

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

SEPTEMBER 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.

This month, our Foundation identified an antisemitic hate crime that fell into the category of hate speech. In this news article, we report that neo-Nazi bands performed at a nightclub in Győr.

One item was added to the "Further Hate Incidents" category this month. This news is about a conference and a traveling exhibition in which the antisemitic mass

murderer Iván Hécjas is mentioned as a hero in connection with the history of the Raggy Guard. Those news and events fall into this category whose time or date is unknown and those, that are not part of the statistics due to their insignificance

or lack of clarity on antisemitic intent.

Our foundation did not initiate a new procedure this month and no progress has been made on any of our previous procedures.

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 – SEPTEMBER 2020

In the September monitoring activities, Action and Protection Foundation identified an antisemitic act of hatred under the hate speech category.

HATE SPEECH

Neo-Nazi bands gave a concert at a nightclub in Győr

Source: ugytudjuk.hu, t.me/legiohungaria, nacionalistazona.org

12-16 September 2020 One of the journalists of the ugytudjuk.hu portal reported that a concert was organized in one of the music clubs in Győr featuring the performance of neo-Nazi and New Arrows bands.

The concert was organized by an organization called C18 Hungary and the event was also announced on the website of *Légió Hungária*. "C18 stands for Combat 18. "Combat" in this case means battle, "18" denotes the first and eighth letters of the alphabet: "a" and "h", i.e. Adolf Hitler. Combat 18 is referred to as the neo-Nazi military wing of the organization Blood & Honor, which derives its name from the motto of the *Hitlerjugend*. Local groups in their international network have been linked in several ways to murders and assassinations from England to Russia. Combat 18 used to be considered too extreme even by the Hungarian far right, and its members were repeatedly asked to stay away from their events." - Népszava wrote about them in February 2018.

Three bands performed in the concert: Archivum, Tar Had and Kitörös.

The National Socialist band called Archivum

was founded in 1992 in Kelenföld, Budapest. Proceedings were instituted against them in 1998, and a judgment was rendered in 2000. Members of the band got suspended prison sentences, banned from National Socialist events, and placed under police supervision (a patron was assigned to them). In 2005, the album Sieg Heil was released under the pseudonym Iron Eagle!. Their banned songs include: Singing the Arrow Cross Army, Showdown, Sieg Heil, Defend Yourself, Brutal Attack. They sing about Ferenc Szálasi in one of their songs called Tar Had.

"The meaning of Tar Had can simply be a bald army or even a skinhead army"- they write about themselves. In one of the songs called Eruption, they sing about Ian Stuart Donaldson, the founder of Blood and Honor movement, the frontrunner and perhaps best-known British neo-Nazi skinhead, Skrewdriver, who "dedicated his life to protecting the white race and spreading the National Socialist idea." The concert was dedicated to his memory.

To a journalist's pre-concert phone question, a representative from director DONGÓ Live Music Hall replied that this would be a private event; which is contradicted by the fact that it was publicly advertised. *"The event went well, there were about 200 participants, many domestic organizations were represented, the atmosphere was unequally comrade-in-arms."* The magazine, Nationalist Zone mentioned the concert in its music section.



source: ugytudjuk.hu



source: [ugytudjuk.hu/Légió Hungária](http://ugytudjuk.hu/Légió_Hungária)

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

In the course of its monitoring activities, the Action and Protection Foundation identified a case which, although a hate incident but it is not part of the statistics due to its insignificance or lack of clarity of antisemitic intent.

Murderers cannot be heroes

Source: baon.hu, batrakeshosok.hu, szombat.org, nemzeti.net, kuruc.info.hu, tev.hu, kecsup.hu

2-11 September 2020 The Bács-Kiskun County news portal *Baon.hu* reported that the Community of Hungarian Patriots organized a series of programs related to the Trianon Memorial Year with the support of the National Cultural Fund, focusing on the Raggy Guard and the 1921 uprising in Western Hungary. Part of this was the organization of a one-day scientific conference entitled „*Those Who were Brave and Heroic*” at two locations in Kecskemét and Budapest. In addition, contemporary photos and visual content were presented



source: tev.hu

at open-air traveling exhibitions in three cities (Kecskemét, Budapest, Sopron). Moreover, a website has been created for the event and a study volume is being published. In 1919-20, the paramilitary unit

Raggy Guard (Rongyos Gárda), which consisted mainly of white-supremists, took part in the Hungarian-Austrian border adjustments (in favor of Hungary). They shouted "Lajtabánság", which is a territorial name, that is not recognized by anyone, in today's Burgenland.

The conference in Kecskemét was held on September 4, the opening statements were made by dr. László Salacz, a Member of Parliament from Fidesz. One of the first presentations at the conference was given

by Dr. Ernő Raffay, not surprisingly entitled „*Trianon and Freemasonry*”.

Writer László Domonkos, author of the recently published book „*In the Shadow of the Poplar*”, also presented at the scientific exchange. In the summer of 1919, Iván Héjjas organized the Raggy Guard in and around Kecskemét. This group can be linked, among other atrocities, to the infamous antisemitic massacres in Izsák and Orgovány, lynchings, robberies. These atrocities were already under investigation in the Horthy era. The whole book is permeated - sometimes controversially - by the intention of washing Héjjas clean, our colleague wrote earlier in a review published on the TEV website.

János Lantos, a member of the neo-Nazi Mi Hazánk Mozgalom, welcomed the traveling exhibition and thanked Szombat and other newspapers for making a free advertisement by calling out for its antisemitic and revisionist content: „*The light of the heroes is not dimmed, millions of Hungarians feel that if they are attacked, it can be something really great.*”

On a Kecskemét portal, kecsup.hu, Dr. Norbert Falusi, a historian, political scientist and doctor of history, expressed his opinion on the billboards of the traveling exhibition: „*However, if Iván Héjjas was placed in the imaginary hall of “braves and heroes”, why was Mihály Francia Kiss or Pál Prónay left out? Both are active organizers / participants of the Transdanubian armed uprising, national resistance, and both are associated with mysterious disappearances, torture, looting and murders in the vicinity of Kecskemét. Their victims are Hungarian Jews, communists.*”

Our foundation issued a statement regarding the event:

Tett és Védelem Alapítvány (Action and Protection Foundation) was shocked to learn about the conference “The braves and heroes” in Kecskemét. The choice of titles and themes of some of the lectures at the conference, as well as the decorative elements of the event, such as the huge posters depicting Iván Héjjas as a “hero”, clearly reveal total insensitivity and provocation against the Hungarian Jewish community. (...), It is a histor-

ical fact that “more than thirty people”, especially Jews, were “murdered” during the “murder of 1919”. “The perpetrators of the Orgovány murders were members of Iván Héjjas' detachment.” The position of the Tett és Védelem Alapítvány remains that such a misunderstood and insensitive historical memory not only does not support,

but explicitly goes against, the policy declared by the Hungarian government to promote “zero tolerance” for antisemitism. It is unfortunate that the conference that made Héjjas a hero could have received state support, and it is not forward-looking that László Salacz, a member of parliament from Fidesz, gave an opening speech.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Scandal due to the ambiguous statements of Attila Vidnyánszky

Source: atv.hu, varosikurir.hu, hirklikk.hu, 444.hu, nepszava.hu

1-10 September 2020 On 1 September, Attila Vidnyánszky, the director of the National Theater and the chairman of the board of trustees of the University of Theater and Film Arts (SZFE), was the guest of ATV's program entitled Straight Speech. Host Egon Rónai asked Vidnyánszky about the scandal that erupted around the SZFE and about the tension between the university management and the board of trustees of the university.



source: atv.hu

According to Vidnyánszky, the management of the university did not want to discuss cooperation with the board of trustees from the first moment. He added that if the teachers don't stand up, it is guaranteed

that they can resume their classes, but other classes with different approach will start alongside them. "What's a different kind of approach?" Egon Rónai asked back, to which the chairman of the board of trustees replied:

"I will never be able to explain to György Karsai (theater historian, teacher of SZFE) what nation, homeland and Christianity mean, (...) because he is incapable of accepting what I think, (...) his thinking is exclusive in this respect."

Attila Vidnyánszky's statement provoked sharp outrage. Among other things, philosopher György Gábor, in his post published on Facebook, considered these statements to be antisemitic because György Karsai is of Jewish descent. A similar statement was made by Péter S. Föld in his article published on the Hirklikk portal, saying, "this terrible statement could have been proudly undertaken by far-right thinkers of the 1930s."

Several organizations and associations

protested against Vidnyánszky's exclusionary statement and defended György Karsai.

Attila Vidnyánszky spoke about the statement that provoked the great controversy in an interview with *Népszava* on 10 September and apologized to György Karsai, the university's professor:

"My statement may not have been appropriate. All I wanted to say is that we think differently about certain concepts with Gyuri. He has asked questions about these before, and I have quoted them. But no one wanted to hear the second part of the train of thought anymore: that, despite differences of opinion, we can and should pursue professional debates. Anyone who knows me a little knows how far away I am from antisemitism, who saw my directing from the work of Szilárd Borbély; The Death Splendor, cannot say so seriously: This accusation is a cheap escape from a real debate. If it was misunderstood and I hurt Gyuri, I apologize to him, adding that I respect him and consider him a highly trained professional. I will continue to maintain the professional part of what I have to say; I will dismiss the accusation."

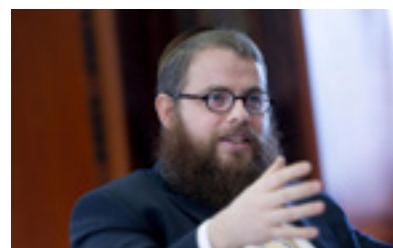
Slomó Köves, senior rabbi of EMIH, gave an interview to HVG

Source: hvg.hu, neokohn.hu

30 September 2020 In the interview, the managing rabbi of EMIH - Association of Hungarian Jews spoke about the House of Fates, Jobbik and migration, among other topics.

Concerning the House of Fates, he said he began working on the concept of a permanent exhibition in early 2019 with interna-

tionally renowned historians and Holocaust museologists, and cooperates with one of the world's best-known museum development companies, Washington-based



source: hvg.hu

Gallagher and Associates. In July this year,

the first three phases defined by international standards for museum development were completed, resulting in a 200-page so-called schematic design material that is already a complete plan. They are now preparing for the fourth and final phase, in which the detailed interior design plans, scripts and multimedia content will be completed. This will take about another year and a half.

“The shortcoming of many Holocaust exhibitions is that they inadvertently approach this dilemma only from the viewpoint of the majority society, and Jews appear as a mass of victims who can be felt sorry for but difficult to identify with. It is also important that the majority of visitors will get their only direct impression of the “Jews” in this museum alone. It is important to know them not only as unfortunate victims, but also as survivors of thousands of years of values, as prominent figures in the modernization of Europe and Hungary.”

The founding document of the museum set out five principles: historical context, emotional involvement, personal involvement, the Jewish perspective, and modern language. In this line, the historical context comes first, as only an authentic narration of the story can provide the framework for the presentation of moral values.

Regarding the presentation of the responsibilities of the Horthy system, Köves said the following:

“The judgment of the Horthy regime was indelibly and indisputably sealed by the deportation of 435,000 Hungarian Jews to death camps, which would not have been possible without the active participation of the Hungarian state administration. At the same time, I think it is unhistorical to consider the period between the two world wars, the rule of Teleki, Bethlen, Gömbös, Kállay or just Sztojáy, as a homogeneous era in terms of antisemitism and relations with Nazi Germany. Historical authenticity includes,

for example, the fact that during the Kállay government, Hungarian Jews were relatively physically secure compared to the communities of the surrounding countries.”

The HVG journalist then confronted the rabbi with the statement that *“all this is done from state resources, so he defends the government’s antisemitic propaganda, such as the Soros posters, but continues to vehemently attack Jobbik, following the Fidesz narrative.”*

In his reply, Slomó Köves reminded that according to the opinion polls made by Tett és Védelem Alapítvány, thirty to forty percent of Hungarian society has antisemitic prejudice, and although there are antisemites in every party, only Jobbik is the party in Hungarian public life, whose program was based on hatred towards the Roma and the Jews.

Jobbik has also become a symbol of antisemitism by taking open antisemitic rhetoric from the pubs to parliament and is now poisoning the political community that has so far kept this system of ideas in quarantine. Unlike the polling camps of other parties, more than 60 percent of Jobbik supporters hold antisemitic views.

This has not changed even after Jobbik tried to be a “popular party”. A one-time opposition voter may interpret the launch of an openly anti-Gypsy and anti-Jewish candidate, László Bíró, as rejecting such views being less important than gaining power.

Regarding government policy on migration, he noted that

“I do not want a Western European-type Muslim community to be established in Hungary whose radicals carry out violent antisemitic attacks, making everyday life impossible not only for the community but for all peace-loving citizens. And this is independent of the fact that the tone of Hungarian politics is seldom the same as my personal taste.”

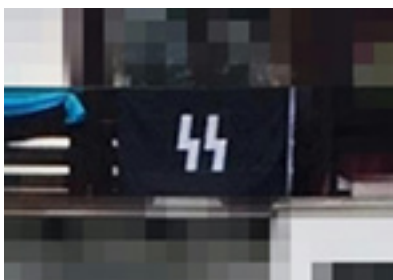
OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

The investigation into the SS-flagged flag was closed, in the absence of a crime.

Source: 444.hu

14 September 2020 As our Foundation reported in its July report, a flag with an SS badge was hoisted on the facade of a weekend house in Leányfalu. The incident has now come to a shocking end, 444.hu reported.

The antecedent of the case in July: the sight of the flag so outraged a man passing by that he began to take pictures of the house. Seeing this, a woman and a man came out of the house. The woman told the eyewitness



source: 444.hu

that the flag is for her husband's 44th birthday that is being celebrated and corresponds to his age, 44. When the man with the camera said, that he thought it was an SS badge, which is a forbidden symbol of

dictatorship, and that he was Jewish and disturbed by the sight, the man, replied that *we were Nazis and your train is about to leave anyway* (referring to the transportation of Jews

to the death camps during WW2).

The man taking the pictures left after that, but a friend of his, resident of the town who was shown the photo reported the incident to the police. Police officers soon disembarked:

"... A birthday gathering took place. It turned out that participants were electricians by profession and made a flag resembling lightning for the man's 44th birthday. No criminal proceedings have been instituted, the flag was removed."

Later, however, a police investigation was launched in which the verbally insulted eyewitness also testified. After that, a police decision was made, the essence of which was that the investigation was terminated in the absence of a crime. As 444 now writes: the statement saying, *„we are Nazis”* and that the man who took the pictures should *„be on the train”* was part of a *“some hassle between the two man”*. Police further explained: *“The people there were calm, giving no indication that they were members of an extremist group.”*

The flag *“stylistically doesn't fully comply with the SS symbol, but rather with lightning bolts representing the number 44, which supports the narration of the person involved in the seizure,”* police explained why the investigation was terminated.

OTHER NEWS

71 percent of European Jews have already experienced some form of antisemitism

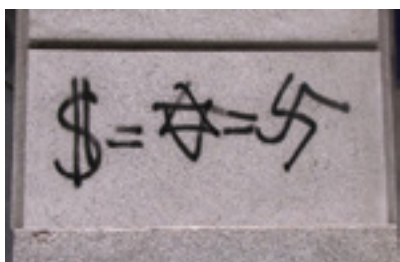
Source: jerusalemonline.com, neokohn.hu

18 September 2020 *Neokohn.hu* reviewed the article in the Jerusalem Online magazine, which analyzes the results of a poll commissioned by the European Union among young Jews living on the continent.

The not-so-flattering data set reveals that hatred against Jews is intensifying in parallel with the coronavirus pandemic. At least according to the survey

the vast majority, 71 percent, said they had experienced antisemitism on their own skin at least once.

The results of the research were presented



source: neokohn.hu

to its subcommittee on relations between Israel and the diaspora. Michal Wuns, head of the subcommittee, stressed the importance of strengthening

relations between Israel and the diaspora in these times, especially with regard to new challenges.

"It is especially important to listen to Jewish students who are particularly aware of the mood of change and the new challenges that come with it," Michal Wuns stated.

Some of the students who appeared in the presentation also reported in detail about the incidents they have faced recently: in addition to hatred from online platforms, they have experienced verbal and physical threats inside and outside the university whose *perpetrators have accused Jews of being murderers of Palestinians, perpetrators of crimes against humanity. They also blamed them for being members of a repressive, apartheid regime, so to speak.*

Opposition to Israel has also surfaced, so many have tried to defend themselves by concealing their origins and identities, ac-

ording to the report, which also notes as a ray of hope that Jewish students feel accepted in Europe by about 80 percent.

Blood accusation, hysteria and folk judgment - a new volume on the history of Hungarian antisemitism

Source: mandiner.hu, libri.hu

21 September 2020 *Mandiner* published a review by László Bernát Veszprémy on János Pelle's book *Blood Charges, Hysteria, Folk Judgment - "The Jewish Question" in Hungary in 1945 and 1946.*

The volume is a summary of the researches of a historian and publicist who has been researching the issue for almost a quarter of a century, updating it with new results, relevant literature and new archival references, Veszprémy begins.

The preface to the book was written by Slomó Köves, the leading rabbi of the EMIH: as he puts it, Pelle testified to *"tremendous intellectual courage"* in his work when the post-World War II blood feuds, in my own words, confound the issue of "antisemitism of the masses".

János Pelle's work combines primary archival sources, press sources and literature, and the book is of an overview and synthesizing nature, and in this sense, it is an essential professional work. The volume also draws from the material of the archives of the capital and the countryside, forming a refreshing shift from the work of researchers commuting in the triangle of the National Shelf of the National Széchényi Library, the Archives of the Budapest Capital and the Historical Archives of the State Security Services.

The book sheds light on an important fact:



source: mandiner.hu

while we know a lot for example, on the behavior of the political elite and, now, the administration during the Holocaust, “we know little of the outsiders ... the common people, the peasants, the workers, the students, the householders” (17).

All this is important because there are still exaggerated claims that the Hungarian population would have been en bloc antisemitic or supported the Holocaust. Some even stated that the Hungarian population would have been an “accomplice”. The collective accusation is opposed, for example, by a letter from the Vác police to the mayor of the city on June 29, 1944: “Unfortunately, we did not even receive an anonymous report from the citizens of Vác [regarding the concealment of Jewish property]; no data were provided at all.” According to the documents of the Košice police, in 1941 the city with a population of 67,000 produced a total of 27 reports during the German occupation.

The author also discusses how Communists tried to whip up and exploit antisemitic sentiment in the countryside. As Köves states in his preface, the author writes in a taboo-decisive way about left-wing antisemitism (p. 17), which some researchers have already described as an illegitimate topic - writes Bernát László Veszprémi.

“A mass psychological and historical work about the blood accusation beliefs, hysterical outbursts and anti-Jewish pogroms of the Hungarian masses. The author analyzes the subconscious roots of antisemitism, the psychological reactions elicited by incitement politics that may be associated with the Holocaust. It presents in detail the crisis situations caused by the campaign of the Hungarian Communist Party and the manipulations of the political police in 1945 and 1946, which broke out in the form of a series of anti-Jewish atrocities. Based on new and original sources, the author analyzes the hysteria and lynching attempt in Teleki Square, the Kunmadaras pogrom against Jews who survived the Holocaust, and then the antisemit-

ic workers' demonstrations in Miskolc, which led to terrible, repeated lynching, leading to second lynching. Full leadership of MKP” - says about the book on its back cover.

Antisemitism decoded

Source: neokohn.hu, MTI, alfredlandecker.org

22 September 2020 An international research group is fighting the spread of antisemitism online with the help of artificial intelligence, *neokohn.hu* reported.

Antisemitism and hate speech in general are spreading more openly and shamelessly in the digital sphere. And worse, hatred is shared and spread on the Internet 24 hours a day, increasing the risk of more people inciting hatred.

That’s why the Alfred Landecker Foundation has set up a three-year project called Decoding Antisemitism with the Antisemitism Research Center at the Technical University of Berlin, King’s College London and other recognized European academic institutions. The foundation is financing the project with nearly three million euros. While the focus will initially be focusing on Germany, France and the United Kingdom, the research will later be extended to other countries and languages. The project involves discourse analysts, computer linguists and historians who are developing “an extremely complex, artificially intelligent approach to identifying online antisemitism,” the Alfred Landecker Foundation, which supported the project, said.

“Research has also shown that much antisemitic slander and insults are expressed implicitly, for example by using code names - using similar-sounding ‘juice’ instead of ‘Jews’ - or by referring to cer-



source: alfredlandecker.org

tain conspiracy narratives or in the form of stereotypes, mainly through images”- the foundation said in a statement.

Because implicit antisemitism is more difficult to detect, a quantitative and artificial intelligence-driven approach allows for more

comprehensive research, experts believe.

The problem of online antisemitism has grown recently; as evidenced, for example, by the spread of conspiracy theories that the coronavirus was created and spread by Jews, Neokohn concludes the article.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Our foundation did not initiate any new proceedings this month and we were not notified of any results concerning our previous proceedings.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	1-10th of September	Scandal due to the ambiguous statements of Attila Vidnyánszky	Community News and Responses
2.	2-11th of September	Murderers cannot be heroes	Further Hate Incidents
3.	12-16th of September	Neo-Nazi bands gave a concert at a nightclub in Győr	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
4.	14th of September	The investigation into the SS-flagged flag was closed, in the absence of a crime	Official and Civil Responses
5.	18th of September	71 percent of European Jews have already experienced some form of antisemitism	Other News
6.	21st of September	Blood accusation, hysteria and folk judgment - a new volume on the history of Hungarian antisemitism	Other News
7.	22th of September	Antisemitism decoded	Other News
8.	30th of September	Szmó Köves, senior rabbi of EMIH, gave an interview to HVG	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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