

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT  
IN HUNGARY

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MARCH 2021



ACTION AND PROTECTION  
LEAGUE

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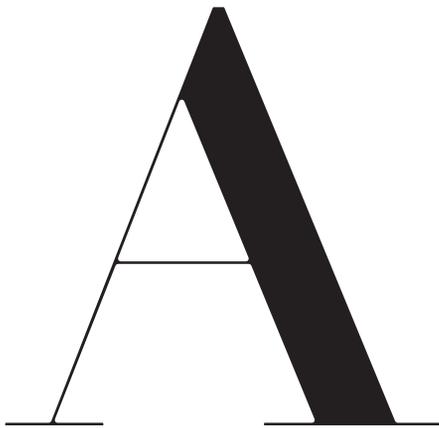
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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 one incident of antisemitic hate crime this month. The incident is classified as Damage to Property. A swastika was painted on engineer János Csonka's bust located on the square named after him in Budapest.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents two cases this month. This section includes incidents that are classified as hate crimes but were not included in our most recent statistics due

to their insignificant nature or the lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

APF filed charges in four cases and reported one incident to the police this month.

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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 – MARCH 2021

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Action and Protection Foundation identified one antisemitic hate crime over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of March. The incident is classified as Damage to Property.

### DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

*Swastika painted on János Csonka's bust*

Source: tev.hu, neokohn.hu

**4 March 2021** APF received a notification through our hotline that unknown individuals painted a swastika on János Csonka's bust.



Source: neokohn.hu

APF volunteers arrived at the scene soon after the notification and found the graffiti had already been removed.

The incident was also reported to the district municipality, and their expert visited the scene.

APF filed charges for the use of a banned totalitarian symbol at the competent authority.



Source: tev.hu

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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents two cases 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 the lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

*Graffiti alluding to Holocaust on Eger viaduct*

Source: egerhirek.hu, egriugyek.hu

**24 March 2021** A photographer for Eger Hírek (“Eger News”) noticed that somebody made a “joke” in Eger by modifying a notorious Nazi slogan into “Vakcina macht frei”. The phrase is painted in



Source: egerhirek.hu

yellow on a wall at the Eger viaduct, reported various news portals in Eger.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was the largest extermination camp, made up of various camps. The cynical phrase “Arbeit macht frei” (“Work sets you free”) was placed at one of the entrances of the Nazi extermination camp complex of Auschwitz-Birkenau during World War II, between 1941 and 1945. Officers of Nazi Germany killed 1.1 million people in such camps during the war. Prisoners of the camp were of Jewish, Roma, Polish, Russian, German and other European origin. They were worked to death, starved or sent straight to gas chambers by SS officers who operated the camp located in the territory of Poland.



Source: egerhirek.hu/Wikipedia

It is extremely frustrating and upsetting that people compare the war crimes and the crimes against humanity committed by Nazi Germany to the global coronavirus pandemic

and the measures taken to overcome it. In one case, people were massacred deliberately; in the other, efforts are being taken to try and save people. MP and head of Fidesz-KD-NP faction in Eger Sándor Oroján expressed his shock over the incident on his social media site and called for the phrase recalling the slogan of Nazi extermination camps to be removed immediately, wrote *Eger Hírek*.

The perpetrator supposedly meant that in the fight against the coronavirus, the Hungarian vaccination program, i.e., the use of vaccines, and the mass murders committed by the Nazis in Auschwitz are equivalent. They are not alone in believing this: Unfortunately, there are a lot of comments published on social media sites by anti-vaxxers and virus deniers who believe the vaccination program is a genocide, some think it is a global human experiment. “Unfortunately, it is also possible that that the individual who made the graffiti is simply unintelligent, ignorant and suffers from attention-seeking issues”, stated Egri Ügyek (“Eger Issues”).

*Anti-Zionism and BDS aren't antisemitism?*

Source: tev.hu, jerusalemdeclaration.org

**30 March 2021** Over 200 international scholars and researchers in fields including antisemitism and the Holocaust developed and released a document entitled “The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism”. The declaration wishes to redefine antisemitism in political discourse and includes 15 guidelines. There is a Hungarian expert among the scholars who signed the declaration, historian and professor at CEU’s Department of Gender Studies Andrea Pető.

The aim of the declaration is to respond to the definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in 2016, which has since also been adopted by the European Commission and a growing number of countries. Signatories believe the IHRA definition is “unclear in key respects [...], it has caused confusion

and generated controversy, hence weakening the fight against antisemitism”. The document aims to continue the fight against antisemitism by protecting a “space for an open debate about the vexed question of the future of Israel/Palestine”.

Set B of the guidelines declare that “holding Jews collectively responsible for Israel’s conduct or treating Jews [...] as agents of Israel” is antisemitic. Requiring Jews “to condemn Israel or Zionism” at, for example, a political meeting is also considered antisemitic. Guideline no. 10 specifically states that it is antisemitic to deny “the right of Jews in the State of Israel to exist and flourish [...] as Jews, in accordance with the principle of equality”.

Set C of the guidelines lists what is not considered antisemitic by the signatories. Among others: “supporting the Palestinian demand for justice and the full grant of their political, national, civil and human rights”; “criticizing or opposing Zionism as a form of nationalism”; “arguing for a variety of constitutional arrangements for Jews and Palestinians in the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean” – so basically on the territory of present Israel – “whether in two states, a binational state, unitary democratic state, federal state, or in whatever form”.

According to the declaration, “evidence-based criticism of Israel as a state”, or pointing out “systematic racial discrimination” are not considered antisemitic. What is more, the declaration states that it is not antisemitic “in and of itself, to compare Israel with other historical cases, including settler-colonialism or apartheid”. Signatories also declare that in and of itself, the BDS movement, which aims to isolate and boycott

Israel and questions the existence of the Jewish state is not antisemitic.

This means that the declaration denies its own guideline no. 10 because the latter questions the existence of and delegitimises the Jewish state: the “evidence-based criticism of Israel as a state”, the forms of state “between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean”, and the accusations of racism and apartheid are all tools serving the same purpose.

Despite what the Jerusalem Declaration states, the IHRA definition is not unclear or confusing; it is very clear. Certainly, the IHRA agrees that criticism of Israel – similarly to criticism of any other country – cannot be considered antisemitic but criticizing Israel as a Jewish community is indeed antisemitic.

According to the IHRA, “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor”, “applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation”, and of course “drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis” are examples of antisemitism.

With regards to the BDS movement, it is completely wrong to excuse the antisemitic organization in any way. It is a fact and easily detectable that the movement that claims to be a human rights organization has done no more than politicize the Israeli-Palestinian question and launched a systemic campaign to delegitimise the Jewish state (the documentation of Discover Networks provides a comprehensive picture on the background and the antisemitism of the BDS movement).

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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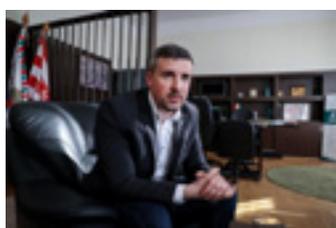
*Péter Jakab gives another chance to racist candidate László Bíró*

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

**1-9 March 2021** At the beginning of March, President of Jobbik and the party's PM candidate Péter Jakab was interviewed by Azonnali and Telex. The articles were reviewed by Neokohn and APF.

In the interview given to Azonnali, Jakab said that, in fact, Jobbik has never been a far-right party, it just tolerated some unacceptable far-righters. He said he does not expect to receive many votes from far-right supporters; they will vote for Pista Boldog instead or János Pócs who would send Romas to gas chambers.

The president of Jobbik stated that it was Koloman Brenner who represented an ideology in line with a Christian social, nationalist people's party of the centre-right. Yet, it was MP Brenner who referred to previous antisemitic expressions of Jobbik as the "immune reaction of Hungarian society". As Secretary of APF Kálmán Szalai pointed out, this presumes that Jewry is some kind of virus or pathogen, to which Hungarian society had to react.



Source: telex.hu

In the interview given to Telex, Jakab said he saw no problem with the recent scandals of antisemitism. In response to the question as to how many members of Jobbik have been connected to racist, anti-Roma or antisemitic expressions, Jakab said the point was whether or not they were willing to apologise, because the ruling party might distort reality or make completely false allegations.

However, Bíró's notorious statements do not seem to have been generated in the heat of any social media debate: He referred to the Hungarian capital as "Judapest", to Hasidic Jews as people with "lice slides", and shared an article originally published on kurucinfo.hu that celebrated how Nazis disconnected "Jewish usury bank capital" from the economy and proved that "the economy may thrive and can only be healthy without the 'sacred reign of bankers'".

Jakab stated in the interview that Bíró is a well-intentioned, Christian man who selflessly takes care of his sick and bedridden wife. He is a good man even if he has made inappropriate comments, so it is fine if he runs as a candidate in the midterm elections. According to Jakab, who is by the way of Jewish origin, László Bíró made three inappropriate comments, and if he is withdrawn, Fidesz might think that an opposition candidate can be removed from the board because of three inappropriate comments, said Jakab in relation to the politician and his Jew-baiting comments.

It is also interesting that Jakab defended his driver Kristóf Hajnády, who appeared in a photo showing the victory sign in front of the barracks in Auschwitz. "Nine years ago, a 16-year old young man went on a school trip; they took flowers and paid their respects. Many things could be read into a silly gesture that happens to be photographed, but it does not mean the assumptions are valid", said Jakab.

APF still holds the view that Secretary of APF Kálmán Szalai has many times expressed: "There is only one way for Jobbik to be considered genuine in Hungarian public life: if it dissolves as an organisation having been rooted in racism and antisemitism and apologizes to the Hungarian community for its years of hateful politics."

*“Numerus clausus was needed” – ambiguous statements on Kossuth Radio*

Source: tev.hu

**24 March 2021** Kossuth Radio’s program entitled *100 éve történt* (“Happened 100 years ago”) discussed the numerus clausus law of 1920. In the program broadcasted on 11 March 2021, historian Gábor Ujváry basically said the law was needed and was not about the deprivation of rights but only the limitation of rights. Ujváry is also a team leader of the Miklós Horthy Era Research Team at the VERITAS Research Institute for History which has organised plenty of important and valuable presentations about the era.

Action and Protection Foundation’s views were expressed in a piece written by APF Secretary Kálmán Szalai:

*The Hungarian National Assembly adopted the notorious Act 25 of 1920 on 26 September 1920, an act that decided on the number of students admitted to higher education based on the proportion of ethnicities and mainly restricted the percentage of Jewish college and university students in Hungary:*

*“I usually say that this was not about the deprivation of rights, but only the limitation of rights. It was still not nice because it violated the equal rights of citizens and from this aspect, it was an immensely inappropriate measure but it still cannot be called the zeroth Jewish law” – stated the historian. He also said that the act could backfire on Hungarians living abroad because many believed in Romania that if Hungarians do that to Jews then Romanians could do the same to Hungarians.*

*Head of the VERITAS Research Institute Sándor Szakály similarly questions whether the numerus clausus was antisemitic and if it was about deprivation of rights. In a statement made in January 2019, Szakály said that the text of the act did not even include Jewry explicitly, it only concerned people of Israelite religion, so those who did not leave the religion. He said this could be complained about, but it would not make it about deprivation of rights. In his opinion, it was about limitations of rights and is definitely not*

*right to call it a Jewish law. At the time, founder of APF Shlomo Köves and many others claimed the statement was unacceptable and noted that by referring to the Hungarian Jewish community as an ethnicity, the numerus clausus violated equal rights, which were granted by law in the 19th century. (Another controversial statement Szakály made was in 2014 when he called the deportation of about 20,000 Jews to Kamianets-Podilskyi an immigration-policing activity. The majority of those Jews were executed by the Nazis and their Ukrainian henchmen. Many protested against the statement, as a result of which, Szakály apologised to those he had hurt. He said he had not meant to offend anybody, he only used a phrase that used to be a technical term at the time. He also added that Hungarian society should also apologise.)*

*Unfortunately, Gábor Ujváry’s words recall the same thought. The historian said in the radio program that the fact that almost 400,000–450,000 people, mainly intellectuals, fled to Hungary from regions of former Hungarian lands (from Transylvania, Upper Hungary (Felvidék) and Southern Hungary (Déldvidék)) also contributed to the necessity of the numerus clausus. It’s difficult to challenge his statement saying the numerus clausus was not the zeroth Jewish law because it was not called one. Its antisemitic nature was also hidden for a long time, until its implementing regulation became public and made it clear that defining ethnicities and their respective proportions was directed against Jews.*

*In response to the presenter’s question, Ujváry acknowledged he was not talking about restrictions or about zero growth when he said the act was needed, and he also said he did not agree with the consequences of the act. Yet, he did not even mention that the primary aim of the act was restricting the percentage of Jewish students in higher education. And if someone highlights that the numerus clausus only concerned a fraction of the Jewish community, so it was not a general provision because it did not have an influence on people finding a job in intellectual and economic careers, they do not take the above-mentioned context into consideration.*

*It is better not to argue about the meanings of words in this debate because it does not facilitate the dialogue, but this case takes an event out of its historical context and tries to evaluate it in itself. The significance of Act 25 of 1920 is that through numerous further anti-Jewish regulations and acts called Jewish laws – including the deportation of Jews to Kamianets-Podilskyi in 1941 – it paved the way for the bodies of Hungarian public administration and law enforcement during the German occupation to deport the majority of Jews living in the countryside to death camps in a short period of time, then to carry out the Final Solution against the whole community. Arguing about whether the numerus clausus was about deprivation of rights or limitation of rights only evaluates the act according to the rules of Hungarian grammar and consciously disregards the role and significance the act had in history. It also*

*neglects the sensitivity of victims and diminishes its responsibility in the series of events.*

*Our organization, Action and Protection Foundation, has always found open debates about historical events, processes and topics in politics essentially important, in general. We also value research made by historians – based on the rules of their profession – to establish facts and make analyses, and we find the dialogue of political powers important. Juggling with words and taking events out of historical context only lead to misunderstandings and may result in offending certain social groups, which then leads to the unavoidable need for an apology. Because of his statements made on the radio program in question, this is something Gábor Ujváry will not be able to avoid either, despite his valued professional performance.*

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## NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

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*Ronald S. Lauder: Hungary at a crossroads*  
Source: [magyarnemzet.hu](http://magyarnemzet.hu), [atv.hu](http://atv.hu),  
[mandiner.hu](http://mandiner.hu), [t.me/se/legiohungaria](https://t.me/se/legiohungaria)

**22-24 March 2021** President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) Ronald S. Lauder shared his opinion about antisemitism in Hungary in an article published by *Magyar Nemzet*. People concerned about his writing later responded to the piece.

*But as I watch a resurgence throughout Europe of that continent's dark history of antisemitism, I am especially concerned about Hungary.*

*There is a continuing and growing presence of Hungary's Far-Right that celebrates truly evil human beings — said Ronald S. Lauder at the beginning of his piece.*

*The most significant group at the head of the far-right now is "Our Homeland Party", a spin-off of the Jobbik Party, along with the group calling itself the "64 Counties Youth Movement". Both were founded by former Jobbik Vice President, Laszlo Toroczkai. But the list of movements goes on: Legio Hungaria, Blood and Honor Hungaria, Outlaw's Army and too many others. [...] The party [Jobbik] has tried to change its image to be a less extreme and more center-oriented political party. [...] In a recent interview, a leader of Jobbik, Peter Jakab, explained that Jobbik "had never been a far-right party, it just tolerated far-right people".*

*This is, unfortunately, a dishonest statement, because even though some of Jobbik's politicians have apologised for their past statements, by denying the past, the party really cannot make a new start. The plain fact is that Jobbik's politicians who made antisemitic statements in the past are still aligned with the party.*

*Even as Jobbik joins coalitions with the political left, a joint candidate in the mid-term elections in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén referred to Budapest as "Judapest" and complained about the high number of Jewish "foreigners" in the country. He was referring to Hasidic Jewish tourists who come*

*to see the graves of their revered rabbis. "My dog goes crazy when those with lice-infested sideburns pass by the house", he said, and this man was a candidate and said this with no remorse.*

*When we hear someone like Marton Gyongyosi, who is part of Jobbik's leadership and a current Member of the European Parliament (MEP) suggested just a couple of years ago to make "a list of those who are of Jewish origin, especially those who are in the Assembly", a shiver should go through every good and decent Hungarian. This is exactly how things began in the Nazi party in the 1930s, and who in their right mind would want to go back to that period?*

[...]

The president of Jobbik responded to this article on ATV TV channel's program entitled "Egyenes Beszéd" ("Straight Talk"). *Mandiner* covered the TV program in an article and wrote that the talk touched upon Jobbik's past, which was last brought up by Ronald Lauder. In relation to what the president of the World Jewish Congress said, Jakab expressed he was surprised it wasn't Viktor Orbán who was criticised because he was the one who tolerated people in the government comparing Europe to gas chambers, and there are media gurus in Fidesz who call him "Jacob", referring to his own origins.

Founder and leader of the far-right, Hungarian movement *Légió Hungária Béla Ince* also responded to the article on the organization's Telegram channel:

*In relation to the article, the interesting part is not that the leader of an international Zionist organization mentions, among others, *Légió Hungária* as a movement that wants to "go back to a time when neighbour turned on neighbour and that much of the country was damaged and destroyed" [...] And let us now disregard the fact of who were responsible for these undoubtedly tragic events. — said Ince at the beginning of his post.*

*The article is written by President of the World Jewish Congress Ronald S. Lauder, who is a prominent figure in circles allied with Fidesz. [...] there is an interest group, which has a strong and proven lobbying power over the worlds of business and sports [...] If our government had any autonomy in such circles, it would be interesting to see what would happen if Hungarian decision-makers disregarded Mr Lauder's concerns and were loyal to Hungarian interests. However, nothing else could have made it more evident that they have no autonomy whatsoever than Magyar Nemzet publishing such a nasty letter full of hatred and covert threats. – concluded Béla Incze.*

*Hungary is safer for Jews than pro-immigration Western Europe*

Source: [szazadveg.hu](http://szazadveg.hu) – Direct quotations from Századvég's article of the same title

**25 March 2021** [...] *An analysis based on the survey of Project Europe [Európa Projekt] conducted by Századvég, covering 30 countries, examined the attitudes of populations towards discrimination and insults affecting Jewish people, including the question of if European citizens feel or could feel safe in their own country as a Jew.*

*The research found that three-quarter of European and V4 respondents (76 percent respectively) had not experienced verbal abuse of Jews in their environment. However, examining differences between countries, we find significant deviations. [...] Accordingly, while in Luxembourg the proportion of those who experienced verbal abuse against Jews was 31 percent, in France and the Netherlands, this figure was 23 percent and 20 percent, respectively. This proportion was only 10 percent among Hungarian respondents. Similarly, violence against Jewish people among their acquaintances was observed by 16 percent in Luxembourg and 11 percent of people in Belgium, compared to only 2 percent in Hungary: [...]*

*Eighteen percent of Christian respondents experienced verbal and 8 percent physical abuse against Jewish citizens, while the proportion of Muslim respondents who witnessed aggression against Jews among their acquaintances, either verbally or physically, was 30 and 25 percent, respectively. It can also be stated that 11 percent of European respondents experienced the threat of violence against Jews in their immediate vicinity. The proportion of those who perceived the possibility of physical aggression against Jewish citizens is highest in Luxembourg (20 percent), the Netherlands (16 percent), and Cyprus (15 percent), while it is the lowest in Hungary (5 percent). Regarding differences in religious affiliation, Muslim respondents experienced twice as many (22 percent) threats of violence against Jews among their acquaintances or environment as Christian respondents (10 percent).*

*It is easy to see that antisemitic manifestations and any kind of insult against Jews have an impact on the sense of security of Jewish people. According to the survey, 24 percent of EU and British respondents agree with the statement that they do not or would not feel safe as a Jew. Examining the differences between countries, it can be observed that in countries that are the most affected by Muslim-based migration, the proportion of those who do not or would not feel safe as a Jew is higher.*

*Forty-three percent of Dutch, 39 percent of Swedish and 32 percent of Belgian respondents believed that it was not or would not be safe to live in their country as a Jew. At the same time, Hungary (68 percent) and Croatia (62 percent) have the highest proportion of those who feel or would feel safe as a Jew.*

*The research also covered the populations' experiences of discrimination against Jews. It can be stated that 25 percent of European respondents believe that a distinction is made between Jewish and non-Jewish people, while 54 percent say that*

one should not talk about discrimination against Jewish people.

The proportion of those who believe that a distinction is made between Jews and non-Jews is the highest in Belgium (38 percent), Norway (38 percent) and Cyprus (33 percent), while the proportion is the lowest in Slovakia (15 percent), the Czech Republic (15 percent) and Finland

(15 percent). In Hungary, almost two-third of respondents (63 percent) say that there is no distinction between Jewish and non-Jewish citizens. Examining the issue in terms of religious affiliation, the proportion of Muslim respondents who perceive discrimination against Jewish people is higher (35 percent) than that of Christian respondents (26 percent).

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## OTHER NEWS

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*“Europäische Aktion”: Hungarian neo-Nazi among those condemned in Austria*

Source: tev.hu

**8 March 2021** Four elderly men received suspended prison sentences at first instance for re-engagement in national-socialist activities by a court in Vienna. An interesting fact about the case is that one of them is a Hungarian-Austrian dual citizen who had tried to connect the organisation called Europäische Aktion (EA) with the neo-fascist (Hungarist) Magyar Nemzeti Arevonal (Hungarian, National Front) and Jobbik.

The Austrian member organisation of the international neo-Nazi network called Europäische Aktion used to have great plans, reported a newspaper based in Vienna called Kurier. The network wanted to overthrow the government and develop a party program similar to that of the NSDAP (Hitler’s Nazi Party).

The accused were mostly retired men, against whom procedures were brought for re-engagement in national-socialist activities (NS-Wiederbetätigung), which is a prohibited act both in Germany and Austria. A Vienna district court condemned four out of the five accused to a partially suspended prison term of 3–5 years.

The decision is not final. The men are not leaders but only activists of the EA network (one of them is also a member of the Social Democratic Party). Their lawyers argued that their age prevented them from being dangerous to society. All of the five men were acquitted on charges of treason, for which they could have been sentenced to a prison term of 20 years.

Interestingly, one of the condemned men is a 70-year-old Hungarian-Austrian citizen who had tried to connect the EA network with the neo-Nazi Magyar Nemzeti Arevonal (Hungarian National Front) led by István Gyórkös, as well as with Jobbik. Austrian news did not detail when this actually happened, so which “period” of Jobbik is concerned, but it is still an interesting addition to the history of Jobbik, as it is now trying to become a people’s party.

The elderly engineer was also a member of Magyar Nemzeti Arevonal (Hungarian National Front) until it was dissolved in 2016. He met Gerd Honsik (an Austrian Holocaust denier who lived in Hungary and passed away three years ago) several times, and he participated in target practices of the Hungarian National Front. The charges also said he held paramilitary trainings for Austrian neo-Nazis.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

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*Charges and reports APF filed to the police*

Source: : Action and Protection Foundation

**31 March 2021** APF filed charges in four cases and reported one incident to the police this month.

*Bajonett Military Shop*

APF filed charges at the 5th district police station of the Budapest Metropolitan Police Headquarters (BRFK) against an unknown perpetrator for violating Section 335 of the Hungarian Criminal Code because we have reasonable suspicion that symbols of totalitarianism were distributed, as objects depicting such symbols are sold in the Bajonett Military Shop. There are a number of goods on sale depicting various totalitarian symbols like the swastika or the insignia of the SS, and other goods depicting Adolf Hitler. In our opinion, these offend the dignity of the victims of totalitarian regimes (the National Socialist regime in this case), and by violating the right to sanctity, they are capable of breaching public peace.

*Haditudósító webáruház (War Correspondent Webshop)*

In the second case, APF filed charges at BRFK against a webshop selling objects depicting totalitarian symbols for similar offences to the previous case and for violation of the same section of the Hungarian Criminal Code. Since anyone can access the webshop without restriction, it is able to distribute symbols of the National Socialist regime to the public at large, including even minors. The webshop is called the Haditudósító webáruház (War Correspondent Webshop) and is operated by sole proprietor István Sarkady ([haditudosito.superwebaruhaz.hu](https://haditudosito.superwebaruhaz.hu)). In both cases, APF requested the objects depicting totalitarian symbols to be seized.

*Dagger Lobotomy: Halálkúra (Death Cure) – CD*

We presented in our previous report that a Hungarian grindcore band called Dagger Lobotomy released a new CD entitled

Halálkúra (“Death cure”). One of the tracks on the new album defames Executive Rabbi of the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities (EMIH) Shlomo Köves and incites hatred against the Jewish community. APF has now filed charges at BRFK against an unknown individual for violence against a member of a community based on Section 216 of the Hungarian Criminal Code. The CD was published by Loyalty Records, the title of the 5th track is K. S-nek szeretettel (“To S.K. with love”). Although the title only includes initials, a photo on the inside cover of the CD depicts Executive Rabbi of EMIH Dr Shlomo Köves shot in the head, blinded and with blood is pouring out of his mouth. Behind Köves, a phrase says “brutal, ... massacre”. The base tune of the track is taken from the well-known and very popular Jewish (Hebrew) song called Hava Nagila, and its lyrics calls Köves a son of a bitch and wishes death to the whole of his kind. In our opinion, depicting the Executive Rabbi on the cover in this way is incitement against a community, and the lyrics of the track are objectively capable of causing panic in members of the religious Jewish community.

*Politikai Katona (Political Soldier)*

APF filed charges at BRFK against an unknown individual for suspicion of incitement against a community and violating Section 332 of the Hungarian Criminal Code. On the online video sharing platform called Videa, a user called Politikai Katona (Political Soldier) shares extremist, racist and antisemitic films. In October 2020, the user uploaded an antisemitic and National Socialist propaganda film entitled The Eternal Jew (1940) to the video-sharing platform which is accessible to the public at large. The film is available at the following link: <https://videa.hu/videok/film-animacio/az-orok-zsidomagyar-szinkron-zsido-cionizmus-film-b1o6SjJm-L704F4Qk>. In our opinion, the aim of the film is to motivate people to support the Holocaust, as the final solution to the Jew-

ish question. The film was created and edited as a documentary and presents Jews as harmful people. The film is set in a ghetto in Poland and portrays members of the religious Jewish community as parasitic people whose religion makes a duty out of treachery and usury. The purpose of the shocking parallel drawn between Jews' migration and the migration of rats, a similarly restless animal species, is also incitement to hatred. The film intensifies hatred against the religious Jewish community when it claims they are responsible for the majority of international crimes. In our view, these could be perceived as an emotional preparation for an attack and violence and sharing the film might make members of the community feel endangered.

*Gyula Szeszák*

APF reported Gyula Szeszák's website (szeszak.hu) to BRFK. In our view, the writings published on the site are antisemitic and praise National Socialist ideologies. An example of antisemitism is the article entitled

“Miért ‘örök’ (ewige) a zsidó (jude)?” (Why is the Jew [jude] eternal [ewige]?)

[https://www.szeszak.hu/Comment/Kommentarok/Orok%20zsido/Orok\\_zsido.htm](https://www.szeszak.hu/Comment/Kommentarok/Orok%20zsido/Orok_zsido.htm)

Among other things, the article states that Jews do not make a secret out of the fact that they have, for thousands of years, been at war against the world, i.e., against goy humanity, and that the purpose of this fight is to overthrow, enslave and deplete goys. During this period of time, they have won and lost many fights, but they are winning the war. This is becoming more and more clear these days through frightening military operations conducted in the fight for Europe. In our opinion, the articles published on the website are capable of breaching public peace (and able to cause social discomfort in members of the religious Jewish community); therefore, it will be examined whether the content is legally considered as incitement to hatred against a community (or any other offence).

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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.	1-9th of March	Péter Jakab gives another chance to racist candidate László Bíró	Community News and Responses
2.	4th of March	Swastika painted on János Csonka's bust	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Damage to Property
3.	8th of March	"Europäische Aktion": Hungarian neo-Nazi among those condemned in Austria	Other News
4.	22nd of March	Ronald S. Lauder: Hungary at a crossroads	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
5.	24th of March	Graffiti alluding to Holocaust on Eger viaduct	Further Hate Incidents
6.	24th of March	"Numerus clausus was needed" – ambiguous statements on Kossuth Radio	Community News and Responses
7.	25th of March	Hungary is safer for Jews than pro-immigration Western Europe	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
8.	30th of March	Anti-Zionism and BDS aren't antisemitism?	Further Hate Incidents
9.	31st of March	Charges and reports APF filed to the police	APF Legal Actions

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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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