

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

OCTOBER 2020

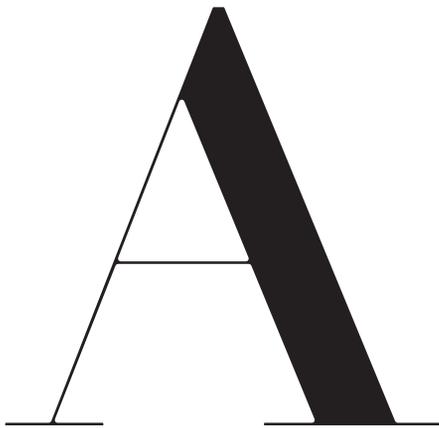


ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

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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 (APF/TEV) identified two incidents of antisemitic hate crime this month. They are both classified as Hate Speech. In the first case, a swastika was painted on a Jewish art center

under construction. The other case involved far-righters inciting hatred at a grave in Kerepesi Cemetery, Budapest.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents one case this month. This category includes incidents that are classified as hate incidents, but we would not

include them in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature or lack of antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

APF/TEV did not initiate any legal proceedings this month nor were we notified of any ongoing cases.

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 – OCTOBER 2020

Action and Protection Foundation identified two antisemitic hate crimes over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of October. The incidents are classified as Hate Speech.

HATE SPEECH

Swastika on wall of Jewish Performing Arts Center

Source: akibic.hu, [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

5 October 2020 The incident took place in Erzsébetváros, Budapest, and was reported by *Kibic.hu*.



Source: akibic.hu

“Golem Center is for everyone! We have not opened yet, but there is already great interest in our work! There are other ways of leaving your mark on us, you know!”, wrote the head of the Golem Theater and Jewish Performing Arts Center (also called Golem Center), András Borgula, on his Facebook page where he posted a picture of the swastika.

Incitement to antisemitic hatred at grave of Hungarian Kálmán Sértő

Source: [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

28 October 2020 APF learned that a shocking, antisemitic photo was published on Facebook. The picture was taken by Arkadiusz Karski, a man of Polish origin who has been living in Budapest for years and who regularly takes photos and videos of far-right, antisemitic and racist hate incidents committed in public places.

Possibly thanks to the century-long Polish-Hungarian friendship, Karski knows a lot about the history of Hungary, including its darker side. This is why he may know about the life of such a notorious and controversial

figure in Hungarian literature as poet, writer and journalist Kálmán Sértő.

Kálmán Sértő (29 September 1910 – 15 June 1941) was born into a poor peasant family. Towards the end of his life, which was not particularly successful in general nor in literature, Sértő joined the Hungarian Movement. This very sudden change occurred in May 1938; he also became the poet of the Arrow Cross Party. He is buried in the Kerepesi Cemetery in Budapest; his funeral was like a propaganda event of the Arrow Cross party, led by a reformed pastor and Arrow Cross MP.

Arkadiusz Karski first went to the poet's grave at the beginning of October to take photos. He found two unopened bottles of wine there (Sértő was a heavy drinker and died of alcoholism) and some wreaths with ribbons. The lettering on the ribbon with the Árpád stripes read “You live forever in our hearts – Evergreen October”, while the text on the ribbon with the Hungarian tricolor read “We won't forget”.



Source: [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

At the end of October, Karski visited the grave again and found some wreaths among the dead leaves next to the grave. The lettering on a white ribbon on one of the wreaths read:



Source: [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

“KÁLMÁN SÉRTŐ, WE WON'T FORGET YOU! WHITE HUNGARIAN UNITY!”

The lettering on another ribbon with the Hungarian tricolor was antisemitic:

“FOUGHT AGAINST HARMFUL JEWS, TO PROTECT HUNGARIANNESS” 05/05/2019

On another tricolor ribbon, the faded lettering was hardly legible but probably said “Magyar Nemzeti Arcvonal” (Hungarian

National Frontline), the name of a Hungarian movement which was dissolved at the end of 2016.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During its October 2020 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified one incident of further hate incidents. We would not include it in our most recent statistics due to its insignificant nature or lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

Journalist of Origo György Szalma wore swastika bracelet on TV program

Source: facebook.com, tev.hu

29 October - 1 November 2020 On 31 October, the One Million for the Freedom of Press in Hungary (Milla) Facebook group published a post about a program on Pesti TV.

The program was broadcasted on Pesti TV two days earlier, on 29 October; guests of the program were journalists Szabolcs Szalai from Index and György Szalma from Origo.

Origo index vita a Függetlenségért, Van millió az önmegvédelem érdekében a közéletért



György Szalma - Source: pestihv.pestisracok.hu

Milla noticed that at 18:06, when in the heat of debate, journalist György Szalma gestured with his hands, there were two swastikas on

the braided bracelet on his left hand.

Because of comments expressing outrage, Szalma wrote in his defense:

“I got it in India as a present 🇮🇳”.

The swastika is one of the most ancient symbols of humanity, it has been used and

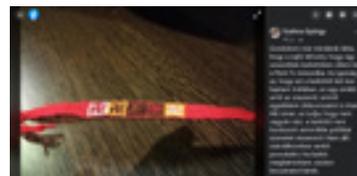
is still being used today in many cultures to represent good luck and immortality. It became a political and antisemitic symbol at the beginning of the 20th century. Hitler adopted the swastika and made its well-known tilted version the symbol of German National Socialism and fear. In Western countries, the swastika is now viewed as being related to fascism, racism, the Nazis, the Second World War and the Holocaust. Since the end of the Second World War, it has been widely considered a taboo and is used by Neo-Nazi movements in particular as their primary symbol. Its use is forbidden by the Criminal Code in both Germany and Hungary, except if it serves educational, scientific or artistic purposes.

APF investigated the case and concluded that journalist György Szalma is a well-educated man. He must be aware of the serious historical legacy of the 20th century, the negative meaning of the swastika, and it being associated with racist German Nazis. He can be expected not to make jokes about and not to provoke tension with this terrible symbol.

The following day, on 1 November, György Szalma apologized for his inconsiderate action.

“Those who know me, know that I am not a Nazi. I did not try to convey a political message with the bracelet, I did not intend to provoke

anyone. I would like to apologize if I hurt anyone”, wrote Szalma. He also wrote to a



Source: facebook.com

commenter: “X.Y.: it was not deliberate. I was being stupid.”

Many people said they would file a complaint in court for use of symbols of Totalitarianism, based on Section 335 of the Hungarian Criminal Code.

We are surprised by what the young journalist did because we have never known him to be an antisemite or a true Nazi.

In his previous articles published in Mandiner, he has shown sympathy and appreciation for Jews and Israel: *A magyarok rokon lelkek a zsidókkal* (“Hungarians and Jews Are Kindred Spirits”, 22 July 2017), *A magyar zsidó örökséget ünneplik külföldön* (“Hungarian Jewish Heritage Celebrated Abroad”, 7 June 2018).

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Slomó Köves: We are happy that racist politician did not become MP

Source: magyarhirlap.hu, origo.hu, mandiner.hu, mazzsihisz.hu

13-14 October 2020 As is known, Hungarian opposition parties ran a joint candidate in the midterm elections in Borsod County. The candidate was Jobbik politician László Bíró, who had previously made antisemitic comments. When this became public knowledge, Bíró apologized but continued to run in the elections and lost.

László Bíró’s antisemitic comments even divided left-liberal opinion makers, with the latter many saying that the candidacy of the Jobbik politician was morally unacceptable, wrote Magyar Hírlap on the day after the elections. Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) and founder of APF Slomó Köves expressed his disapproval of the opposition’s choice.

According to Magyar Hírlap, the government is confused as to why Mázsihisz only issued a rather discreet statement and did not condemn the politician’s comments, such as calling Budapest “Judapest”. They wrote the followings right before the election itself:

“Mázsihisz condemns everybody who incites hatred against any ethnical, religious or sexual minorities, regardless of which political fac-

tion they belong to. If László Bíró made such comments, then of course, we condemn his words, too.”

After the results of the election were published, Origo contacted the head of EMIH,

Slomó Köves, and asked his opinion about the results of the midterm election in Borsod County, which ended with the victory of Fidesz politician Zsófia Koncz and the defeat of antisemitic László Bíró. The Executive Rabbi of EMIH wrote the following to Origo:

“We are definitely happy that a racist politician has not become a member of the National Assembly. With some optimism, we could believe that on Sunday, the majority of voters said no to László Bíró’s unacceptable comments, too. I sincerely hope that the parties have learned a lesson and none of them will in the future support candidates who incite hatred and provoke tension.”

Mandiner learned from circles close to Viktor Orbán that Orbán considers the way the chairman of Mázsihisz reacted to the Bíró case as weak and indecisive. The Hungarian Prime Minister believes that Mázsihisz, and especially its chairman András Heisler, is



Slomó Köves - Source: origo.hu/MTI

responsible for the fact that left-wing parties supported an antisemitic candidate in the midterm election in Szerencs. What is more, Orbán does not understand why Heisler has not called for left-wing parties not to support a candidate who used terms like “Judapest” and “lice slides” (it’s a Hungarian tricky word mixed from these two words but the pronunciation similar to Jewish). Mazsihisz has been criticized in governmental circles because left-wing parties could have easily chosen a new candidate in August to replace Bíró, as the deadline for nominating candidates was 4 September. Mazsihisz is usually very sensitive to antisemitism, so they could have put pressure on the Hungarian left-wing and prevented them from supporting Bíró, yet Heisler did not use his influence to do so this time, wrote Mandiner.

In response to articles and statements in the Hungarian press, chairman of Mazsihisz



András Heisler - Source: magyarhirlap.hu

András Heisler issued a statement saying:

“We do not wish to intervene in political issues of different parties. As a religious congregation, we are not and we cannot be

competent in such issues. It is especially important during campaign periods that none of the sides could use us for political purposes. This approach is common practice among churches, and it aims to respect followers’ diverse party preferences. (...) After the campaign period ended, we can declare that we were relieved to learn that thanks to the wisdom of voters, the candidate renowned for his antisemitic statements has not become a member of the Hungarian National Assembly, where there is no place for MPs with such views.”

Kálmán Szalai: Jobbik is only genuine if it dissolves itself

Source: hirtv.hu, neokohn.hu, tev.hu

22 October 2020 Secretary of Action and Protection Foundation Kálmán Szalai shared his thoughts on *Neokohn.hu* and talked about APF’s point of view in relation to the statements of a Jobbik politician.



András Heisler - Source: magyarhirlap.hu

Jobbik MP and Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly Brenner Koloman gave a rather incoherent interview full of inconsistencies to Hír TV. Koloman stated that Jobbik was not an antisemitic party any more, and he said the statements Jobbik used to make were the immune reaction of Hungarian society. Koloman’s words are misleading and cynical and shed light on Jobbik’s two-faced nature.

On the one hand, there are still politicians with antisemitic backgrounds among the leaders of Jobbik.

Deputy President Márton Gyöngyösi, whose parliamentary speech of 2012 and his suggestion to make a list of MPs who hold dual Hungarian-Israeli citizenship, is very well-known.

The Vice-President of Jobbik is György Szilágyi, who in 2013 proposed to ban the Simon Wiesenthal Center and branded it an anti-Hungarian organisation. Szilágyi’s problem with the Center was that it condemned a group of Hungarian football ultras who held posters praising László Csatáry at a football match. As a police officer, Csatáry took part in the deportation of Jews from Kassa in 1944.

Another Vice-President of the party is Dániel Z. Kárpát, who said in a speech given in 2012 in Óbuda: “With whom have Viktor Orbán and his team, his two-thirds majority government,

entered into a contract of association? With Israel. So, when we talk about Hungary being bought, we can see a factual and circumventable system... we can see that Hungary is attacked by a weapon system, which we shall fight by any means."

We cannot say that Jobbik is no longer an antisemitic party until they let go of the politicians mentioned above, until they distance themselves from and apologize for the statements made by their former President, such as "the Messiah, who was crucified by the Jews", "I'm tired of the Holocaust", and "I would resign if I found out that I was Jewish".

When Koloman Brenner refers to the earlier antisemitism of the party as the "immune reaction of Hungarian society", he is again offensive and does not speak the truth. The "immune reaction of Hungarian society" presumes that Jews are some kind of virus or pathogen, to which Hungarian society had to react. [Editor's note: it also means that Hungarian Jews are not part of Hungarian society; which is discrimination.]

(...)

Brenner's statement is cynical, misleading and offensive; it is absolutely unacceptable for every righteous and democratically minded Hungarian, regardless of their political affinities. Therefore, the only one way for Jobbik to be considered genuine in Hungarian public life is if it dissolves itself as an organisation, having been rooted in racism and antisemitism, and apologizes to the Hungarian community for its years of hateful policies.

László Toroczkai: How is it possible that Rákosi and Gerő were both Jewish?

Source: telex.hu, tev.hu

23-26 October 2020 Our Homeland Movement (Mi Hazánk Mozgalom, MH) held their event commemorating the 1956 Hungarian revolution in Corvin köz again this year; *Telex.hu* gave a detailed report on the event.

The last speaker at the event was President of Our Homeland Movement László Toroczkai, speaking "in defense of an upright nation". Toroczkai believed it was time to talk honestly about 1956, and he quickly got to speaking about Jews.

"Szlomó Köves will surely file a complaint about this, but I would like to raise a rhetorical question, how is it possible that Rákosi and Gerő were both Jewish?"

The president believes this is the result of immigration in the 18th and 19th century, when at times the number of Jews and Romas often doubled.

APF issued a statement in response to this Jew-baiting statement of Toroczkai within a few days:

"Representatives of a self-declared national radical political party have been using rhetoric a number of times recently, which can be interpreted as openly antisemitic by the audience or the general public. Politicians of the movement have many times declared things that constitute antisemitism, openly making statements that are considered antisemitic based on common consent.

The politician believes it is the result of immigration in the 18th and 19th century, that at times the number of Jews and Romas often doubled, and this is why they oppose immigration of any people whose "culture, identity and temper is very different from ours".

APF is seeking ways — concerning both criminal and civil aspects — to prevent politicians from making such and similar statements."



László Toroczkai - Source: telex.hu

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Police disregarded testimony in case of flag with SS badge hoisted in Leányfalu

Source: 444.hu, tev.hu

19 October 2020 We presented in previous reports (July, September) that a flag with an SS badge was hoisted on the facade of a weekend house in Leányfalu. A passerby expressed he was disturbed by the sight of the flag, and the owners of the house told him to go “catch his train”. After the incident was reported at the Szentendre police station, an investigation was terminated in the absence of any crime.



Source: 444.hu

444.hu has recently received the minutes of a key witness testimony. Below is a shortened version of the testimony about the outrageous incident:

I was taking a walk with my wife and her cousin in Leányfalu, at Rév kikötő (ferry port), heading towards Visegrád. As we were strolling, I noticed that (...) a black flag with a white SS badge was hoisted on the facade of the first house on our left, (...) it was clearly visible from the street. (...) This sight deeply upset us, as both my wife and I are of Jewish origin. In 1944-45, I was in a concentration camp with my parents, so the use of this symbol is especially hurtful for me. (...) I stopped at the house and began to take pictures of the SS badge when a woman came up to me and asked why I was taking photos. I told her that the symbol on their flag was a forbidden SS badge. The woman responded they were celebrating her husband's 44th birthday, and the symbol of the flag was a number corresponding to his age. Following this, a man also came out of the house, whom I told I was Jewish and was deeply upset by the SS symbol on the flag they had hoisted. The man replied that “Yes, we are Nazis and your train is about to leave”. I did not say anything to this but went home. In response to

a question I have been asked, I did not ask them to take down the flag, I did not think there was any point.

Action and Protection Foundation reacted to this outrageous incident in a statement:

The decision and the justification of the police regarding the case of the flag with an SS badge hoisted in Leányfalu is outrageous and cynical.

Is it possible that the representative of the local police does not have the knowledge to differentiate the SS letters in the badge of Schutzstaffel from two stylized numbers of 4? The police's explanation that people at the gathering were calm,



Source: 444.hu

“giving no indication that they were members of an extremist group” is not only extremely cynical, but also uniquely unprofessional.

This explanation is alarmingly similar to two previous police decisions in cases of a similar nature. We filed a complaint for incitement against a community in front of a wide audience in relation to a speech by the head of Outlaws' Army, Zsolt Tyirityán, on 23 October 2013. The other complaint was against an unknown individual who drew a swastika on the notice board of the Jewish cemetery in Szedres.

In both cases, the decisions and explanations of the police were similarly insensitive and cynical. In the case of Zsolt Tyirityán, the police terminated the investigation, explaining that there is no incitement if the audience agrees with a speaker. In regard to the incident of the Jewish cemetery in Szedres, the police said that the symbol drawn on the notice board of the cemetery differed in a number of aspects from the swastika used as a totalitarian symbol. The police did some extra research on the symbol and concluded that it is used in many cultures and religions (...), and it has a positive meaning in most cases.

It is common in all of these cases that the decisions presented above were revised by authorities having taken part in the investigations, and or-

dered the bodies who had made the cynical decisions to launch new investigations.

APF offered to provide legal assistance to

the individual who reported the incident in Szentendre, but we have been unsuccessful in our efforts to contact them.

OTHER NEWS

Plaque dedicated to Spanish lifesaver Ángel Sanz Briz in Budapest

Source: webradio.hu, mandiner.hu, MTI

8 October 2020 The Spanish diplomat saved the lives of over 5,200 Jews in 1944 in Budapest.

A memorial plaque was inaugurated and a tree was planted in honor of the memory of Spanish lifesaver Ángel Sanz Briz on Thursday, 8 October, in Budapest. The Spanish Embassy told MTI on Wednesday that they hold commemorations every year to honor the memory of Ángel Sanz Briz, who saved the lives of more than 5,200 Jews in 1944 in Budapest. This year is special because the Zaragoza-born diplomat was born exactly 110 years ago and passed away 40 years ago. As part of the ceremony, Ambassador of Spain Anunciada Fernández de Córdova and Mayor of Budapest District 13 József Tóth inaugurated a memorial plaque at 10 a.m. on the facade of the building at 48 Pannónia Street, which was under Spanish protection in the Second World War.



Source: mandiner.hu

After the ceremony, another tree was planted in the Béke és Egyetértés Ligete (Grove of Peace and Understanding), which was created on the initiative of the Spanish Ambassador.

The maple tree was planted together by Mayor of Budapest District 3 László Kiss and the Spanish Ambassador at the beginning of

Ángel Sanz Briz Avenue, next to a memorial that was erected in 2015. On the occasion of the memorial year, an online academic conference on the methodology of Holocaust education was held on 22-23 October at the university in the diplomat's hometown as well. In relation to the various events, the city of Zaragoza has contacted Budapest to see how they could have closer relations. The Embassy of Spain observes the Ángel Sanz Briz memorial in October every year, celebrating that on 18 October 1966, the Yad Vashem of Jerusalem gave the Spanish diplomat the title of Righteous Among the Nations.

Facebook removes Holocaust denial content

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

12 October 2020 This is a turning point in one of Facebook's most controversial issues: Facebook is now banning Holocaust denial.

On 12 October, Mark Zuckerberg announced in a Facebook post that the platform now prohibits any content that denies the Holocaust.

Founder and CEO of the social media site wrote his short post in first person singular and shared that his thinking had changed after he had seen recent data showing an increase in antisemitic voices. Zuckerberg also said the change has another consequence: When people search for the Holocaust, Facebook will direct them to authoritative sources.

“Today we are updating our hate speech policy to prohibit any content that denies or distorts the Holocaust”, wrote VP and Head of Global Policy Management at Facebook Monika Bickert on Facebook’s Newsroom. “Following a year of consultation with external experts, we recently banned anti-Semitic stereotypes about the collective power of Jews”, wrote Bickert.



Monika Bickert - Source: tev.hu

“Our decision is supported by the well-documented rise in anti-Semitism globally and the alarming level of ignorance about the Holocaust, especially among

young people. According to a recent survey of adults in the US aged 18-39, almost a quarter said they believed the Holocaust was a myth, that it had been exaggerated or they weren’t sure.”

“Institutions focused on Holocaust research and remembrance, such as Yad Vashem, have noted that Holocaust education is also a key component in combatting anti-Semitism.” Bickert also wrote that for many years, Facebook has worked with communities around the world to understand how hatred is expressed online. Such efforts included regular discussions with representatives of groups like the Jewish World Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and organisations focused on protecting local Jewish communities, like the Community Security trust in the UK.

“Enforcement of these policies cannot happen overnight. There is a range of content (...) and it will take some time to train our reviewers and systems on enforcement”, wrote Bickert.

Statue erected in Szeged in honor of antisemitic former PM Pál Teleki

Source: szegeder.hu

21 October 2020 Former Prime Minister of Hungary unexpectedly received a rather significant memorial in Szeged, Szegeder.hu reported.

It was during Pál Teleki’s first tenure as Prime Minister that the National Assembly adopted the first antisemitic law of Europe after the First World War, which limited the



Source: szegeder.hu

number of Jewish people at universities. Later, as Minister of Religion and Education in Imrédy’s government, Teleki developed the explanation of the second Jewish law (Act 4 of 1939), and he prepared the third, “species protection” Jewish law (Act 15 of 1941).

When people wanted to erect a Teleki statue in 2004 in Budapest, there was intense public debate on the issue. This is probably what Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Sándor Lezsák was referring to when he said it was shameful that a statue could not be erected in Budapest.

“Yet, the artwork now unveiled strengthens the spirit of what Szeged means to the Carpathian Basin”, said the politician, highlighting that there should be an experiential presentation of what the Teleki government was like in the 20th century, after the outrage of the Treaty of Trianon. Teleki asked us in one of his writings to dare to be Hungarian; Lezsák is now asking us to dare to talk about Pál Teleki because, he thinks, many distort his memory.

New Jewish religious book published with government support of HUF 6 million

Source: MTI, magyarnemzet.hu

22 October 2020 The government contributed HUF 6 million in support of a new volume for 4th graders of a Jewish religious schoolbook series, said Secretary of State for Churches, Minorities and Civil Affairs Miklós Soltész on Thursday, 22 October.

Soltész held a press conference in the synagogue on Rákóczi Street, Nagykőrös. The state secretary said if they think back on the last 10 years, they can recall their decision to provide every support possible to Christian and Jewish congregations, which they believe are integral parts of society, and help them protect and pass on faith, moral necessities and traditions.



Miklós Soltész (2nd from left) - Source: hiroshu

As a result of joint efforts in the last 10 years, the 4th volume of the Jewish religious schoolbook has been published, and the publication of the 5th volume is also being supported, added Soltész.

The state secretary said that on the occasion of the anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, it is important to remember that after suppressing the revolution — as had happened many times in the history of Hungary — Jewish and Christian citizens were turned against each other, by branding the events as anti-Jewish and antisemitic.

The story of Erika Szeles, who was of Jewish origin, sheds light on a different example. She was 10 years old when she participated in the revolution. Following the Soviet intervention, she joined the Red Cross to save lives. On 7 November, she was shot to death. Her martyrdom is a memory of the joint fight for freedom, stated Miklós Soltész.

The state secretary also talked about leader of the group of rebels on Baross Square, László Nickelsburg, who was called “Jewish Laci” by his friends, and Mária Szepesi, whom revolutionists called “Jewish Márta”. It is important to acknowledge our common heroes and not to be turned against each other, said the politician.

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

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

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.	5th of October	Swastika on wall of Jewish Performing Arts Center	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
2.	8th of October	Plaque dedicated to Spanish lifesaver Ángel Sanz Briz in Budapest	Other News
3.	12th of October	Facebook removes Holocaust denial content	Other News
4.	13-14th of October	Slomó Köves: We are happy that racist politician did not become MP	Community News and Responses
5.	19th of October	Police disregarded testimony in case of flag with SS badge hoisted in Leányfalu	Official and Civil Responses
6.	21st of October	Statue erected in Szeged in honor of antisemitic former PM Pál Teleki	Other News
7.	22th of October	Kálmán Szalai: Jobbik is only genuine if it dissolves itself	Community News and Responses
8.	22nd of October	New Jewish religious book published with government support of HUF 6 million	Other News
9.	23-26th of October	László Toroczkai: How is it possible that Rákosi and Gerő were both Jewish?	Community News and Responses
10.	28th of October	Incitement to antisemitic hatred at grave of Hungarist Kálmán Sértő	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
11.	29th of October	Journalist of Origo György Szalma wore swastika bracelet on TV program	Further Hate Incidents

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: www.apleeu.org

The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

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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