 A *Hetek* reader informed the weekly, that unknown people poured red paint over Miklós Horthy's bust at the Church of Returning Home next to Szabadság Square. Miklós Horthy's bust was raised in November 2013 at the entrance of the church, at the initiative of the still national-radical Jobbik.



source: hetek.hu

The statue is in the church's private grounds, behind a closed gate. Among others, Antal Rogán, then mayor of the 5th district protested the bust, due to Horthy's responsibility in adopting the Jewish laws and his role in the Holocaust. The bust was raised in the church entrance, as it would not have received a permit at a public space.

The Budapest Police Headquarters ordered an investigation against unknown perpetrator because of the vandalism.

The next day they found out that the perpetrator was a 45-year old woman, who took responsibility for the action and gave a pretty confusing explanation.

She wrote among other things:

'Protest. I refuse to identify with Miklós Horthy's sins or István Horthy's guilt. I demand that the Orbán government transfer to Székely Land. I want the Székely flag removed from the Parliament building. I want there to be a Republic again.' goes her post.

Mi Hazánk (Our Homeland) suggests that a public place be named after Horthy in Újbuda

Source: MTI, nemzeti.net, 444.hu, propeller.hu

25-27 July 2020 A month ago this Foundation reported about an infamous debate in the 9th district of Budapest. The municipal representatives debated whether a so far nameless public space should be named after Nelson Mandela. (This was the point when mayor Imre László, member of DK, gave an incorrect and very unfortunate evaluation of some of Adolf Hitler's work. The mayor later apologised.) The body of representatives discarded the idea of the Mandela Park in June.

Municipal representative Előd Novák then filed what he called a "compromise proposal", to give the name of Miklós Horthy to the nameless area between Hadak St and Tétényi St, instead of Mandela.

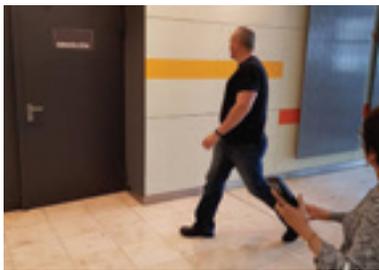
However, the extraordinary municipal meeting summoned for 27 July to decide this was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Court: Hitting a rabbi does not qualify as violence

Source: 444.hu, szombat.org, tev.hu

2 July 2020 As seen in our April 2018 report, a Canadian rabbi was assaulted in Budapest, in the Árkád shopping mall. An unknown man hit the rabbi without warning, knocked the kippah off the rabbi's head



source: tev.hu

and then hastened to leave the shop. The family members of the rabbi managed to take pictures of the perpetrator, which the legal aid service of Action and Protection

Foundation used to file a police report. As a result of an exemplary police action, the perpetrator was apprehended the following day. The case was forwarded to expedited prosecution, and he was charged with violence against a member of a community.

The Pest Central District Court has recently made its ruling and qualified the action as a misdemeanor of defamation instead of violence against a member of a community, and sentenced the defendant to probation for three years. The court in their verbal justification explained that although knocking a kippah off a rabbi's head may be provocatively anti-social and was committed undoubtedly against a member of a religious community, it did not exhaust the requirements of

another circumstance laid down in the penal code, i.e. this act was not suitable to strike fear, therefore the defendant's action qualifies as a misdemeanor rather than an act of crime, and thus comes with milder consequences. The district prosecutor stated that not only was the behavior of the defendant suitable to strike fear, but it actually took place in case of the victim, thus the crime of violence against a member of a community was undoubtedly committed. The district prosecutor filed an appeal against the defendant to achieve a new legal qualification as compared to the court's ruling with a more severe penalty, namely a prison term suspended for the period of the probation.

This Foundation expressed indignation about the ruling of the Pest Central District Court. 'One must recall that the court's ruling sends a message not only to the defendant but to the whole society as well. This message is now quite clear: once you are an antisemite, feel free to knock the kippah off the head of a Jewish person, be it in front of their family or in a shopping mall. The Parliament probably had a different ruling in mind, when they decreed in May 2011, that any provocative, anti-social behavior against a member of a protected community is fit to strike fear, and is thus punishable as an act of violence against a member of a community. This Foundation was glad to note that the Prosecution agreed with our position and filed an appeal to achieve a different qualification of the act with a more severe penalty,' the statement says.

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.	2nd of July	Court: Hitting a rabbi does not qualify as violence	APL Legal Actions
2.	3-4th of July	Red paint poured on Miklós Horthy's statue	Other News
3.	5-6th of July	Holocaust memorial events in the Western Transdanubia	Community News and Responses
4.	14th of July	Antisemitic slur by the mayor of Pápa	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
5.	14-15th of July	The Parliament launches an investigation into the antisemitic comment of a Jobbik member	Official and Civil Responses
6.	23rd of July	Antisemitic slur on behalf of a Facebook page	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
7.	25-27th of July	Mi Hazánk (Our Homeland) suggests that a public place be named after Horthy in Újbuda	Other News
8.	27-28th of July	SS-sign on a house in Leányfalu	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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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