

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

MAY 2021

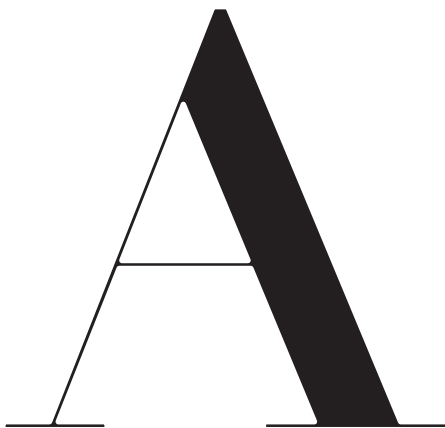


ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A significant part of combating antisemitism is monitoring of the prevalence of antisemitic incidents. One of the aims of the Action and Protection League (APL) is to heighten the awareness of antisemitism in the society. The primary tool in achieving this is continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes in public life. Neither Jewish communities nor individual Jews can be protected unless there is data on antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes and that these are collected and analysed. The data collected by the Action and Protection League, cooperated with Action and Protection Foundation (APF), are published in monthly reports, and a summary of the findings is published for the individual countries/regions in a yearly report. The monitoring report is carried out by the APF.

The reports deal with two forms of behaviour: antisemitic hate crimes and hate-motivated incidents. Both types of behaviour are referred to as "hate incidents"

in the reports. The main difference between an antisemitic hate crime and other hate crimes is that the former possesses an antisemitic motive. Due to differences in legislation and application of legislation in various countries, there are different interpretations of which antisemitic incidents that are violations of criminal law. In addition are some hate-motivated acts, albeit troubling for Jews, not considered criminal if they, e.g., are considered belonging to the realm of freedom of speech. The APL considers it essential to record both types of hate incidents in order to gain a general overview and to make it possible to analyse changes over time.

In order to have the most extensive scope possible, the APL uses a variety of sources simultaneously. The incidents are not only recorded, but the characteristics of the individual incident are also analysed. The data recorded includes the incident's location, the perpetrator (if known), victim, and consequences (if any). In addition, are the various types of incidents differentiated in the reports.

Based on its sources, Action and Protection League (APL) found four antisemitic hate incidents during its monitoring activities in May. One of them identified as Assault and three of the cases were classified as Hate Speech.

In the case of the Assault, a customer was verbally and physically abused in a Rossmann drugstore by a security guard. In the first Hate Speech case, Jobbik politicians drew parallels between the Holocaust and the immunity certificate.

In the second case, the editors of a popular Facebook page illustrated a post about the coronavirus vaccination with a yellow star, while the third case involved a Jobbik Member of Parliament who believes Márton Gyöngyösi's speech in 2012, which asked for Jews to be counted, old news.

This month we identified one Further Hate Incidents – another controversial politician turned out to be an active member of the Jobbik Party.

Our Foundation initiated one legal proceeding and made one report to the police in May.

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

In the last decade there has been a rise in antisemitism in Europe. Surveys by e.g. the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)¹ and the ADL Global 100² show a broad spectrum of antisemitism and how it fluctuates over time.

The character of antisemitic incidents is quite different in the monitored countries concerning content, expressions, and perpetrators. Current antisemitism is mainly connected to Islamism, Far-right groups, and Far-left groups. Islamist expressions are most frequent in countries with large Muslim populations in Western Europe and uncommon in Eastern and Central Europe. Far-left expressions of antisemitism can often be found disguised as Anti-Zionism in Western Europe and is often connected to the conflict in the Middle

East. In East and Central Europe, right-wing expressions of prejudice against Jews frequently have old roots, not only among groups related to Fascism and Nazism, but at times also in populist-nationalist settings. In several countries Jews have found themselves under more threat during the last decade. This does not only include physical attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions but is also visible in the growth of conspiracy theories, online hatred, and political campaigns favouring banning of, e.g., brit milah and kashrut.

Countering antisemitism becomes an increasingly urgent issue for Europe. Action and Protection League of Europe (APL) has been established to explore the causes of modern-day antisemitism and to implement effective defense.

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

ABOUT THE REPORT

The general opinion on, and treatment of, antisemitism often takes extreme forms. On the one hand, some voices try to belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion, one-off incidents are exaggerated in the public arena to such an extent that they give the impression that they are frequent or a regular part of daily life. Knowledge of the actual situation(s) is an indispensable condition for the treatment of real problems. Monitoring of antisemitic hate crimes and incidents³ is one of the tools used in achieving this objective.

From 2019 the Action and Protection League has decided to monitor seven European countries. In the first stage, data is collected from seven countries: Austria, Czechia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Sweden, and more countries will be added later. All countries have their own particularities and vast differences when it comes to the monitoring of antisemitism – in some cases, there are several organisations with similar goals as the APL and in other countries, few or no similar activities. In no case will APL try to replace existing organisations, but rather seek cooperation and exchange of data.

Apart from the monthly reports, an annual summary review, including more detailed analyses on the incidents, is published. All reports are published in English, and almost all are published in the local language.

The fight against hate crimes is of utmost importance since it differs from many other forms of criminal conduct. On one level can these crimes and incidents can be considered as messages. They are not only about the victim in question but points to a larger group. Antisemitism and other hate crimes are thus not only attacks against individuals, but the social fabric of the society as a whole. This does not, of course, diminish the distress and psychological trauma which individual victims might

suffer. These crimes are often not “only” against property or lead to physical threat of individuals, but it also concerns self-dignity. The offenses indicate that the victim is not an equal member or a member at all of the society. Since hate crimes, in general, target victims due to some unchangeable characteristics (real or imagined), the victim becomes almost defenseless. Victims often fear that they may again be targets of similar incidents or worse atrocities if they identify perpetrators to relevant authorities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents may easily lead to secondary victimization where the victim can be led to believe that it was their fault, e.g., by not being careful enough, etc. This type of criminal act also, as mentioned, has an effect on the group as a whole. The victims of these crimes are often interchangeable, since they are not targeted at individuals and any other member could just as well have been targeted. This means that all members of the targeted group become potential victims and might live in fear of a future when they themselves may be the target of a prejudice-motivated crime. This situation is particularly poignant for groups that have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length why Jews belong among such groups. These crimes undermine the fundamental value that all members of a society are of equal value. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the society as a whole. Not only may it encourage the perpetrators to commit further crimes, but it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society as a whole⁴.

It is not an exaggeration to state that fewer hate crimes are reported and documented than are committed. The discrepancy between committed crimes and reported crimes vary significantly between different countries is not necessarily connected to the number of Jews. A contributing factor

³ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

⁴ Levin & McDevitt 1999, 92-93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19-21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17-18; Perry 2001, 10).

to the under-reporting is that victims rarely report them to the police or relevant authority. There are several causes for this: many victims are not convinced that the authorities will handle the matter adequately, either because they lack the competence or that they are prejudiced. In addition, many victims are unaware of applicable laws or where to turn for help. Furthermore, some victims are worried that their concealed traits will be exposed and that they might suffer more by reporting incidents. Victims might also fear that authorities will not be able to prove a hate-crime motivation and that reporting is thus useless.

It is civic organizations that can help remedy these problems. These organizations can cooperate with police and relevant authorities, but also an intermediary between victim and authority. Reports by civic organizations can be expedient in alerting official authorities on hate-motivated crimes, and long-term tendencies can be outlined through the use of collected data. Civil organizations can prepare cases for legal process, may provide legal defense for victims, and give other forms of aid and support.

METHODOLOGY

The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows⁵ (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people⁶
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a specific group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The heightened importance of individual hate crimes is indicated by the fact that the criminal code of numerous countries deals with these cases separately. Although there is a widely accepted definition of antisemitism (see IHRA 2017), there is currently no consistent definition of hate crimes in the countries monitored by the APL.

In addition are the legal consequences different in the monitored countries. This means that an incident which a crime in one country could be legal in another. The obvious example concerns the so-called Holocaust denial, which, e.g., is outlawed in Hungary, but legal in several countries monitored by APL. Since the Action and Protection League has a broad scope when it comes to data collection, everything is covered in the reports, but in some instances, similar acts are filed as a crime in one country and "only" an incident in another. In every case, we follow the definitions in the criminal code of the individual countries. We estimate that this problem will diminish over time due to the adaptation of the same definitions and legislation in the European Union.

Our reports contain detailed descriptions of the definition of hate incidents and our approach to solving the problems. The reports are based on sources taken from international, independent monitoring services, local informants as well as data collected by other organizations working with same or similar issues.

The monthly report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by antisemitism in the broadest possible sense: perpetrator, target, means, or message. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument, or other property. It is essential, however, that an antisemitic motivation can be established. This means that the perpetrator chose the given target on the basis that he/she was Jewish or perceived as being Jewish. It is thus not relevant whether the assumption is correct or not: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient.

In the course of monitoring, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are also considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code in the individual country (e.g. violent assault of a member of a community, incitement to hatred of a community, denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime, use of symbols of autocratic regimes etc.), but can also include other acts mentioned in the Criminal Code, if prejudice can be proven as a motivating factor.

When identifying hate incidents, various indicators are recorded during the monitoring period⁷ and are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by antisemitism.

For the broadest possible scope in monitoring antisemitic hate incidents, the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. In addition to media monitoring, reports from local informants the Action and Protection League also rely on reports filed by victims. In Hungary, the Action and Protection League has a 24-hours-a-day Hotline that serves to ease the passage of reports. The goal is to supply a similar service for the other countries so reports can be filed in the local languages. It is also possible to file reports anonymously online. Such reports will be of especially great importance to this study. If a victim cannot or does not want to file a report, the APL can use an intermediary to help the victim in the process. Such an intermediary may be a family member, an acquaintance of

5 The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakrabarti and Garland 2009, 4–7).

These definitions can serve as important addenda to an understanding of these crimes; however, they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

6 For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behaviour would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

7 These indicators are described in the Methodology section

the victim, a witness of the incident, or another civil organization.

It is a declared objective of the League to be in close contact with the authorities, since in some countries, they are the first to be approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent relevant sources: television, radio, as well as the printed and online versions of the press. An essential segment of the report is composed of monitoring the expressions of online hatred as a phenomenon that is continually growing.

The public discourses are monitored by a team of experts. One of our aims is to cover the increasingly large segment of the media with continuous monitoring. Monitoring extends to roughly all receivable TV and radio stations, all the printed press with high print-runs, as well as online material not only on news portals, but the social comment arenas and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried out systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

Among the monitored hate incidents, some are considered a part of the statistics, but some are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics.⁸

The categories for hate incidents that are included in the statistics are as follow:

- The hate incidents have to have occurred in the countries monitored; no matter whether the victim is a citizen of the country or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an antisemitic intent or content can be proven, or if the victim was attacked for being Jewish or due to an assumed Jewish identity
- Deliberate and wanton impairment of any Jewish institution or building (even if no further, antisemitic message was paired with the vandalism [for example, a Jewish synagogue's window is broken with a stone])

- Antisemitic comments that have been reported to Action and Protection League appearing on blogs, forums, community pages and similar.
- Antisemitic and neo-Nazi material delivered to particular Jewish individuals, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Antisemitic and neo-Nazi material deposited at Jewish-owned property, Jewish organizations, institutions or similar
- Criticism related to Israel and Zionism, if they go beyond a political statement and serve to recall traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes
- Moreover, events apt to raise fear among Jews.

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics⁹ :

- Antisemitic hate incidents that are related to the countries monitored and Jewry in these countries, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in the country in question, antisemitic intent cannot be proven, or the circumstances are unclear)
- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online forums, but have not been reported to Action and Protection League.
- Other news that only indirectly are linked to antisemitism

A number of the aspects of the registered incidents are recorded. The indicators that help decide whether a given incident was motivated by prejudice are mentioned above.

These indicators pertain to various characteristics of the perpetrator, data concerning the victim, the time and location of the incident. These are recorded in the course of collection of data. Tabs are kept on whether incidents had any, and if so, what sort of — possible legal — consequences.

⁸ The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

⁹ The criteria for hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics were modified, therefore the present description is different from the one we used in 2013.

Apart from registering incidents, it is also important to capture the qualitative differentials between them. The typification of cases is carried out in two ways. According to one of the systems of categorization, the following types are differentiated: incitement against members of a community, violence against members of a community, use of symbols of autocratic regimes, and Holocaust denial.

Based on the *Facing Facts! Guidelines*, seven types of incidents are differentiated as follows¹⁰:

- Homicide: any attack on a person that causes loss of life
- Extreme physical violence
 - Any attack on a person that potentially causes serious bodily harm
 - Any attack involving weapons, or other tools that can cause bodily harm
 - Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - Bombs and letter bombs
 - Kidnapping
- Assault
 - Any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not serious
 - Attempted assault, which fails due to self-defense, or if the victim runs away
 - Throwing objects at a person or people, including where the object misses its target
- Damage to property
 - Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
 - Desecration of property
 - Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson

- Threats
 - Any clear and specific threat, whether verbal or written
 - Any “bomb” which is assessed to be a hoax
 - Stalking
 - Defamation
- Hate speech
 - Public hate speech
 - Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media
 - Abusive behavior
 - Abusive literature sent to more than one person
 - Hate speech in literature and music
- Discriminatory incidents

Placing hate incidents in context is also a priority. These actions do not exist in empty space and are by no means independent of the social and cultural environment in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often the processes, rather than separately occurring events (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which leads to a better understanding of the environment surrounding the incidents.¹¹ In presenting timelines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹⁰ CEJI 2012, 10–12

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

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

– MAY 2021

Action and Protection League identified four antisemitic hate crimes over the course of its monitoring activities in the month of May. One of them is classified as Assault and the rest three are classified as Hate Speech.

ASSAULT

Rossmann fired the security guard who called a customer a filthy Jew

Source: Action and Protection League

20 May 2021 No Rossmann store will employ the security guard who, on 14 May 2021, in a drugstore on the corner of Király Street and Akácfá Street, called a customer a filthy Jew and grabbed his sweater. The client filed a complaint to the store's management and reported the incident to the Action and Protection League (APL).

Rossmann's managing directors expressed regret over the incident and said the security guard, an employee of a subcontractor, was immediately fired based on footage from the security camera. At the same time, they assured the customer that any Rossmann drugstore could no longer employ the security guard. In addition, the subcontractor must organise customer relationship training for its employees. They emphasised that they are constantly working to create a diverse and non-discriminatory environment in their stores.

The incident's background was that the customer planned to buy a larger product that would not have fit into the shopping cart, so he entered the store without it. The security guard said that if he didn't take a cart, he would have to leave the store. The customer did not comply with this request and proceeded to enter the store and pay for the product while the security guard kept shouting at him; the guard then followed him to the exit where the verbal and physical incident took place.

HATE SPEECH

Jobbik's politicians drew a parallel between the immunity certificate and the Holocaust

Source: hirado.hu

1 May 2021 In recent days, two right-wing politicians have also drawn parallels between the Holocaust and the immunity certificate, mentioning discrimination, the yellow star and concentration camps. According to the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (Mazsihisz), the analogy is shocking and violates the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, M1 Híradó reports.

"Whoever does not have an immunity certificate will be locked up in a concentration camp?" György Szilágyi asked on his Facebook page. According to the Jobbik MP, the immunity certificate is discriminatory. In his post, he suggests that almost nothing separates the introduction of the immunity certificate from the labour camps associated with the Holocaust. Mihály Sallai Jr., the Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county representative of the party also said they could slowly start distributing the yellow star. According to him, the certificate has brought back the era of the 40s.

Mazsihisz' statement noted they were shocked that a Hungarian politician drew a parallel between the yellow star, a symbol of the murder of nearly 600,000 Hungarian Jews and hundreds of thousands of other acts of discrimination, with the immunity certificate. "The use of all symbols, objects, places and events related to the Holocaust for current daily political purposes violates the memory of our fellow human beings, and we call on politicians to draw the consequences of their statements," they stated.

Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna also spoke on the matter. He called the comparison unacceptable and said that in his view, the comparison is not just an irresponsible statement about Judaism. Organisations and individuals that

use the manner of antisemitic, racist exclusion [as seen during the Holocaust] have no place in Europe; such a statement cannot be allowed by an opinion leader in the 21st century, Róna emphasized during a programme on Kossuth Rádió.

Editors of a popular Facebook page illustrated their post about the coronavirus vaccination with a yellow star

Source: Action and Protection League

4 May 2021 Our foundation noticed a Facebook page called Robban.hu, which describes itself as a "Humor Blog" with the phrase "Hülyülni járunk ide mi is" ("We come here to have fun"). One post on the site discusses the distinction between vaccinated and non-vaccinated citizens regarding restrictions on restaurant visits. The author used a yellow star to illustrate the text "not vaccinated". The post and illustration may be apt to draw a false, tasteless, and impermissible parallel between Holocaust victims and unvaccinated social groups.

Jobbik continues to trivialise the speech of Márton Gyöngyösi in 2012, when he called to count Jews

Source: neokohn.hu

19 May 2021 Neokohn.hu reports that Jobbik MP and Vice-Speaker of Parliament Brenner Koloman was a guest on Spirit FM, where he said: The opposition did not comment on the Israeli-Gaza conflict. Still, he and MEP Márton Gyöngyösi expressed concern about the many civilian casualties and strongly condemned Hamas' attacks.

The reporter asked if it was not an "unfortunate", "unconscious" thing to quote Gyöngyösi, as the politician said in parliament in 2012 that Israel threatened world peace, and the current Israeli-Palestinian

conflict was a timely opportunity to assess "how many people of Jewish origin there are, especially in the Hungarian Parliament and the Hungarian government, who represent a certain national security risk for Hungary".

Gyöngyösi later said that he was being ambiguous when he drew attention to the "potentially present national security risk posed by Israeli-Hungarian dual citizens" in the Hungarian government. He apologised to Hungary's "Jewish compatriots" for his vague statements.

According to Brenner, Gyöngyösi's remark had been around a long time ago, and he had said countless times that he had spoken out on a national security issue. The politician stressed that his party partner had repeatedly apologised for the unfortunate speech, so it "should not cause any resentment in the current situation". He added that the opposition condemns Hamas and calls for a proportionate response based on a common EU position.

In an interview with the Times of Israel in 2018, Gyöngyösi said Israel is killing civilians, bombing UN schools, had killed nearly 70 civilians in the then Gaza conflict and was operating the largest concentration camp in modern history in Gaza. He has never apologised for this.

The Action and Protection League points out that in October 2020, Brenner said in a confusing interview with Hír TV that Jobbik is no longer an antisemitic party. He explained their former manifestations as the "immune reaction of Hungarian society".

According to APL, the tangled statement is highly misleading, cynical, offensive and sheds light on Jobbik's true duplicity. The phrase "immune reaction of Hungarian society" assumes that Jewish people are a kind of virus or pathogen to which Hungarian society had to respond.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During its May 2021 monitoring, Action and Protection League identified one Further Hate Incident.

Another controversial politician turned out to be an active Jobbik member

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

1 May 2021 After Endre K. Hajnády and László Bíró, another controversial politician turned out to be an active member of Jobbik. Máté Silhavy became famous for his contribution to the creation of a database listing the first-year students of Eötvös Loránd University, a list that included antisemitic remarks alongside the names of the students. A few years later, together with Dániel Z.

Kárpát, he insulted the pensioners, Magyar Nemzet writes. Jobbik's press department did not deny the newspaper's coverage, but they pointed out that Silhavy "had no role in the pre-election, has no function in the party and will not run in the pre-election".

Máté Silhavy, who was the vice-president of HÖK (Student Government) in 2009, admitted to Atv.hu that he had compiled the list, yet he claimed that he did not write the remarks. Magyar Nemzet recalls that Péter Jakab, the president of Jobbik, told Telex.hu that he would like to tolerate the politicians in his party who are known for their extremist manifestations and scandals, as all that matters to him is if they are able to apologize.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Katalin Novák informs the publisher of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung about the antisemitic affairs of Jobbik

Source: magyarnemzet.hu, mandiner.hu

3 May 2021 The Minister for Families drew attention to the cooperation between the left and the far-right in Hungary. Katalin Novák shared a photo of her letter to the German media on her Facebook page.

The head of the ministry states that, interestingly, the European press, which is generally concerned about antisemitism, is watching the events in Hungary without proper information. She adds that an article recently appeared in FAZ forecasting Jobbik's accession to the EPP. Thus, she decided to send a compilation of the openly antisemitic statements of Jobbik's right-wing MPs to the publisher of the paper.

Only Hungary does not support the EU statement on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Source: klubradio.hu

19 May 2021 Hungary was the only EU member state not to support the EU's joint statement on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The EU High Representative finally announced the document wherein it calls on Israel to take a proportionate response and consider the protection of civilians essential, Euronews reported.

Josep Borrell stressed that Tuesday was an informal meeting between the foreign ministers, so no final statement was made. The document condemns Hamas and other

terrorist organizations' rocket attacks against Israeli territories while fully supporting Israel's right to self-defence. At the same time, they believe that this should be done proportionately, considering international human rights standards.

"I have a general problem with these European statements on Israel [...] These are usually very one-sided, and these statements do not help, especially not under current circumstances when the tension is so high", Minister of Foreign Affairs Péter Szijjártó stated.

Orbán: The accusation of antisemitism is "simply ridiculous"

Source: ma.hu

29 May 2021 Viktor Orbán, who is on a visit to Great Britain, told a journalist after he met with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson that the accusation of antisemitism against Hungary is "simply ridiculous", as there is a substantial Jewish community in Hungary.

The Hungarian prime minister rejected the suggestion that George Soros, a prominent Hungarian-American businessman, would have been exposed to antisemitic attacks. George Soros is a talented Hungarian businessman, but he is a serious rival: He is very supportive of migration and helps and finances the NGOs that organise it. "We don't like it, but it has nothing to do with ethnic identity", the Hungarian head of government said.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

ZAOL commemorated the deportation of the Jews of Zalalövő

Source: zaol.hu

9 May 2021 Between 4 and 16 May 1944, all the Jewish citizens of Zalalövő were deported. The 102 members of the 31 families went to the Zalaegerszeg ghetto and from there were taken to death camps in Germany, where most of them never returned, writes ZAOL.

Everyone who went to Auschwitz died. Those who were in Dachau at the end of the war, they survived the horrors. They were all young, returning home only years after their treatment in Western Europe. The nine survivors found the synagogue in ruins; no one had cared for the cemetery. Since then, the synagogue has been demolished and replaced by private homes. The survivors found their shops looted and their homes occupied; they had to resume their life from scratch. In 1946, there were still 19 Jews living in the village, but they soon dispersed; many moved to the capital, others emigrated. In 1949, the community had a population of 17; Mór Weltlinger served as president, and the community had only one room, the house of prayer, Herczeg explained.

After the community dispersed, the Jewish cemetery in Zalalövő remained abandoned until 2006 when the County Council of Zala took up the issue of rescuing neglected Jewish cemeteries. The renovated graveyard at the end of Csány Street, formerly Czinder Street, was inaugurated on 1 October 2009 and is currently maintained by the municipality. The memorial to the heroes and victims of World War II in Zalalövő also contains the names of Jewish victims, including 109 forced labourers.

At the end of the summary, a lesser-known fact is also revealed: The wife of Hungary's oldest Holocaust survivor, Elemér Spiegel, who lived 107 years, was also born in Zalalövő.

Forgotten faces from the Jewish Past of Szeged: Anna Winkler (1883-1953)

Source: multesjovo.hu

19 May 2021 In November 2020, the municipality of Szeged organised a street exhibition in a popular public space of the city, entitled "Forgotten Faces", as part of a project called REDISCOVER to explore the town's hidden Jewish heritage.

The exhibition presented the personalities of Jews who played a prominent role in the life of the city. The *Múlt és Jövő* ("Past and Future") periodical meanwhile wrote about the careers of those it believed could also have been included in the exhibit, including the internationally renowned pharmacist Gedeon Richter's wife, Anna Winkler, who grew up in Szeged.

Lipót Löw and his heritage memorial conference in Szeged

Source: delmagyar.hu

21 May 2021 On the occasion of the 210th anniversary of the birth of Lipót (Leopold) Löw¹², a conference and a memorial exhibition were held. The event also celebrated the 240th anniversary of the Szeged Jewish Community.

In addition to the lectures, the participants were able to see the inauguration and the still-existing religious objects of the new synagogue and the documentation related to its construction. Lipót Baumhorn's plans for the building were also exhibited, Délmagyar.hu reports.

¹² Judah Leib "Leopold" Löw (22 May 1811 – 13 October 1875) was a Hungarian rabbi, serving as chief rabbi of Szeged from 1850 until his death. He is seen as the most critical figure of Neolog Judaism.

OTHER NEWS

APL: Israeli students in Debrecen are afraid of provocation

Source: Action and Protection League

12 May 2021 Israeli medical students studying at the University of Debrecen also received a call on Instagram, under the motto "Let's go red" and an Arabic inscription, calling on students to wear red as an expression of their solidarity with the Palestinians. The post used a small Palestinian flag and the three hashtags (*#savesheikjarrah*, *#freepalestine* and *#stopisraeliapartheid*) to ask students to support the Gaza terrorists who had been attacking Israel for days with rockets and terror, APL reports.

The author of the call is Abdelrahman Ashraf, an Egyptian student at the university. His public Facebook page doesn't show him as being politically active; he only occasionally posts anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian posts, for example, a map depicting Israel as a unified "Palestine".

APL reached out to one of the Israeli students in Debrecen, who said they were not afraid of students wearing red but of the deterioration of the situation in Israel, which could later radicalise some students at the University of Debrecen as well. They also indicated their concerns to the university officials by email but have not yet received a response.

The Israeli student said they do not want to inflate the case, and no atrocities or threats have hit them so far, but he was a soldier and knows that the line between a gesture of solidarity with the Palestinians and possibly more violent, provocative actions is thin. According to APL, there is no pro-Palestinian association or group at the university.

APL: The pro-Gaza demonstration in Debrecen has failed

Source: Action and Protection League

13 May 2021 According to the Action and Protection League volunteers, there were no incidents at the University of Debrecen where a pro-Palestinian Egyptian student wanted to organise a protest against Israel in support of the terrorists in Gaza.

The report states that there were some students who showed up dressed in red clothing, but there was no evidence that this was in response to the pro-Palestinian call. There was also a "heightened mood" among the students, but this was more related to their common anxiety due to being in the middle of exams, rather than any form of political expression, according to the report.

One Israeli student said before the exam that they were worried that the possible escalation of the Israeli situation would radicalise some students at the University of Debrecen. When asked by APL, he said that the call had not caused any response. The university officials also responded to his e-mail request, saying only that the university is not a place for political activity.

Előd Novák does not deny that he supports Kuruc.info

Source: hirklikk.hu

22 May 2021 At the end of February, the vice-president of the movement Mi Hazánk appeared as a co-owner of a company that sells racist, antisemitic advertising spaces on and Kuruc.info; the ads are also prosecuted by the authorities, writes Hirklikk.hu.

Előd Novák, who currently works as the representative of the local authorities in Újbuda, admitted to Blikk that he partly owns Hunimod Kft., which sells advertising space on a far-right site called Kuruc.info, which he says is "a well-known thing that has been working for years".

Novák added: "Our movement has never advertised on Kuruc.info for money, and we will not. Our materials will appear there based on a friendly relationship; in return, we also advertise the most-read right-wing news portal at our events, newsletters, publications, etc."

Blikk recalls that for a decade and a half, Novák denied the rumour that he is running a portal that also shares neo-Nazi content. The website often harbours extreme antisemitic sentiments, including frequent Holocaust denial, and frequently publishes anti-Roma and anti-African content. "I am proud to be able to help the most-read right-wing news portal, often with exclusive information, for example", media1.hu reported Novák as saying.

There will also be two anti-Israel demonstrations in Budapest

Source: hetek.hu, neokohn.hu, szombat.hu, Action and Protection League

25 May 2021 Following the example of anti-Israel movements in Europe and the United States, two demonstrations will be held in the Hungarian capital this week. On Wednesday, there will be a "Demonstration for the Palestinian people and against the Israeli occupation" in Bem Square, and on Saturday, there will be a movement in Deák Square entitled "Together against Israeli Terror", APL reports.

Based on his Facebook page, the organiser of the Wednesday movement is Mohamed Keswani, a Tunisian-born college teacher living in Budapest, whose wall is full of anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian posts. The other organiser is Asil Keswani, who also lives in Budapest and graduated from Corvinus with a degree in communications and appears on his page with the hashtag #FreePalestine. Saturday's movement is organised by a group called Budapest Solidarity with Palestine, which is proud to be a member of the international BDS movement and does not recognise the state of Israel.

APL is concerned that Muslim and Palestinian groups living in Budapest want to import anti-Israel agitation into the Hungarian capital. Hungary is one of Israel's best friends in Europe; its government has declared a zero-tolerance policy for antisemitism and was the only member state to veto the adoption of an EU declaration placing Israel and terrorists on the same level.

ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

Interview with Attila Petrovski: APL filed a complaint about the use of symbols connected to totalitarian regimes

Source: Action and Protection League

6 May 2021 The Action and Protection League found out that on 6 April, the Békési Újság newspaper interviewed Attila Petrovski, a former MMA fighter who declared himself a devotee of the National Socialist ideology.

In the photo attached to the interview, Petrovski wears a black t-shirt with the infamous Nazi motto “Blood & Honor”. Several internet portals picked up the article, so Attila Petrovski and his extreme views also received a good deal of publicity. Petrovski has tattoos on his body with several symbols of totalitarianism, including a swastika, a “Death to the Jews!” inscription in English, a portrait of Adolf Hitler and Ferenc Szálasi, and the motto of the SS: “My Honor Is Loyalty.”

In 2013, Attila Petrovski was disinvited from an MMA event in Prague because of his Nazi tattoos, which are also available for viewing on his public Facebook profile. In our opinion, the symbols infringe the dignity and right to deference of the victims of the National Socialist system and are liable to disturb public order. Petrovski repeatedly stressed that he fully identifies with the messages and ideology represented by his tattoos

and is proud of them. This statement can also be interpreted as a conscious and emotional motive, in line with the motive necessary to realise the act.

In APL’s view, this behaviour supports the widespread dissemination of totalitarian symbols and spreads this harmful ideology. Due to these facts and under existing legislation, our Foundation filed a police complaint with the Békés Police Headquarters based on the well-founded suspicion of the use of totalitarian symbols. We requested an investigation be ordered and the perpetrator located and brought to justice. In addition, we asked the police to take measures to make the referenced Facebook page temporarily inaccessible.

APL filed a police report for online antisemitic behaviour

Source: Action and Protection League

6 May 2021 The Action and Protection League noticed a Facebook profile registered as Shadi Odeh. In our view, it displays antisemitic behaviour, including the listing of “Zionist Hungarians” in such a way that the full names and profile pictures of the listed individuals are visible and accessible to anyone. We reported the profile and the activities related to it to the Budapest Police Headquarters.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Incident	Category
1.	1st of May	Jobbik's politicians drew a parallel between the immunity certificate and the Holocaust	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
2.	2nd of May	Another politician turned out to be an active Jobbik member	Further Hate Incidents
3.	3rd of May	Katalin Novák informs the publisher of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung about the antisemitic affairs of Jobbik	Official and Civil Responses
4.	4th of May	Editors of a popular Facebook page illustrated their post about the coronavirus	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
5.	6th of May	Interview with Attila Petrovski: APL filed a complaint about the use of symbols connected with totalitarian regimes	APF Legal Actions
6.	9th of May	ZAOL commemorated the deportation of the Jews of Zalaölő	Community News and Responses
7.	12th of March	APL: Israeli students in Debrecen are afraid of provocation	Other News
8.	13th of May	APL: The pro-Gaza demonstration in Debrecen has failed	Other News
9.	18th of May	Forgotten faces from the Jewish Past of Szeged: Anna Winkler (1883–1953)	Community News and Responses
10.	19th of May	Only Hungary does not support the EU statement on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict	Official and Civil Responses
11.	19th of May	Jobbik continues to trivialise the speech of Márton Gyöngyösi in 2012, who called to count Jews	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
12.	20th of May	Rossmann fired the security guard who called a customer a filthy Jew	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Assault
13.	21st of May	Lipót Löw and his heritage memorial conference in Szeged	Community News and Responses
14.	22nd of May	Előd Novák does not deny that he supports Kuruc.info	Other News
15.	25th of May	There will also be two anti-Israel demonstrations in Budapest	Other News

No.	Date	Incident	Category
16.	26th of May	APL filed a police report for online antisemitic behaviour	APF Legal Actions
17.	29th of May	Orbán: The accusation of antisemitism is "simply ridiculous"	Official and Civil Responses

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000

The website of Action and Protection League: www.apleeu.org

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

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

13597539-12302010-00057157

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2021 Budapest

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