

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

NOVEMBER 2020

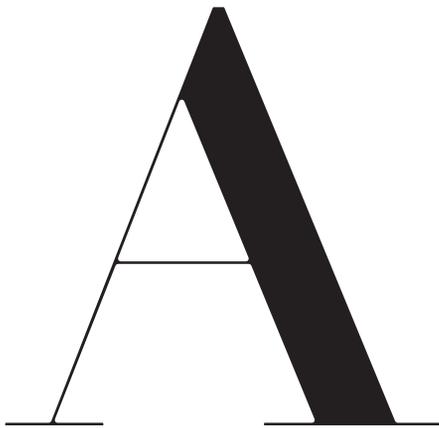


ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Action and Protection League	4
About the Report	5
Methodology	7
Antisemitic Hate Incidents – November 2020	10
Vandalism	10
Hate Speech	11
Further Hate Incidents	12
Community News and Responses	14
News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary	15
Other News	16
Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions	18
The Month's Chronicle	19
Contact and Support	20
References	20
Contributors and Publisher Information	21

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 are also analysed. The data recorded includes the incident's location, the perpetrator (if known), victim, and consequences (if any). In addition, are the various types of incidents differentiated in the reports.

Action and Protection Foundation (APF/TEV) identified three incidents of antisemitic hate crime this month. One incident is classified as Vandalism, while two are categorized as Hate Speech.

In the first event, gravestones were damaged in the Jewish cemetery of Kecel. Concerning the cases of Hate Speech, stickers capable of inciting hatred were distributed among children in Fót, and a swastika and text promoting white supremacy appeared on public surfaces in Abony.

The section entitled Further Hate Incidents presents one case this month, that of Szilárd Demeter. 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 clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

APF/TEV was notified by the Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK) that one of our legal proceedings was suspended. APF's Secretary Kálmán Szalai filed a complaint in June this year for violence against a member of a community. The police report stated that the offender could not be identified during the investigation.

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 – NOVEMBER 2020

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

VANDALISM

Gravestones damaged in the Jewish cemetery of Kecel

Source: baon.hu

1 November 2020 The day before All Souls' Day, three gravestones were knocked over in the Jewish cemetery of Kecel, the news portal for Bács-Kiskun County reported about the unfortunate incident.

The broken gravestones appear to have been brutally destroyed; one cannot even be restored but has to be entirely rebuilt instead. Another tomb near the gravestones was evidently soiled with human feces.



Source: baon.hu

“The local government learned about the incident from social media reports on Sunday morning, 1 November. The city council took the necessary measures with the authorities

and filed a complaint with the police, head of the team responsible for urban management Zoltán Radva told baon.hu at the scene. According to our knowledge, the caretaker of the cemetery also filed a complaint with the police for grave vandalism.

The memorial cemetery is owned by the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz). However, it is operated by the local government of Kecel, which informed Mazsihisz about the incident.

The head of the urban management team could only estimate the costs of restoring the gravestones based on preliminary information. Zoltán Radva said the local government

will cover the costs, which he believed will be hundreds of thousands of forints, on top of the moral damage caused. Radva informed us that the local council will start working on the issue and restoring the gravestones on Monday.

HATE SPEECH

Stickers inciting hatred distributed to children

Source: dunakeszi.ezalenyeg.hu

4 November 2020 The news portal of Dunakeszi reported at the beginning of November that unknown individuals were distributing homophobic and xenophobic stickers at bus stops in Fót.

A photo was posted in several Facebook groups associated with Fót, with the accompanying text



Source: dunakeszi.ezalenyeg.hu

stating that unknown individuals were distributing stickers with a racist, antisemitic and homophobic message among children. The picture, which was sent to the news portal by a local individual, depicted a man with a black mask; next to him were the rainbow symbol of the LGBTQ movement, the star and crescent symbolizing Islam, the Star of David standing for the Jewish religion, and a map of Africa referring to migrants, all crossed out.

There is also a hammer and sickle symbol crossed out on the sticker, suggesting that the symbols mentioned above are connected to mass-murder movements such as Communism.

In the bottom-right corner of the sticker, there is a coat of arms presumably identifying the creator of the sticker. It is the coat of arms of Lyon, the third biggest city in France. We have not been able to find out about the link

between Lyon, a haven for left-wing supporters, and this racist, homophobic and antisemitic mess, wrote the local newspaper.

Swastika and caption promoting white supremacy in Abony

Source: telex.hu, facebook.com

6-10 November 2020 *Telex.hu* noticed that miabonyunk.hu reported on their Facebook page that somebody had painted a swastika



Source: miabonyunk.hu/Facebook

on a signpost in Abony the previous weekend, a wall of a local shop was defaced, and the following writing was painted on a fence:

“WIETH LIVES MATERS”

“Nazi captions have appeared in Abony.

Residents on Nagykösi Road saw this

(writing) Saturday morning, and a wall of a local Hundred Forint Store was also defaced. Also, unknown individuals painted a swastika on the yield sign at the corner of Szilágyi Erzsébet Street and Nagykösi Road. Police proceedings were initiated; we hope they are investigating more than vandalism”, they wrote on Facebook.

Because of the swastika, it is easy to guess what the caption written in clumsy English “Wieth Lives Matter” wanted to express. However, the result is similar to when Neo-Nazis get the swastika wrong. The original version of the writing, White Lives Matter was the reaction of extremist groups promoting white supremacy against the movement fighting for the rights of black people, called Black Lives Matter.

Police proceedings were opened, but we do not know whether they will only investigate vandalism or will look into the use of banned totalitarian symbols as well, reported Telex.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During our November 2020 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified one incident of further hate incident; this is classified as a hate incident, but 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.

Yet another provocation from Szilárd Demeter

Source: origo.hu, mandiner.hu, hang.hu, 24.hu, telex.hu, tev.hu, index.hu, hvg.hu, magyarnemzet.hu, 444.hu

28-30 November 2020 As presented in our August report, Director of the Petőfi Museum of Literature (PIM) Szilárd Demeter wrote an article in Origo, in which he compared Facebook to the infamous Nazi doctor Josef Mengele and himself to Jews sent to gas chambers. He has now written another similarly provocative article for Origo.

The title of the new article is “Sor(o)s” (sors means faith in Hungarian), and it is mainly about the activities of American business-

man of Hungarian origin George Soros and his relationship with Europe, the European Union and Hungary. The most outrageous statements of the article are the following:

Europe is George Soros’ gas chamber: Toxic gas flows from the capsule of a multicultural open society, which is deadly to the European way of life and we, the nations of Europe, are doomed to try to fight for the last

breath of air by climbing on each other. (...)

The LiberAryans (Mixed word from: Liberal and Aryan) are now aiming at excluding Poles and Hungarians from the one last political community where we still have rights. We are the new Jews. (...) We are considered inferior beings. (...) Believe me, this is what they practically think of Central and Eastern Europe, all E-European nations. They are topping their aforementioned behaviour of good old supremacy and colonization with a nebulous utopia. Because the situation is not better in the Western countries either, Liberaryans are also fighting their own battle: Their fainted cult of embracing diversity does not allow you to be yourself. Anyone they cannot re-educate into a multicultural person is in their crosshairs. It sounds better than Übermensch, but fundamentally, it is the same concept.

George Soros is the liberal Führer. And his Liberaryan army is worshipping him in an even more servile manner than Hitler’s worshipped him, back in the day.

They have learned nothing from the 20th century.

Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) and founder of APF Slomó Köves issued a statement in reaction to Szilárd Demeter’s opinion piece:

Szilárd Demeter’s “reflection” is distasteful and undeserved. It is possible to disagree with and challenge George Soros’ political and business activities, but equating him with Hitler and comparing his activities to gas chambers is difficult to be considered anything other than outrageous provocation. It is not only possible but also necessary to conservatively criticize the existing world order. Being conservative, however, also means that we are aware of the linguistic framework whose rules we do not break or blur. We do not vulgarize things that should not be vulgarized.

The Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz) stated in relation to the case:



Source: origo.hu

In Auschwitz, over 430,000 of our compatriots were killed. Anyone who relativizes this, even if indirectly, is insensitive to the history of Hungary in the 20th century and to the suffering of Hungarian Jews. According to Mazsihisz, saying that “Europe is George Soros’ gas chamber” is a typical, schoolbook example of Holocaust relativization, and therefore it is not in line with the government’s policy of zero tolerance against all forms of antisemitism. They believed it was severely irresponsible from the Director



Szilárd Demeter - Photo: Tibor Illyés/MTVI/MTVA

of PIM to bring up and add to existing prejudice.

The Director of PIM reacted to the statement by Mazsihisz on his Facebook page. He wrote:

The Holocaust and everything that happened to the Jews in the 20th century cannot be expropriated. It is our common legacy. And it’s our mutual responsibility not to let anything similar ever happen again in Europe. (...) The majority of migrants are Muslims. The ringleaders of the EU, headed by speculator George Soros, basically import a new kind of antisemitism – show the past few years’ atrocities and the myriad of terror attacks threatening the lives of Jews. (...) 75 years after Auschwitz, the liberal mainstream operates a Nazi logic. This is indeed unacceptable. And I do not accept it. I would like Hungary to remain one of the safest countries in Europe for both Jewish and Christian Hungarians.

The Israeli Embassy in Hungary reacted on Twitter to the scandalous op-ed of Director of PIM Szilárd Demeter:

We utterly reject the use and abuse of the memory of the Holocaust for any purpose, as unfortunately appeared in an op-ed today. There is no place for connecting the worst crime in human history, or its perpetrators, to any contemporary debate, no matter how essential, tweeted the Embassy.

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) in Central Europe also tweeted that the article was horrendous. They wrote that: “Such ignorance of history & minimizing the Holocaust have to be called out.”

The US Embassy also condemned the op-ed and wrote:

The US Embassy in Budapest strongly condemns the statements made in a recent op-ed equating current debates in Europe with the horrific murder of millions of people during the Holocaust. There should be no tolerance for Holocaust relativization and minimization of any kind.

On the following day, 29 November, Szilárd Demeter revoked his disputed op-ed and issued a statement in Magyar Nemzet:

Despite my opinion of being right and despite the freedom of opinion and speech guaranteed by the Fundamental Law, which I will continue to protect, I hereby revoke my piece titled Sor(o)s. Facebook has banned me for three days because of a quote from Imre Kertész, therefore I cannot delete my post from there, so I will delete my page. I agree with my critics that calling others Nazi is relativization and a comparison with the Nazis unintentionally insults the memory of victims. I will keep myself to this in the near future.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Former mayor of Érpatak received suspended prison sentence

Source: atv.hu, tev.hu, frissmedia.hu

24 November 2020 As many may remember, former mayor of Érpatak Mihály Zoltán Orosz, who became famous for his conspicuous outfits and scandals, organized a demonstration against “the genocide of the Israeli freemason terror state” in the summer of 2014.



Mihály Zoltán Orosz - source: tev.hu

An individual dressed as a hangman executed two effigies at the demonstration. The effigies represented former President of Israel Shimon Peres and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On 5 February 2019, Gyöngyösi Járásbíróság (District Court of Gyöngyös) delivered a first instance verdict for inciting hatred against a community. The accused was acquitted of committing an offence of inciting hatred against a community. On behalf of the prosecutor, the Nyíregyházi Járási Ügyészség



Source: frissmedia.hu

(District Prosecutor’s Office in Nyíregyháza) filed an appeal against the decision in order for the accused to be convicted and sentenced.

The Egri Törvényszék (Court of Eger) accepted the indictment and sentenced the accused to a two-year suspended prison sentence. The sentence is not final, as the former mayor filed an appeal against the decision, so the proceedings continue.

However, the Court of Eger delivered a verdict in another case against Orosz: He was found guilty of perjury on two counts and of forgery of administrative documents, said court spokesperson Tímea Hoszné Nagy. Orosz was found guilty because he had been absent during the original trial using fake medical certificates. In the first instance, Orosz received a fine of HUF 180,000, which was later raised to HUF 350,000. The politician is now a representative of the Municipality of Nagykálló.

In 2014, Jobbik MP Péter Jakab said on his social media page that the Érpatak model was an example to follow. At the time, the official website of Érpatak promoted several conspiracy theories of far-right subculture, including one about the September 11 attacks. They also published a study that had references to the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a cornerstone of antisemitism.

APF filed charges against Mihály Zoltán Orosz for continuous incitement against a community.

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Slomó Köves: Hungary now safest place in Europe for Jews

Source: mandiner.hu, hungarytoday.hu

19 November 2020 Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) and founder of APF Slomó Köves talked about antisemitism in Hungary at an online conference. The article in Mandiner is based on an article published on English-language news portal Hungary Today.

“Hungary is probably the safest place for Jews in Europe at the moment”, said Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves at the international Hungary at First “Site” press conference organized by the Friends of Hungary Foundation and held online this year due to the pandemic. “Although a part of the society has antisemitic feelings, there are no physical atrocities, unlike in some Western countries”, said the Rabbi.



Slomó Köves - source: mandiner.hu

In his presentation, Rabbi Köves referred to the establishment of Action and Protection Foundation (APF). The inspiration for our founding

came from the emergence of the extreme right, the growing popularity of Jobbik, certain politicians’ controversial statements around the middle of the last decade, and the idea that Jewish communities are responsible for themselves.

APF provides legal protection and aid for victims, deals with cases of Holocaust denial, and assists in the preparation and development of legislation. We conduct research and monitoring, and this activity has lately been extended to eight more countries. The third pillar of our activities, which Slomó Köves deems the most important, is education (programs, textbooks, courses).

“Concerning Hungarian antisemitic tendencies, Hungary definitely counts as safe in an international comparison”, Rabbi Köves said. “In 2019, APF registered only 35 cases of antisemitic incidents in Hungary. This figure is considerably better than similar data for Western countries (the Netherlands, France, the US or Great Britain). What is more, neighbouring Austria also recorded more cases over the previous years.”

“Still, antisemitic feelings are definitely present in Hungarian society”, said the Rabbi. The ratio of moderate antisemites vary between 10-18%, while the proportion of those with strong antisemitic attitudes range between 18-27%. Around two-thirds of Hungarian society has no antisemitic feelings at all. However, it’s worrisome, the Rabbi pointed out, that moderate antisemites are shifting toward the extreme, something that Rabbi Köves attributes to the emergence of the Jobbik party, which made far-right feelings more acceptable.

Slomó Köves noted that while in many parts of the world Jewish people often need a survival strategy when going out on the streets, this is not the case in Hungary. “On the other hand, Hungary is still a country where a large part of the population does believe in antisemitic ideology. However, this is not something specific to the Hungarians”, stated the Rabbi.

Rabbi Köves admitted that after 2016, Jobbik moved toward the centre and now declares itself a people’s party, but he believes Jobbik still needs to deliver explanations and reasoning for, as well as a distancing from, their earlier “unacceptable” statements and standpoints. Slomó Köves does not think there are visible efforts from Jobbik to change fundamentally. In addition, the Rabbi pointed to APF’s polls, in which we showed that while the ratio of antisemitic-leaning voters of other parties range between 15-40%, in the case of Jobbik, it fluctuates around 60-70%, and this proportion has not changed in the last five years.

In response to a question about whether the Orbán government’s anti-Soros campaign had negative effects on the country’s antisemitism and the Jewish community, Rabbi Köves, besides admitting that he didn’t find the campaign “elegant”, once again referred to our polls. Based on our “pretty shocking findings”, despite the

political overtones, respondents tended not to connect Soros to Jews, and apparently the campaigns did not have any considerable effect on antisemitism. The overall number of antisemitic incidents did not go up with the appearance of the campaign and the billboards, Slomó Köves claimed.

OTHER NEWS

Fradi continues campaign against antisemitism and exclusion

Source: fradi.hu, szombat.org

8 December 2020 “In 2012, Ferencvárosi Torna Club was the first among the Hungarian clubs to initiate a campaign against exclusion, and since then, we have been raising awareness about the importance of this issue with short films”, declared Fradi’s statement.

“Ferencvárosi Torna Club – among other European teams like Chelsea or Dortmund – has joined the initiative of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), by which we aim to strengthen the Jewish community and support common international work. Our club states it adopts the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which states that antisemitism and all forms of racism and xenophobia constitute an attack on democracy and is contrary to our values of human rights, equality, freedom and respect for human dignity, regardless of identity, origin or belief.”



Tokmac Nguen - source: fradi.hu

“The slogan of our 2020 campaign video is: We are a family at Fradi! Following a prominent player of the

men’s football team, Tokmac Nguen, we meet several other athletes and supporters of the club in different locations and environments, emphasizing that at Ferencváros, everyone stands together, no matter where they come from or what they have gone through”, declares the statement of Fradi, which also reminds us of previous videos of the series, in which well-known sportsmen and managers spoke up against racism.

Origo dismissed journalist called a “Nazi”

Source: index.hu

18 November 2020 Origo dismissed György Szalma, against whom Momentum had filed charges earlier for wearing a banned totalitarian symbol, stated Index.

As presented in our October report, journalist György Szalma was wearing a swastika bracelet in a program broadcasted on Pesti TV. The opposition stated the symbol on the bracelet was a Nazi symbol.

The journalist responded to the charges against him in a Facebook post and denied having extremist views:



György Szalma – source: pestitv.pestisracok.hu

“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.

The journalist now leaving from Origo did really visit India a few years ago; he even wrote a series of articles about it for Mandiner. There, it is indeed one of the most ancient symbols and represents good luck. In Europe, however, National Socialists responsible for genocides have used it, so it has a different meaning in this culture, stated Index at the end of their article.

Former Socialist mayor of Győr: I was asked to not select a Jewish candidate

Source: ugytudjuk.hu, akibic.hu

21 November 2020 József Balogh was an



József Balogh – source: Index/MTI photo

inevitable figure in politics in Győr, both before and after the change of the regime. As a member of the Hungarian Young Communist League

(KISZ), city council vice president and later president, as local representative for MSZP and mayor, as well as an MP after the change of the regime, Balogh played an active political role in Győr between 1968 and 2010. He has since retired.

In a long interview given to Vas county news portal Ugytudjuk.hu, József Balogh said he did not want to be followed by a Jewish left-wing candidate because the candidate was not decent looking.

When the former left-wing mayor was asked whether he regretted not having prepared a successor, he had a strange answer:

I did not agree with András Kun being a candidate. First, there is his looks... Please don't take me the wrong way, he is a smart guy. I have always said to him: You are the smartest one among us, but your looks are really unbecoming. Besides, the Jewish congregation specifically asked me to not select a



András Kun – source: akibic.hu

Jewish candidate. András did not come to terms with this. I had to resort to trickery, so I talked to Guszti Kadler, who is an athlete, an entrepreneur and, by the way, he is also Jewish. He later stepped down. This caused a mess and as a result, we lost. Then came the crisis and Gyurcsány's blunders...

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Decision about suspended proceedings

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

20 November 2020 Secretary of APF Kálmán Szalai received information from the Investigation Department of the Budapest Police Headquarters (BRFK) regarding the charges he had filed in June this year. Szalai filed charges for violence against a member of a community committed by an unknown

individual in the vicinity of the Óbuda Synagogue. As Secretary of APF Kálmán Szalai, Executive Rabbi of EMIH Slomó Köves and his family were leaving the building of the synagogue, the offender said: “You are like the Gypsies, I would rather kick you.” The police decision Szalai received in November stated that the investigation against an unknown individual was suspended because the offender could not be identified.

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.	1st of November	Gravestones damaged in the Jewish cemetery of Kecel	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism
2.	4th of November	Stickers inciting hatred distributed to children	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate speech
3.	6-10th of November	Swastika and caption promoting white supremacy in Abony	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate speech
4.	17th of November	Fradi continues campaign against antisemitism and exclusion	Other News
5.	18th of November	Origo dismissed journalist called a "Nazi"	Other News
6.	19th of November	Slomó Köves: Hungary now safest place in Europe for Jews	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
7.	21st of December	Decision about suspended proceedings	Legal Actions
8.	20th of November	Former Socialist mayor of Győr: I was asked to not select a Jewish candidate	Other News
9.	21st of November	Former mayor of Érpatak received suspended prison sentence	Official and Civil Responses
10.	28-30th of November	Yet another provocation from Szilárd Demeter	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

Contact details for Action and Protection League
Address: 1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium
Phone: +36 1 267 57 54, +36 30 207 5130
web: <http://www.tev.hu>
e-mail: info@tev.hu

REFERENCES

- Anti-Defamation League (ADL). 2012. *2011 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents*.
Anti-Defamation League (ADL). <https://global100.adl.org>
CEJI. 2012. *Make hate Crimes Visible. Facing Facts! Guidelines for Monitoring of Hate Crimes and Hate Motivated Incidents*. Facing Facts! project.
Chakraborti, Neil and Jon Garland. 2009. *Hate Crime. Impact, Causes and Responses*. London: Sage Publications.
Community Security Trust (CST). 2013. *Antisemitic Incidents Report 2012*.
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). *Antisemitism - Overview of data available in the European Union 2008-2018*
Levin, Jack and Jack McDevitt. 1999. "Hate Crimes." In *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict*, edited by Lester Kurtz. San Diego: Academic Press, 89-102.
OSCE/ODIHR. 2009a. *Hate Crime Laws. A Practical Guide*. Warsaw: OSCE/ODIHR.
OSCE/ODIHR. 2009b. *Preventing and responding to hate crimes. A resource guide for NGOs in the OSCE region*. Warsaw: OSCE/ODIHR.
Perry, Barbara. 2001. *In the Name of Hate. Understanding Hate Crimes*. New York: Routledge.
-

CONTRIBUTORS AND PUBLISHER INFORMATION

Publisher: Action and Protection League of Europe
Kálmán Szalai, Executive Director

The publisher wishes to thank **Dr. András Kovács**, sociologist, Professor at **CEU**, for all the encouragement and helpful advice.

Editors: **Krisztián Nádasi**, research scholar, head of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Dr. Kristóf Bodó, legal advocate,
Gábor Bodó, research scholar, member of the the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Julianna Görög, translator

The publishers expresses their gratitude for the self-sacrificing work of the volunteers who, under expert guidance, have put their continuous efforts into the preparation of this report over the past months.

Use of the Report or any part thereof requires written permission from the publisher and such use must properly cite this report as a reference.

Contributors: **Dániel Bodnár**, philosopher, Chairman of the Action and Protection Foundation Board of Trustees
Andrew Srulewitch, Director, Anti Defamation League

2020 Budapest

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

1040 Brussels, Rue de Froissart 109, Belgium
<http://www.apleu.org>

