

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

APRIL 2021



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 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) identified seven cases of antisemitic hate incidents this month. All of them are classified as Hate Speech. Jew-baiting comments by one Facebook profile were reported to the Foundation's Hotline; a foreign news correspondent published an article on a portal, in which he called the Jewish members of the Knesset Nazis and falsified a quotation from the Times of Israel; a Hitler commemoration appeared – twice! – by unidentified persons

in Szolnok; an anti-Israel Hungarian historian also signed the Jerusalem Declaration, which proposes that criticism of Zionism and the normalization of the boycott movement should not be automatically qualified as antisemitism; the Jobbik Party Foundation's website still contains a lot of antisemitic and racist content – even if in his election as leader of Jobbik last year, Péter Jakab promised to eliminate extreme political manifestations; and Békési Újság interviewed a neo-Nazi sportsman with a Hitler tattoo because he was banned from a fight due to said tattoos.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents three cases this month. This section covers incidents classified as

hate-motivated but not included 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. In the first case, a public broadcasting news portal, hirado.hu, presented an executed Arrow-Cross war criminal as a historical source. In the second case, a Yellow Star was drawn on the shutters of a shop. The final case concerned Jobbik politicians saying immunity certificates reminded them of concentration camps and the Yellow Star.

APF did not initiate any legal proceedings this month, but we were notified of an ongoing case and filed a complaint against a Police decision to dismiss it.

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 – APRIL 2021

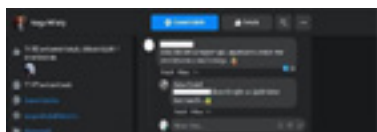
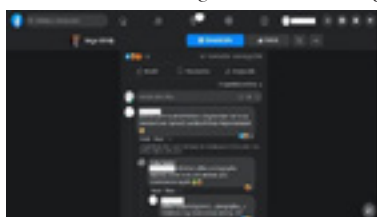
Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified seven cases of antisemitic hate incidents this month. All of them are classified as Hate Speech.

HATE SPEECH

Jew-baiting comments on Facebook
Source: tev.hu, facebook.com

8 April 2021 Jew-baiting comments by one Facebook profile were reported to the Foundation's Hotline (+36-1-51 00 000).

Gábor Czeizel wrote the incriminating comments in the comment section under a post by Minister of Finance Mihály Varga ("Facts about investment in Hungary for those who doubted Hungarian crisis management") on his Facebook page. Varga attached a diagram to his post, which (partly) elicited the debate. Czeizel did not meaningfully contribute to this debate, aside from adding two Jew-baiting comments.



The first: "Why didn't you look for it in the synagogue you and the dk leadership attend with momentum in tow 🤔🤔"

The other: "I see the new Hebrew commando is assembled.... 🤔"

The case of the news site Azonnali and the "Israeli Nazis"

Source: azonnali.hu, neokohn.hu, tev.hu

10-15 April 2021 Foreign news correspondent Péter Techet published an article on the opposition portal Azonnali.hu, in which he called the Jewish members of the Knesset Nazis, and falsified a quotation from the Times of Israel – Neokohn reports.

The title of Techet's article read "Israeli Nazis will be able to decide the fate of Netanyahu." The portal continues with the subject of how "ultra-Zionist politicians had also become members of the Israeli parliament. If



Benjamin Netanyahu wants to remain prime minister, he must win their support as well". The article was about the various religious Zionist politicians called "Nazis" in the title of the piece. According to the definition of antisemitism by IHRA, the international organization guarding the memory of the Holocaust (also ratified by Hungary), it is antisemitic to compare Israeli politics to Nazism.

Moreover, the author did so by falsely attributing the sentence "It is a pity they [the Nazis] did not burn your parents" to Avi Maoz, president of the party, as evidence, when he never uttered this sentence but rather had it said to him – as reported by Tev.hu.

The biggest problem, however, was not the mistranslation or falsification, but the main statement presented in the title, that in the State of Israel, Nazis will decide who forms the government going forward. Apart from the false and shameful vocabulary, this gives a wholly distorted picture of political and parliamentary relations in Israel.

Neither the Religious Zionist politician Itamar Ben Gvir, president of the Kahanist Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power) Party and considered a radical right-wing party even in Israel, nor the president of its affiliated society, Bezalel Smotrich, are Nazis. Both have certainly made disputed, exclusionist statements about Arabs and homosexuals (just as radical left-wing politicians also regularly make exclusionist, anti-Israel and "anti-Zionist" statements), but the use of the Nazi marker is not appropriate in either case.

Only recently, Simcha Rothman of the Religious Zionist Party indicated that they have no problem with the Arab parties in Israel; they do not, however, wish to be in a coalition with the anti-Zionist, Islamist Ra'am Party, since in their opinion it questions the existence of the Jewish state (to date, neither Netanyahu nor Ra'am have automatically ruled out cooperation, but a number of radical right-wing politicians have signalled that they oppose the move). To call Israel or Israeli politicians who made questionable statements Nazis not only embeds political discourse in an unacceptable conceptual framework but also relativizes and trivializes the horrors of the Shoah.

Hitler commemoration by unidentified persons in Szolnok

Source: facebook.com, neokohn.hu, tev.hu, akibic.hu, magyarnarancs.hu

19 April 2021 Hitler's date of birth and one of his notorious phrases could be seen on a banner hung off the Tiszavirág bridge by unknown individuals.

A photo of the incident was published by the Facebook page Kimondott Szolnok, with a comment mentioning another case in which a photograph and line of candles commemorating Szálasi (leader of the Arrow Cross) were seen on the pedestal of the World War Memorial on Tiszai Hajósok Square for an extended period of time.

It is not yet known whether the police have opened an investigation into the case. According to the Kimondott Szolnok page, both of the areas in question are covered by security cameras, so the police could easily identify the perpetrators; to our knowledge, however, this has not yet happened - Kibic.hu reports.

A local resident, speaking up as a local historian on his Facebook page (discovered by Magyar Narancs), it is a disgrace that such an atrocity could happen in this town in the 21st century, this is no laughing matter. In his opinion, the banner was not a provocation by rebellious teenagers but a sign of a serious social crisis. He added that no one ought to trivialize such a thing. The



number of Szolnok's Jewish citizens is high relative to their proportion in the country's population, and any extreme right-wing, Arrow-Cross ideology would only appear in isolated incidents, even in the 1930s and 40s. The local historian pointed out that now all such actions are seen as criminal.

The banner was eventually removed from the bridge by locals.

The neo-Nazis have in fact been active in Szolnok before: They commemorated Ferenc Szálasi in March of this year. For a long period, a portrait of Ferenc Szálasi had "adorned" the World War Memorial found on Tiszai Hajósok Square, a few steps from the former synagogue.

Another Neo-Nazi banner unfurled in Szolnok

Source: magyarnarancs.hu

21 April 2021 Two young men's identity papers were checked and they were taken to the police station yesterday in Szolnok after a banner showing the symbol of a totalitarian regime was found once again hung in public - Magyar Narancs reported on the latest case.

Our website described on Tuesday how unidentified individuals had placed a banner commemorating Hitler on the Tiszavirág Bridge in Szolnok.

The widely denounced banner was later removed by locals, and the police have ordered supplementary information for a report on the incident.

At about the same time as our piece was published on that incident, late Tuesday afternoon, another banner was hung in a



different place, over the underpass in the Széchenyi District, with a different inscription. The inscription is a Hitler quote, and half a swastika can also be seen on the banner. This road is extremely busy, connecting downtown Szolnok with its largest residential area. Witnesses reported that police arrived quickly at the site.

The County Police Headquarters published a statement related to both incidents, saying that unidentified individuals had hung a large banner showing a symbol of a totalitarian regime onto one of the bridges in Szolnok at 12 p.m. on 19 April. This was therefore the first incident.

The statement also says that at 19 hours 40 minutes on 20 April, a police patrol noticed another banner with a totalitarian symbol but different content at one of the railroad overpasses in the city. The police checked the papers of two young men near the site, and then took them to the Police Headquarters where they were questioned as suspects. The accused admitted their guilt.

The Police Headquarters of Szolnok opened an investigation for the use of a symbol of a totalitarian regime, the statement concludes.

An anti-Israel Hungarian historian also signed the Jerusalem Declaration

Source: neokohn.hu

27 April 2021 A challenge was issued to the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which has recently become the accepted definition internationally: The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism proposes that criticism of Zionism and the normalization of the boycott movement should not be automatically qualified as antisemitism – Neokohn wrote.

Historian Ferenc Laczó, of Maastricht University and member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Subcommittee of the History of the Second World War, gave an interview to the internet portal Azonnali, which clarified that: The declaration had been signed not only by Andrea Pet, historian at Vienna-based CEU and researcher of the Budapest-based CEU Democracy Institute, but by him as well, though for the moment his name does not appear on the website of the Jerusalem Declaration.



He told Azonnali that “the Jerusalem Declaration is forward-looking because it gives a clear definition and resolutely denounces cases of antisemitism while also protecting the possibility to criticize state oppression and nationalism”.

Unfortunately, Laczó did not clarify what he meant by “state oppression”, but the long article in Azonnali does offer some examples, such as: “The high point of the crisis came when at the turn of 2009–2010 a 1,500 strong group of BDS activists arrived from Egypt to Gaza, which by then was already surrounded by cement walls and watchtowers, to demand the lifting of the Israeli military blockade causing a humanitarian catastrophe.”

According to the article, the humanitarian catastrophe was not caused by the mass-murdering terrorist organization Hamas, but by Israel defending itself; it also criticizes

Israel for protecting Jewish civilians from the murderous terrorists with “cement walls and watchtowers”.

This is not the first time Laczó has made anti-Israel statements publicly.

As we reported, in an interview in 2018, he said that “Soros has been declared an enemy by the Israeli political right because he steps up in the interest of universal human rights and therefore also supports remedies for the injuries suffered by the occupied and oppressed Palestinians – and as it is known, the responsibility for these injuries lies in large part with the State of Israel”.

The interview completely ignored the roles of Hamas as a terrorist organization and Fatah as the financier of terrorism in the Middle East conflict.

Jobbik Party Foundation’s website full of antisemitic and racist content

Source: origo.hu

27 April 2021 Following his election as leader of Jobbik last year, Péter Jakab may have promised to eliminate extreme political manifestations within his party, but this has not been wholly accomplished, as the website of Jobbik’s Party Foundation is full of appalling content – reads the news portal Origo.

After his election to the position of Jobbik president last year, Péter Jakab promised to eliminate the extreme groups within the party. “No manifestation of extreme political views is acceptable for the direction we have taken as a popular people’s party”, he announced firmly in a television interview he gave related to Gergely Kulcsár, who spat on the Shoes on the Danube Bank Holocaust Memorial.

The party president later added in an interview given to Index last year that it was best to make it clear that they believe “not only is there no place for extremist manifestations in Jobbik, but in Hungary as a whole”.

And yet, among the lead articles on the Jobbik website, one finds the news that

Jobbik is making a bronze bust of László Ravasz. The Calvinist bishop from the Danube region, considered highly educated and influential, gave a long speech as a Member of Parliament in support of the First Anti-Jewish Law of 1938 and then voted in favour of the Second Anti-Jewish Law of 1939 that was openly grounded in racism. As he put it in the latter speech, “there is no changing the fact that Jews are different from Hungarians”.

A few clicks away, you can find the anti-Israel event previously organized by the party titled “Gaza 2014 – The true face of genocide”.

Márton Gyöngyösi was a speaker at the

event and, per the account of JMA, “gave a purposefully spirited speech about how Israel is currently committing genocide similar to that which it suffered during the Second World War”.

Among the programs supported by the Party Foundation, there is a memorial day for the Ragged Guard (Rongyos Gárda, an irregular paramilitary unit), the First Hungarian Islan, and a concert by the band Romantikus Erszak (meaning “Romantic Violence” or “Romantic Rape”).

Békési Újság interviews neo-Nazi man with a Hitler-tattoo

Source: magyarnarancs.hu, 24.hu

28 April 2021 An interview appeared in the so-called “Relay” column of the 16-page newspaper Békési Újság with Attila Petrovszki, who was not allowed to participate in the Heroes Gate MMA event held in Prague in 2013 because of his neo-Nazi tattoos. Békési Újság is delivered free of charge every two weeks to 24,000 residents in five towns: Békés, Kamut, Murony, Tarhos and Bélmegyer – reported Magyar Narancs.





The Relay column of the paper presents local people who are models, interesting figures, or of public interest for some reason so they can speak about their lives and work.

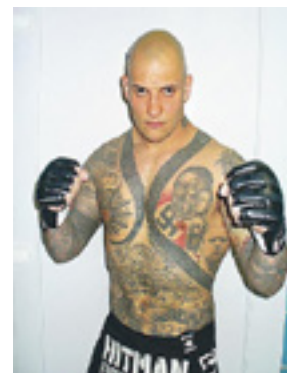
Attila Petrovszki was presented in the way described above in the 6 April issue, describing himself as a small producer. It becomes apparent from the interview that he believes hard work is a matter of honour and is raising his two children in an exemplary fashion. He speaks about the inspiration he got from his family, who taught him his confectionery skills. He described where he would like to see himself and his family in 10–20 years. It could be said at first glance that this was a regular interview of an exemplary life, but first impressions can be deceiving. For example, Petrovszki later names *Jud Süss* as one of his favourite films – but that is only the beginning.

“Attila Petrovszki is a straightforward national socialist, whose tattooed body is covered in Nazi and Hungarian symbols, whose statements are appalling. He was not allowed in the ring at a foreign competition even though he had registered”, one reader explained on *Narancs.hu*. Others sent similar feedback to us. “In this community, encompassing the city of Békés and its surroundings, most people know Petrovszki and his views very well indeed. It is hard therefore to understand why such a man is given space in the columns of the newspaper”, another local commented. A number of articles can be found on Petrovszki on the internet.

In the photograph illustrating his interview, he is wearing a black t-shirt with the inscription “Blood & Honor” in English – the motto of the Nazis and their Hungarian followers, the Hungarists.

“All of my tattoos are means of self-expression, reflecting my personality. National Socialism is the ideology in which I believe. The media will usually depict us as primitive hatemongers, but I want to change this, to me, this is a form of propaganda”, Petrovszki said to the daily newspaper *Blikk* in 2011. He had also said at that time that he is proud of his body art and does not want to get rid of it. The swastika also appears among his tattoos. The cage fighter knows he is playing with fire since the banned symbols of totalitarian regimes are criminally prosecuted in the whole of Europe.

According to the Hungarian Criminal Code, anyone who distributes, presents or uses them in public view is committing a misdemeanour and has to be fined. Attila Petrovszki could not participate in the Heroes Gate MMA tournament in Prague in 2013 because of his neo-Nazi tattoos, with a number of sponsors stepping



back in protest over the entry of the contestant. Among the withdrawing sponsors were Czech State Television and the Sports Ministry, with the deputy mayor of Prague’s 9th District also denouncing the incident in a statement – as *Index* wrote at the time.

“A Hitler portrait, a Szálasi portrait, a swastika, and the words ‘Death to Jews!’ are among the tattoos Attila Petrovszki of Békés County has had tattooed on himself; a confectioner in his everyday life, he would have entered the ring in the Heroes Gate MMA event in Prague, but was disallowed. It is thought-provoking that in spite of all this, Petrovszki has for years been able to take the stage in Hungary without a hitch”, reads the account of the case given at the time by *dotoho.blog.hu*. Emblazoned on the back of his neck is the SS slogan: “My honour is my loyalty”.

We contacted the chief editor of Békési Újság, Katalin Szegfű, about this case, inquiring after the grounds for Petrovski's presentation.

"I came to learn about Petrovski's past and his worldview after the fact, but I main-

tain that nothing unacceptable appeared in the interview we published" – the chief editor responded to our inquiry. She added that it was not their intention to present a figure with far-right views and said that she had not received any other feedback on the matter.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

Public broadcasting news hirado.hu presents an executed Arrow-Cross war criminal as a historical source

Source: hirado.hu, 444.hu

6 April 2021 A history article published by hirado.hu quoted politically extreme journals edited by Arrow-Cross war criminals as authoritative historical sources and without comment. To make things worse, they used one of the favourite expressions adopted by the extreme-right press in 1944 while giving their full support to the ongoing genocide – 444.hu described the case.

The article intended for educational reading on hirado.hu recounts the carpet bombing of Budapest by Second World War Allied forces in 1944.

"The Anglo-Saxon airplanes made terror attacks on numerous points of Middle Hungary, including Budapest. Dark pillars of smoke rose towards the sky, a torrent of flames smothering a house here and there,' was how the 4 April issue of the journal called Új Nemzedék (New Generation) described the first bombing raid to occur in Hungary during the Second World War" begins the article on hirado.hu.

The first, immediately apparent peculiarity is that the article elevates the expression "terror bombing" for use in the title and uses it three times in the article itself in the form of "terror attack", as part of quotations. This is

surprising because it was the official formula for the Allied bombings by the Nazi-collaborator Hungarian government, a fact actually mentioned by the article. Nonetheless, the public media article produced in 2021 effectively adopts this categorization from 1944, in that it repeatedly refers to American and British anti-Nazi military operations as terror attacks, without once clearly stating that the Anglo-Saxon forces did not actually execute any terror attacks against Hungary – 444.hu.

At the same time, the article cites a number of newspapers and editors – seen as politically extreme even by the standards of those days – as authoritative historical sources. Among the newspapers quoted in this matter, we find the daily Függetlenség, whose editor at the time was Mihály Kolosváry-Borcsa, executed as a war criminal in 1946. The notoriously racist journalist turned politician was one of the chief propagandists of genocidal Hungarian governments – such as the Szálasi Government – who had half a million books by Hungarian and foreign authors of Jewish origin pulped at the grinding mills of the First Hungarian Pasteboard Factory barely two months after the bombing raids mentioned in the article, an action recorded on film for posterity.



The hirado.hu article also presents as historical source material a photo of the front page of *Esti Ujság*, which had as its chief editor Rajniss Ferenc; he would go on to become Minister for Religious Affairs in the Szálasi Government, which was known to be very touchy in religious matters. The proud national socialist Rajniss was also executed as a war criminal in 1946. The approach taken by hirado.hu, including the use of politically extreme, racist and censored sources without comment in educational journalism, is also baffling because it is otherwise mentioned in the article that the target of the American carpet bombing was the elimination of the railway network, the military and oil industries.

Yellow Star drawn on shutters of a shop

Source: tev.hu



13 April 2021 Our Foundation received a report of someone having drawn a Yellow Star on the shutters of a closed storefront located in Budapest, at 15 Alkotás Street, along with the following text:

“PULP NATION”

Prior to the pandemic, the shop had operated as an open-to-view bakery.

Action and Protection Foundation has begun collecting information and investigating the case.

Immunity certificates reminded Jobbik politicians of concentration camps and the Yellow Star

Source: facebook.com, magyarnemzet.hu, tev.hu, mandiner.hu

24 April 2021 Tamás Pataki, a reporter for Magyar Nemzet, noticed and brought to attention in the paper how two Jobbik politicians had gotten so carried away by the coronavirus pandemic that they made some appalling associations on Facebook.

Jobbik Member of Parliament György Szilágyi argued the following point regarding the immunity certificate on his social networking page:

“What will the next step be? Will they put anyone without an immunity certificate into a concentration camp?” – the national leader asks in affected horror.

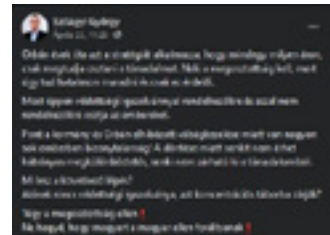
Meanwhile, Jobbik’s president of the 6th electoral constituency of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Mihály Sallai Jr., addressed the issue as follows:

“Soon, they’ll be handing out the yellow star as well. I never thought this could happen again after the 40s, that citizens differentiated based on certain criteria could be made second class citizens.”

Action and Protection Foundation issued a statement concerning the two incidents:

“György Szilágyi MP, Vice-President of the party, posted on Facebook the other day about how, for political reasons, Viktor Orbán ‘wants to sow division in society at any cost [...] Presently he is dividing society along the lines of those who have and do not have an immunity certificate’. This prompted the member of parliament to make the following association: ‘What will the next step be? Will they put anyone without an immunity certificate into a concentration camp?’

“György Szilágyi’s name may ring a bell for having been the Jobbik politician who proposed the closure of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in 2013, calling it an ‘anti-Hungarian organization’. The organization had recently denounced those



football ultras who had held up a banner hailing László Csatáry at a match (as a Police officer, Csatáry played a major role in the deportations from Kassa during 1944). [...]

“A similarly scandalous statement about immunity certificates was made by Jobbik’s constituency president for the 6th electoral constituency of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Mihály Sallai Jr., whose post on his social networking page said: ‘Soon, they’ll start handing out the yellow star as well. I never thought this could happen again after the 40s, that citizens differentiated based on certain criteria could be made second class citizens.’

“Action and Protection Foundation finds the statements of the two Jobbik politicians appalling and unacceptable. There are legitimate debates taking place across Europe regarding the questions raised by the

immunity certificates and “green passport” planned by the EU – yet only the Hungarian Jobbik Party would associate the rights ensured by the certificates with concentration camps and the yellow star. The statements relativize the fate of the victims of the Holocaust purely to score points in national politics.

“Considering Jobbik’s position, we would be especially wary of using the yellow star in an argument in Hungarian politics, as in 2012, MPs put on the yellow star in protest of the infamous speech of a Jobbik politician: Márton Gyöngyösi had proposed that it was time ‘to tally up people of Jewish ancestry who live here, and especially as MPs in the Hungarian Parliament and the Hungarian government, who, indeed, pose a national security risk to Hungary’.”

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

Hungarian antisemitism: Few harassments, questions about filed complaints

Source: neokohn.hu, tev.hu

16 April 2021 A study of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom examines the state of antisemitism in Europe – the Jewish News Syndicate reported. The article was reviewed by Neokohn.hu.

The results of the study¹² mentioned Hungary as a positive example in numerous instances.

The countries examined were Hungary, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

The report highlighted the fact that the Hungarian government covers part of the security expenses of the Jewish community (pg. 3).

The material also treats Hungary in detail on pages 20–21.

According to the report, 23% of Hungarian Jews have experienced antisemitic harassment over the last 12 months, and this is “the lowest proportion among the Jewish communities studied”.

The report also states that 77% of Hungarian Jews say antisemitism is a problem or a serious problem.

The report mostly cites examples such as the revival of the cult following of antisemitic historical figures, or the use of language in public discourse that digs up bad memories.

It says: “Jewish leaders were satisfied with physical security measures in place and cited excellent coordination with law enforcement.”

Furthermore, the report quotes the government as having declared “zero tolerance” for antisemitism.

The report also raises the issue, however, (p. 4) that, according to data from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) based in Vienna, a significant proportion of antisemitic incidents are not reported by victims.

With regard to the report, Neokohn contacted Kálmán Szalai, Secretary of Action and Protection

Foundation (APF), who said that in the last three years, 55% of antisemitic incidents reported were reported through the APF Hotline. Unfortunately, there is no accurate statistical method to show how many incidents are not reported, but the FRA’s report is also based on a “bold deduction”.



¹² <https://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/Antisemitism%20in%20Europe.pdf>

OTHER NEWS

Surge in online antisemitic hate speech during the coronavirus pandemic may lead to physical violence

Source: szombat.org, MTI, tev.hu, euronews.com

8 April 2021 The annual report on antisemitism published before the Israeli Holocaust Memorial Day every year by the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry was reviewed by the journal Szombat and our Foundation, APF.

Last year, attacks on property owned by Jewish communities, such as synagogues, cemeteries and memorial sites, surged by over 20 percent, although on the other hand, personal physical assaults on Jews and attacks on Jewish personal property dropped.

The lockdowns experienced worldwide due to the pandemic, have not only increased attacks on the property of Jewish communities, but also exacerbated antisemitic Jewish comments on the internet.

According to the authors of the report, the number of attacks on synagogues, Jewish cemeteries, Holocaust memorials and other Jewish memorials may have increased by a fifth because these places were closed, were often left unprotected due to the lockdown, and became easy prey to antisemitic vandals.

The number of attacks on cemeteries and memorial sites grew from 77 in 2019 to 96 in 2020, while the number of incidents of vandalism to synagogues grew from 53 to 63. The largest number of antisemitic incidents were registered in the United States (119 cases) and Germany (59 cases) – Szombat found.



“Prejudice, superstition, primordial emotions, and bizarre theories surfaced” – the editor of the study and director of the Kantor Center, Dina Porat reflected.

“Manifestations of antisemitism, both verbal and visual, were vicious and outrageous”, she added.

Participants in the survey, extending to about 40 countries, expressed their concern about a rise in global antisemitism to come after the global pandemic. The report points out that social isolation kept Jews out of the reach of those who would have wanted to harm them. The number of violent assaults committed against Jews decreased from 456 in the previous year to 371 in 2020, which corresponds to data for the period from 2016 to 2018. The number of antisemitic assaults resulting in physical injury moderated from 170 to 107, while the number of incidents involving damage to private property decreased from 130 to 84.

The rise of online hate speech, however, potentially warns that with the lifting of restrictive measures imposed during the pandemic, the behaviours promoting hatred against Jews may intensify, as has repeatedly been the case in similar situations in history. “Anti-Jewish hatred online never stays online. We have to be prepared that anti-Semitic conspiracy theories could lead to physical attacks on Jews when lockdowns end”, said Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress.

Research results show that since February 2020, conspiracy theories reminiscent of medieval blood libels have thrived. Jews have been accused of making the virus spread, and Jews and Israel have been accused of having created the coronavirus to profit from the selling of vaccines. Those who spread the theories have used false analogies between the vaccines and hygiene restrictions and the Holocaust.

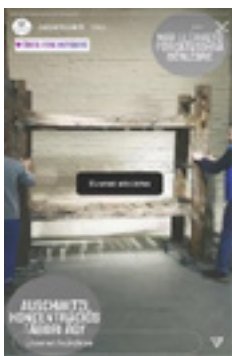


The report notes that the rise in antisemitic hate speech had plateaued over the summer of 2020 but took on new momentum in the autumn with news about vaccine developments. The presidential election campaigns in the United States also provided fertile ground for the propagation of conspiracy theories.

Online spreaders of antisemitic messages do not necessarily belong to circles with extremist views; social strata without dedicated political or ideological agendas are also susceptible to them. Accusations most frequently targeted the Rothschild family, George Soros and Ultraorthodox Jews – the article on the APF website concludes.

Objectionable advertisement on Memorial Day for Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust

Source: tev.hu



16 April 2021 The Foundation received a report in which the incensed notifier gave the following account to APF.

The person noticed a video on Instagram, in which a shop that rents and sells antique furniture was advertising an Auschwitz Concentration Camp bed. Our notifier immediately contacted the company, and after a brief argument in which the owner claimed the timing was coincidental, the owner removed the

post from Instagram.

In agreement with the notifier, our Foundation considers it distasteful to advertise such an item on 16 April, the Memorial Day for Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust.

EU ready to spend a great deal on a strategy to combat antisemitism

Source: neokohn.hu, tev.hu

22 April 2021 Amidst rising hate crimes against Jews, the EU has announced a \$2 billion “comprehensive strategy” to counter antisemitism and intolerance — writes the New York paper *The Algemeiner*, which publishes news related to American and international Jewish matters and Israel.

The “comprehensive strategy”, aimed at combatting antisemitism presented on Tuesday by the European Union, is part of the broader program to combat rising racism and intolerance across the continent.

Margaritis Schinas – vice-president of the European Commission (EC), the executive branch of the EU, commissioner for “promoting the European Way of Life” – announced the plans at the opening of a high-level conference on Protection Against Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance organized by the Portuguese EU Presidency.

The strategy “will provide a comprehensive framework to complement and support member states’ effort on preventing and combating antisemitism, educating on the Holocaust remembrance and fostering Jewish life in Europe”, said Schinas.

“The new program will receive nearly \$2 billion in funding — more than double the previous \$800 million that was allocated, making it “the biggest ever EU program for supporting fundamental rights inside the EU”, the vice-president added.

Schinas promised: “For the next seven years, we will have a new set of standing Citizens Equality Rights and Values program, which will seek to protect and promote open rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law”.



The EU’s latest initiative comes at a time when antisemitic incidents across Europe have been increasing sharply year-over-year, with the COVID-19 pandemic during the last year unleashing a raft of antisemitic conspiracy theories on the internet.

In France, a report from the Jewish community’s security agency in January emphasized that “the number of violent attacks recorded [in 2020] — 44 — remained almost identical to the year 2019 — 45 — despite the three and a half months of confinement and decrease in community activities”.

Antisemitic hate crimes spiked in Germany as well during 2020, with at least 2,275 offences with an antisemitic background recorded. Some 55 of those were acts of violence.

The widespread conspiracy theories about Jews and the pandemic sprang from already fertile soil. A separate report on the

Netherlands compiled by the Dutch Jewish organization CIDI concluded that in the 12 months leading up to the COVID-19 lockdown, the country recorded its highest-ever number of antisemitic incidents — 182 in all, marking a 35 percent increase over 2018.

Antisemitism has risen despite a decline in the number of Jews living in Europe.

A report published last October by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR), a London-based think tank, observed that “the proportion of Jews residing in Europe is about the same as it was at the time of the first Jewish global population account conducted by Benjamin of Tudela, a Jewish medieval traveller, in 1170”.

A total of 1.3 million Jews currently live in the geographical area of Europe, which for survey purposes includes Jews in the 27 EU member states as well as in the United Kingdom, Turkey and Russia.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Complaint against police decision to dismiss case
Source: Action and Protection League

20 April 2021 Action and Protection Foundation filed a complaint with the Chief Prosecutor's Office of Budapest about the decision by the investigating authorities in a procedure initiated at the Inspections Division of the Department of Investigations at

the Budapest Police Headquarters – brought on 8 April 2021 and received on 13 April 2021 – to dismiss a charge filed by the Foundation. The Foundation had earlier filed charges against an unknown offender for violating Article 332. § b of the Hungarian Criminal Code due to incitement against a community.

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.	6th of April	Public broadcasting news hirado.hu presents an executed Arrow-Cross war criminal as a historical source	Further Hate Incidents
2.	8th of April	Jew-baiting comments on Facebook	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
3.	8th of April	Surge in online antisemitic hate speech during the coronavirus pandemic may lead to physical violence	Other News
4.	13th of April	Yellow Star drawn on shutters of a shop	Further Hate Incidents
5.	10-15th of April	The case of the news site Azonnali and the "Israeli Nazis"	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
6.	16th of April	Hungarian antisemitism: Few harassments, questions about filed complaints	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
7.	16th of April	Objectionable advertisement on Memorial Day for Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust	Other News
8.	19th of April	Hitler commemoration by unidentified persons in Szolnok	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
9.	20th of April	Complaint against police decision to dismiss case	APF Legal Actions
10.	21st of April	Another Neo-Nazi banner unfurled in Szolnok	Official and Civil Responses
11.	22nd of April	EU ready to spend a great deal on a strategy to combat antisemitism	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
12.	24th of April	Immunity certificates reminded Jobbik politicians of concentration camps and the Yellow Star	Further Hate Incidents
13.	27th of April	An anti-Israel Hungarian historian also signed the Jerusalem Declaration	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
14.	27th of April	Jobbik Party Foundation's website full of antisemitic and racist content	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
15.	28th of April	Békési Újság interviews neo-Nazi man with a Hitler-tattoo	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

The Action and Protection Foundation is the partner of the Action and Protection League in Hungary.

In case anyone faces insults or antisemitic abuse due to a supposed or real Jewish background, do not remain silent, let us know, so that we can forward the case through the appropriate channels to the official organs required to take measures!

Notifications of such incidents are received by the Foundation through any of the following means:

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000

The website of Action and Protection League: 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

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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,
László Seer, Ph.D., researcher, member of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
István Sólyom, researcher, member of 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.

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2021 Budapest

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

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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

