

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT  
IN HUNGARY

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FEBRUARY 2021



ACTION AND PROTECTION  
LEAGUE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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 three incidents of antisemitic hate crime this month. They are all classified as Hate Speech. A candle holder with a swastika and symbol for the Arrow Cross on it was found near a wreath after a commemoration held on the Day of Honour. An antisemitic track defamed Executive Rabbi of the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities (EMIH) Shlomo

Köves and incited hatred against the Jewish community. A Facebook user uploaded a photo of himself wearing a Star of David without any reason, which is likely to make the Holocaust seem insignificant.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents one case this month: The organizer of the far-right Breakout memorial walk promoted his event in Magyar

Nemzet. This section includes incidents that are classified as hate crimes but are 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.

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

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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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)<sup>1</sup> and the ADL Global 100<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: ANTISEMITISM - OVERVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2008-2018  
<sup>2</sup> <https://global100.adl.org>

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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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 incidents<sup>3</sup> 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 whole<sup>4</sup>.

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

<sup>3</sup> See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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## METHODOLOGY

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The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows<sup>5</sup> (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 people<sup>6</sup>
- 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 period<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

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 statistics<sup>9</sup> :

- 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.

<sup>8</sup> The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

<sup>9</sup> 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 follows<sup>10</sup>:

- 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.<sup>11</sup> In presenting timelines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

<sup>10</sup> CEJI 2012, 10–12

<sup>11</sup> These descriptions, in particular, are held to be the most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 16).

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## ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS – FEBRUARY 2021

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

### HATE SPEECH

*Day of Honour commemoration and Breakout memorial walk held anyway*

Source: [hvg.hu](http://hvg.hu), [nepszava.hu](http://nepszava.hu), [hang.hu](http://hang.hu), [legiohungaria.org](http://legiohungaria.org)

**11-12 February 2021** Despite the fact that forms of assembly are forbidden due to COVID-19, far-righters held a commemoration on the Day of Honour; the event was covered by HVG and Népszava.

An official commemoration could not be held, so only a few dozen people attended the event on 11 February to commemorate Nazi German and Hungarian soldiers' attempt to break out from Buda Castle 76 years ago. The "spontaneous" event and creation of a chain of tea lights were organized by the Hungarian far-right organization Légión Hungária. Participants lit tea lights along the so-called Hősök Útja (Way of the Heroes) stretching from Kapisztrán Square to Széna Square.



Source: [nepszava.hu](http://nepszava.hu)

The following day, a candle holder with a swastika and symbol of the Arrow Cross was found next to a wreath placed at the statue of János Kapisztrán by members of Légión Hungária and

Hungarian Hammerskins. The incident was reported to the police who started an investigation because both the Nazi and Arrow Cross symbols are banned totalitarian symbols in Hungary.

Extremist neo-Nazi organizations hold a memorial walk every February to commemorate German and Hungarian soldiers attempting to break through Soviet troops encircling the Buda Castle in 1945.

This year, the anniversary of the "breakout" fell on a Thursday, but Hungarian press reported that the memorial walk had been cancelled for 2021 due to the pandemic.

The following day, Magyar Hang wrote that the memorial walk had been held, but, due to restrictions and especially the nighttime curfew, it had been shorter than the traditional 60 kilometres — participants only walked 30 kilometres and during the day.

On the website of Légión Hungária, Alkay Zsolt (nicknamed "Kalóz", which is Hungarian for "Pirate") published a detailed report about the memorial walk, including photos and a video of the 2021 event. Alkay has organized the memorial walk with unwavering determination for years. According to HVG, the memorial walk was Alkay's idea in the first place; in 1999, he appeared on RTL Klub TV channel as the spokesperson for the neo-Arrow Cross group called Magyar Nemzeti Arévonál (Hungarian National Front) led by István Gyórkös, who later shot a police officer to death in Bóny.

According to the account published on the website of Légión Hungária, organizing the memorial walk was challenging due to the coronavirus restrictions. In the end, following a



Source: [hang.hu](http://hang.hu)/Légión Hungária

lawyer's advice, 100 people could participate in the event in groups of ten (nine participants with one organizer). The 10 groups followed each other 20–50 meters apart. The organizers claimed they contacted a major at the public order department of Bicske Police Station, who requested participants to not visit the Breakout memorial in Mátyás because it was on the territory of the municipality and restrictions would only allow three people in the area. The organizers said the major wished them a good time at the memorial walk at the end of their meeting, wrote *Magyar Hang*.

*Holocaust relativization against mandatory vaccination*

Source: tev.hu, facebook.com

**15 February 2021** APF received a notification that under the pretext of the coronavirus pandemic, a Facebook user posted a photo that relativized the Holocaust.

Facebook user Vilmos Hart created a public group on the social media site named FEKETELISTA (BLACKlist) against those who demand mandatory vaccination. “I have created this group in response to businesses and organisations aiming to force us to get the coronavirus vaccine”, said Hart about why he created the group.



Source: facebook.com

Hart aims to fight businesses that require a certificate of vaccination when providing their services; in order to stress his point, he decided to use the Star of David symbolizing Jewish identity. He posted several

pictures illustrating how he made a Star of David out of paper and pinned it on himself. Hart wrote NO VACUNADO on the yellow symbol.

“The yellow badge was introduced in the Third Reich and its occupied territories – including Hungary between 1944 and 1945 – to identify Jews, who were forced to wear the distinct sign on their outerwear. If Jews were found without the star, they could be punished, by receiving a fine, being forcefully deported or shot to death at the scene. The yellow star helped Nazi authorities identify Jews, to enforce rules and to humiliate and isolate those who had to wear the badge.” (Hungarian Wikipedia article)

Vilmos Hart seems to compare himself to the millions of Jewish victims of the Holocaust because he believes mandatory vaccination is like the Holocaust, sending people to death just like the deportation of Jews did.

APF believes this post publicly presents the Holocaust as insignificant (Holocaust relativization), so our legal experts are examining whether it is regarded as a crime of open denial of Nazi and Communist regimes (Section 333 of the Hungarian Criminal Code).

*Shlomo Köves defamed in antisemitic track*

Source: tev.hu, loyalty-records.com, undergroundrevolution09.blogspot.com, youtube.com, wikipedia.org

**20 February 2021** APF learnt that this day marked the release of a new album from the Hungarian music band Dagger Lobotomy, named Halálkúra (“Death cure”). One of the tracks on the album defames Executive Rabbi of the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities (EMIH) and founder of APF Shlomo Köves and incites hatred against the Jewish community.

Dagger Lobotomy is a two-member Hungarian grindcore band. (Grindcore is an extreme fusion genre that originated in the mid-1980s, drawing inspiration from abrasive-sounding musical styles, such as death metal, hardcore punk, noise and industrial

music, writes the Hungarian Wikipedia article.) In foreign countries, the band is referred to as the “Hungarian hategrind combo”.

The publisher of the mini-CD is Loyalty Records, which promotes the CD on their website by saying that the album includes one intro and four extremely humorous tracks.

The cover of the CD shows a drawing of a doctor wearing the Imperial Eagle on the arm of his lab coat. He is also holding



an axe with a stylized letter 'S' on its head, quite possibly the character of the Nazi Schutzstaffel.



The title of the 5th track is “K.S.-nek szeretettel” (“To S.K. with love”); its “extremely humorous” lyrics call Shlomo Köves a son of a bitch and wishes death to all of his kind – this is chanted over and over again on the track.

With regards to the cover of the CD, the publisher states the inside cover is only for people with strong nerves; ballad-lovers may prefer to not see it.

On this, Shlomo Köves is depicted shot to the head, blinded and covered in blood.

APF believes the above is a crime of inciting hatred against a community, and we will

therefore be taking the necessary legal steps to file charges.

The title track named Halálkúra (Death cure), which is the 4th on the CD, starts by saying, “I will scatter salt on you, dickhead, I will have a bloodbath and a bloody steam bath”.

The band has also uploaded this track on YouTube. The cover picture of the video clip shows a bloody door with a green sign saying Dr Totenkopf along with an icon of a doctor. “The 3rd SS Panzer Division Totenkopf was a division of the Waffen-SS. Members of the division, similarly to other SS divisions, were specially trained, mainly volunteer militia in World War II.” (Hungarian Wikipedia article)



Source: youtube.com

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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents one case this month. This section includes incidents that are classified as hate crimes 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.

*Magyar Nemzet promotes far-right Breakout memorial walk*

Source: [magyarnemzet.hu](http://magyarnemzet.hu), [telex.hu](http://telex.hu), [444.hu](http://444.hu), [akibic.hu](http://akibic.hu)

**11 February 2021** “Dicsőség a hősöknek!” (“Glory to the heroes!”) is the title of the op-ed written by Zoltán Moys, organizer of the Breakout memorial walk, and published in Magyar Nemzet.

In his article, the organizer of the Breakout memorial walk compares Hungarian and German soldiers who attempted to break out from Budapest encircled by Soviet troops in 1945 to the great heroes of Hungarian history, wrote Kibic.hu.

“Nobody can dictate to us how to evaluate a historic event, how to relate to it and its participants”, wrote Moys, who was promoting next year’s memorial walk with his article, as this year’s commemoration was cancelled due to the pandemic.

The attempt to break out from the city on 11 February 1945 was a tragic event of World War II, and it still provokes anger today. Over 20,000 German and Hungarian soldiers died in five days, while only a few hundred people managed to get through the Soviet encirclement. The perspective that the breakout was a heroic move of the soldiers, who wanted to protect Europe from the Soviets is based on a mistaken interpretation of the extreme right. From a strategic point of view, the operation was a hopeless and futile act, said an article on Telex. In addition, it was Hitler who declared Budapest a fortress city, and it is not worth pondering how much Nazi Germany represented European values, stat-

ed the news portal.

According to Moys: “It is almost obligatory to view our heroes as ‘war criminals’, or, at best, grant them mercy and see them as victims. What else were those Hungarian soldiers and civil volunteers who, with their allied German comrades, resisted until the last bullet and last breath the threat to Hungary posed by the Soviet troops [...]” The people whom the author refers to as “civil volunteers” were mainly members of the Arrow Cross party, wrote 444.hu.

Moys also wrote: “And no one can take our right to commemorate soldiers fighting for our home country and remember them as heroes. [...] Just as we remember the self-sacrifice of Miklós Zrínyi at Szigetvár, the sortie of Drégely by György Szondy, the battles of the Tömös Pass and Nyergestet, or many other soldiers who died heroically in the thousand years of our history.”

Moys said this is why they organize the memorial walk every year to present an opportunity to every well-meaning man to remember the heroic breakout and fight of life and death through an inner journey, during the physical activity of the walking tour, without listening to speeches and political expressions. However, the truth is that there are always participants who take part in the walking tour wearing German military uniforms, Nazi and fascist badges, and who do not think they are making political expressions but are preserving tradition.

Civil protesters think that participants of the event are mainly far-right and neo-Nazi groups, often wearing swastikas and

other banned totalitarian symbols. These include the German Der Dritte Weg, the Die Rechte and the Freie Kameradschaften; the French Front de Défense de la France; the Czech Narodni Sociální Fronta; the Dutch member organisation of Blood & Honour;



Source: [index.hu](http://index.hu)

Niklot from Poland; and the Magyarelvű Mozgalom (Movement of Hungarian Principles), the Betyársereg (Outlaws' Army), the Légión Hungária and the Vér és Becsület (Blood and Honor) from Hungary.

It is interesting to note that the organiser of the “apolitical” Breakout memorial walk Zoltán Moys is the co-owner of Dextramedia Ltd.

It is even more interesting that the websites of Hatvannégy Vármegye (Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement), Nemzeti Front (National Front), and László Toroczkai are operated from his IP address, historian Krisztián Ungváry said a while ago in a Facebook post about the organiser of the memorial walk.

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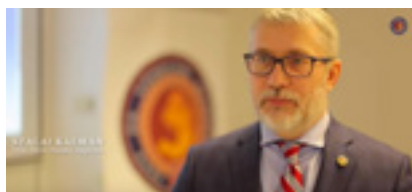
## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*Why does Magyar Nemzet promote a Nazi event?*

Source: neokohn.hu, tev.hu

15 February 2021 Neokohn news portal published APF Secretary Kálmán Szalai's opinion about the scandalous piece written by Zoltán Moys and published



in *Magyar Nemzet*.

“[...] no one can take away our right to commemorate soldiers fighting for our home country and remember them as heroes.” – this was not stated in a marginal Nazi newspaper, but in *Magyar Nemzet*, without any editorial commentary.

Commemorating the attempt of German and Hungarian soldiers to break out from Buda Castle has been a fiercely debated social issue and sparked anger in Hungary for over 20 years. This opinion piece is shocking, scandalous and intolerable. In February 2004, the weekly Hungarian newspaper *Demokrata* (Democrat) published on its cover: “They were heroes of Europe”.

*Magyar Nemzet*, a daily newspaper with a long history, forgets that the Hungarian government's policy of zero tolerance for antisemitism does not only mean distancing itself from far-right, antisemitic forces but also that commemorations are banned on the Day of Honour.

And it is not without reason: The commemorations and the associated memorial walks are neo-Nazi events, whose organizers can also be characterized as neo-Nazis.

Two years ago, the “White race” and a “White Europe” were propagated at one of the commemorations; a neo-Nazi news portal linked to *Mi Hazánk* (Our Homeland) published a shameful article about the event at the time.

The author of the opinion piece, who is the organiser of the annual Breakout memorial walk, is the owner of Dextramedia, a company with relations to neo-Nazi media. He does not explain who he means by “we” or “our”. Is he referring to the other organisers of the memorial walk or to us Hungarians?

The latter cannot be the case, as prominent Hungarian historians agree that they see 11 February 1945 for what it was: a tragic but futile attempt to break out from the Soviet encirclement.

Tragic because it took the lives of 20,000 Hungarian and German soldiers, as well as members of the Arrow Cross party. Futile because the act was not about heroism. The “heroes” were not defending Hungary or Europe but were protecting Nazi Germany and the ideology that was responsible for World War II and the Holocaust.

Promoting an extremist, neo-Nazi outlook on history in leading right-wing media is just as intolerable as rehabilitating the *Rongyos Gárda* (Ragged Guards) or calling the acts resulting in the Kamianets-Podilskyi massacre immigration policing activities.

It is sad that far-right ideological content easily makes its way into citizens' media. As a rights organization, we will not tolerate the glorification of the Nazi bloodshed that took the lives of hundreds of thousands of Hungarian victims. We aim to use both civil and criminal law mechanisms to protect our community's legal right to dignity.

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*Zoltán Pokorni changed his mind about turning turul statue into WWI memorial*

Source: 24.hu, hvz.hu, akibic.hu

**1-2 February 2021** There has been another turn of events in the case of the turul statue erected in Budapest's District 12 commemorating World War II.



Source: 24.hu

APF has paid special attention to the turul statue ever since it was erected without permission in 2005, and we have continuously presented many

events related to its rather stormy existence in our monthly reports. We last wrote about the statue in our June 2020 report. Zoltán Pokorni took his grandfather's (former Arrow Cross member's) name off the statue in November 2019 because it was there by mistake. On 25 June 2020, the general assembly of the district council decided to remove from the statue the names of all those people who were linked to murders. APF reported last year that the statue would remain, but it would become a World War I memorial; there would be a tender for the creation of a new World War II memorial to be erected in Városmajor.

However, Pokorni has now changed his mind and submitted an amendment to the council requesting that the controversial turul statue, which was erected to commemorate the military and civilian victims of World War II, not become a World War I memorial. Pokorni would like the statue to remain in its place if it is not taken down, but added a detailed description about what it symbolized and commemorated.

Zoltán Pokorni believes that ever since the change of the regime, it has been a legitimate and understandable endeavour to erect a memorial to victims of the war. On the other

hand, he agreed that the symbol the municipality of Hegyvidék chose was "not the most appropriate". They did not think it through when they opted for the turul, which is usually seen on World War I graves, as most of the victims of World War II from the neighbourhood of Hegyvidék were civilians and mainly Jews. Therefore, using the turul as a symbol is controversial and almost disgraceful. Pokorni stressed he was sure, however, that the aim of the council was not to erect a memorial to the Arrow Cross.

(The issue of the statue became topical again after a documentary film entitled *A gyilkosok emlékműve* ("Memorial to the murderers") was published on 444.hu.)

*Antisemitic man sentenced to one-year imprisonment for threatening public danger and damage to property*

Source: MTI, jogaszvilag.hu, telex.hu, hvz.hu

**4 February 2021** The Fővárosi Törvényszék (Budapest High Court) sentenced a man at first instance to one year in prison and a two-year loss of civil rights for threatening public danger and damage to property.

The decision detailed that on the morning of 23 April 2020, the accused dialled the police emergency number and told the dispatcher that despite the pandemic situation, there were too many people present in a nearby supermarket and asked the police to take some action. In the afternoon of the same day, the man dialled the emergency number again and complained that nothing had changed since his morning notification. He also said the police had two days to do something about it; otherwise, he would remedy the situation with a Molotov cocktail.



Source: hvz.hu



During the phone call, the accused criticised the behaviour of multinational companies in relation to the pandemic; he also made antisemitic statements and then said he would close down the store with a bottle of petrol if the police did not take any action. After the phone call, the accused visited the store and wrote antisemitic and obscene terms on its wall and its advertising board.

The public prosecutor's office agreed with the prosecutor and charged the man with the felony of a terrorist threat, as well as damage to property due to his graffiti.

HVG wrote that the accused not only held extremist views but also suffered from a mental disorder and had alcohol problems. Psychiatric experts were also questioned at his trial; the sentence is not final.

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## OTHER NEWS

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*Commemorating FTC martyr for saving Jews*

Source: [hirklikk.hu](http://hirklikk.hu), [magyarnemzet.hu](http://magyarnemzet.hu)

**16 February 2021** The name of football player and coach of Ferencváros István “Potya” Tóth was written on the marble plaque of saviours in the Raoul Wallenberg Holocaust Memorial Park of the Dohány Street Synagogue. The plaque is dedicated to saviours who helped Jews during their persecution in World War II, reported Magyar Nemzet.



Source: Nemzeti Sport/photo of Imre Földi

István “Potya” Tóth's name was written on the marble plaque on the 76th anniversary of his death. President of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz), András Heisler, FTC president Gábor Kubatov, senior rabbi and Holocaust survivor Péter Kardos, Israeli Ambassador to Hungary Yacov Hadas-Handelsman and sports historian Péter Szegedi all paid tribute to the late football

player and coach of Ferencváros in the presence of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

István “Potya” Tóth served as a reserve officer in World War II. In 1944, as reserve lieutenant, he demonstrated great courage and obtained fake documents, certificates and letters of protection from the Ministry of Defense to help save Jews. It was he who provided hiding for Hilda Gobbi and the Latabár family. Tóth's acts were so successful that the Gestapo got to know about him. In 1944, he was betrayed, arrested and detained. On 6 February 1945, he was executed at the age of 53 by the Arrow Cross.

In his speech, Gábor Kubatov emphasized that the ingenious coach did what he had learnt from sports — he helped people who were not being treated according to the rules of fair play.

Yacov Hadas-Handelsman stated that Israel would be forever grateful to those who were beacons of light during World War II, during what was a dark and long period for Europe. The ambassador said that István “Potya” Tóth was a hero for all of us, quoting from the Talmud: “Whoever saves one life saves the entire world.”

In his speech, Péter Kardos said this was an overdue recognition for Tóth and his descendants because it was taboo to mention Tóth's name and discuss his deeds for many decades after his death, as the political environment had allowed no place for a Fradi player who had saved Jews.

*Péter Jakab's driver is the Jobbik politician who showed a victory sign in Auschwitz*

Source: [pestisracok.hu](http://pestisracok.hu), [origo.hu](http://origo.hu), [mandiner.hu](http://mandiner.hu)

**23 February 2021** The camera crew of Pesti Srácok noticed by chance that President of Jobbik Péter Jakab's official car was involved in an accident at Árpád Bridge.

In relation to the accident, Jakab said it was not him driving the car. It seems the driver was Kristóf Endre Hajnádý, the same man who appears in a photo showing the sign of victory in Auschwitz.



Source: Kristóf Hajnádý's Facebook page

But who is Kristóf Hajnádý? He appears on a photo showing the sign of victory in Auschwitz; he also lists a Nazi war criminal among his role models, and a picture of Adolf Hitler is seen on his Facebook page.

He is also a close associate of former Jobbik politician and current mayor of Eger Ádám Mirkóczki, said Mandiner.

In September 2014, Kristóf Hajnádý was Jobbik's candidate in Füzésabony, and he appeared in the news after posting a picture of himself showing the victory sign in the Auschwitz concentration camp on his Facebook page.

There has been further proof of his far-right views: He named war criminal Alfred Jodl as one of his role models, and he also shared a picture of Hitler on his Facebook page and commented that "the Füh... so, good fortune will help."

When his views became public knowledge, he said neither he nor Jobbik would apologize and not because they were proud but because there was no reason to do so.

The driver admitted liability for causing the accident and in such events, an on-the-spot fine is imposed and the case is closed. Origo stated that recent news clearly shows that Jobbik has not changed at all, as evidenced by Jakab's direct employee being a longtime antisemite.

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**ACTION AND PROTECTION  
FOUNDATION  
LEGAL ACTIONS**

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

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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	1-2nd of February	Zoltán Pokorni changed his mind about turning turul statue into WWI memorial	Official and Civil Responses
2.	4th of February	Antisemitic man sentenced to one-year imprisonment for threatening public danger and damage to property	Official and Civil Responses
3.	11-12th of February	Day of Honour commemoration and Breakout memorial walk held anyway	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
4.	11th of February	Magyar Nemzet promotes far-right Breakout memorial walk	Further Hate Incidents
5.	15th of February	Holocaust relativization against mandatory vaccination	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
6.	15th of February	Why does Magyar Nemzet promote a Nazi event?	Community News and Responses
7.	16th of February	Commemorating FTC martyr for saving Jews	Other News
8.	20th of February	Shlomo Köves defamed in antisemitic track	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
9.	23rd of February	Péter Jakab's driver is the Jobbik politician who showed a victory sign in Auschwitz	Other News

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## 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](http://www.apleeu.org)

The Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany](https://www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany)

Action and Protection League's undertaking can only be successful if great numbers share in our commitment to prepare the grounds for the right to fair process for all those who have suffered offenses. In aid of this cause please support the work of the Foundation with your contribution! Donations can be made to the Foundation on the following bank account:

**13597539-12302010-00057157**

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2021 Budapest

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