

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

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FEBRUARY 2018



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE



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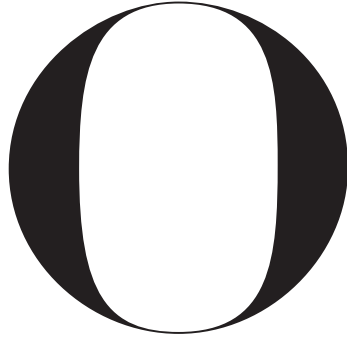
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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One of the most important requirements for the struggle against anti-Semitism is an investigation of the actual prevalence of anti-Semitism. One of the aims of Action and Protection Foundation is to eliminate ignorance of this issue. Instrumental in achieving this objective is the continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes that occur public life. The community cannot really be protected unless current information on anti-Semitic acts and other hate crimes are collected and analyzed. Results of the monitoring are published, monthly by the Foundation.

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: anti-Semitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report refers to both types of behavior as “hate incidents”. An anti-Semitic hate crime is distinguished from other hate crime by possessing an anti-Semitic motive. Anti-Semitic hate crime is a violation of criminal law, yet not all hate-motivated acts are regarded as criminal. Nevertheless, a record of both types of hate incidents is necessary in order to gain a general overview.

For the monitoring to have the widest possible scope, it is required that a variety of sources are used simultaneously. Apart from registering the incidents, it is important to record their particular characteristics. Data recorded includes the incident’s location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

Our Foundation identified four anti-Semitic incidents this month, which belong in the category of hate speech. In one of the

cases, a news portal quoted a radio interview from 2010 in which Balázs Nemes, who is currently the Momentum Party National Assembly electoral candidate and president for the city of Pécs, vented offensive thoughts on Roma, Jews and gays (the young politician apologized a few days later). In the second case, Zsolt Bayer wrote a blog on the statement made by István Vágó (also discussed in this report). Bayer rekindles a number of anti-Semitic tropes in his piece. The third case concerns a Jobbik candidate for member of parliament, Lóránt Budai, who shared Szálasi and Hitler quotes on Facebook. In the fourth case another Jobbik representative, László Toroczka posted a news article on his social networking page, adding an exclusionist, anti-Semitic opinion to it.

Four incidents were registered in the category of Further Anti-Semitic Incidents this month. The exclusionist post István Vágó wrote in December – which our Foundation discussed in that month’s report – received public attention again, with the former quizmaster also speaking out now. Again this year, remembrances and a tour commemorating the “Day of Honor” were held in the Buda Castle (and its neighborhood). In the third case, a flyer was made for the by-election of Hódmezővásárhely that could be used for agitation. In the fourth instance an unidentified man caused a disturbance in a Budapest shop called Kosher Market (Kóser Piac), because of stock and prices in the store, carrying on to insult the shop employee and knocking the kippah off his head.

The foundation was involved in two legal matters this month. Firstly, the consumer protection complaint – regarding a deceptive “Holocaust museum” – also mentioned in our January report was referred to another authority. In the other case we report that in consequence of the research surveys conducted, and complaints filed by TEV, the amount of Hungarian anti-Semitic content on the video sharing portal YouTube has decreased significantly.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

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The phenomenon of anti-Semitism is by no means new to Hungary. The hate speech encountered earlier has however become increasingly dominant in public life. The situation is further aggravated by the Jobbik Party, which openly declares anti-Semitic and racist views, having forty-three members of parliament making hate speech far more ever-present in both Parliament and other organized events. These circumstances brought Action and Protection Foundation into being. Among the forms of civil association offered by Hungarian law, Action and Protection Foundation chose the form of foundation; it was registered in November 2012. The Foundation seeks to provide an alternative to the ineffectual legal steps taken against deteriorating standards of public discour-

se, exclusion, and the ignorance in which anti-Semitism is rooted, as well as atrocities and hate crimes.

### UNITY

Action and Protection Foundation is a registered civil organization. Among those actively participating in the work of the Foundation are status-quo/Chabad EMIH, the reform oriented Sim Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation, as well as socially recognized emblematic personalities independent of these movements. Trustees of the Foundation represent the most important Jewish religious and cultural movements in Hungary, a symbolic expression of the fact that action on anti-Semitism is a cause shared by all.

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## BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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The **Brussels Institute**, founded by **Action and Protection Foundation**, carries out monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crime in accordance with methods worked out and proposed by the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe** (OSCE). In monitoring anti-Semitic phenomena the Institute records and analyzes them on the basis of information delivered by various standardized sources. The monitoring process, which categorizes incidents into seven different groups, relies on the following sources: the sources of the Institute's own Research and Incident Monitoring Group, information available in the press and public media, and relevant data to be found in judicial, criminal and other state administrative records in the framework of an agreement with these branches of government. The institute has set up a now

operational **HOTLINE** that can be reached by dialing the number (+36 1) 51 00 000, where incidents of anti-Semitic and anti-Jewish behavior can be reported.

Beyond regular publication of the monthly monitoring reports the **Brussels Institute's** research plan incorporates a comprehensive research project related to Jewry—using both quantitative and qualitative methods—, as well as a survey on the current situation concerning anti-Semitism that encompasses society as a whole. Furthermore, the program includes development of a differentiated training program that prepares different levels and participants of state administration for action and appropriate procedure on racist and anti-Semitic phenomena, in the form of teaching materials for the educational system and further training.

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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General opinion on, and treatment of Hungarian anti-Semitism is often unusually extreme. Voices are heard on the one hand, that belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion it may be the case that in relation to one-off incidents the image registered is of a public life deluged by such incidents. Knowledge of the actual situation is an indispensable condition for treatment of the real problems, which is why Action and Protection Foundation considers it its duty to provide as comprehensive an overview of the scale of anti-Semitism in Hungary as possible. Monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crimes and incidents<sup>1</sup> is one of the tools of achieving this objective. The monitoring results are published by the Foundation on a monthly basis. Apart from the monthly report, an annual summary review including more detailed analyses on the offenses committed in the course of the year is also prepared.

The fight against hate crimes bears exceptional importance, because they differ from other forms of criminal conduct. These crimes may be considered messages of a kind, and thus point beyond private actions. This additional import becomes manifest in various social realms: on the level of the individual, the group attacked, and of society as a whole. The victims may suffer a greater psychological and emotional trauma. In the case of these crimes not “only” the property, or physical integrity of victims is endangered, but also their self-respect. These offenses question the right of the individual to equality, even of belonging to society itself. It is important that in the course of such crimes the victims are the target of attacks because of some unchangeable characteristic, and for this reason may well feel more defenseless. The victims are often afraid that they may again become victims of further atrocities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents can easily lead

to a secondary victimization of the targeted person. This type of criminal act also has a strong effect on the group to which the victim belongs. The victims of such crimes are often interchangeable, because in countless cases the attack does not target a certain individual, but anyone who, in the given instance, is a member of the group under attack. In the event, members of the group also become involved emotionally, and might live in fear of the future when they themselves may become the target of such prejudice-motivated crimes. This is especially true of groups, which have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length that Jewry belongs among such groups. These crimes violate the norm that holds the members of society equal. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the whole of society. It may on the one hand, encourage the perpetrators, or even others to commit further crimes in the same mold. On the other, it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society (Levin and McDevitt 1999, 92–93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19–21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17–18; Perry 2001, 10).

It may be stated in general that fewer hate crimes are reported, and in the event documented, than are committed. Victims often do not report them to the police. A number of reasons may cause this implicitly. Firstly, many do not feel assured that the authorities will treat these incidents adequately, either because they are not sufficiently prepared, or due to prejudice. Certainly there are many victims who are not clear about the applicable legal regulations. Victims may feel shame, or fear that one of their concealed traits will be exposed. Lesser categorizations of the crimes are also frequent, where official authorities do not establish the hate-crime motivation. It is civil organizations that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs—

<sup>1</sup> See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor's office—may be particularly beneficial.<sup>2</sup> Reports prepared by civil organizations can be expedient in alerting the official authorities to hate motivated crimes in the country. Long-term tendencies can be outlined on the basis of the collected data. Civil organ-

izations can help in setting particular cases on track for legal process, may provide legal defense for the victims, and give various other forms of aid. These organizations may also serve as intermediaries between the victims and the police (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 34–36).

<sup>2</sup> A great example of the above can be found in the Community Security Trust (CST) and cooperation between the London and the Manchester police forces. (CST 2013)



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## METHODOLOGY<sup>3</sup>

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The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows<sup>4</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>5</sup>
- hate-motivated incident: an offence, also based on prejudice against a certain 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. Hungarian criminal legislation identifies two forms of hate crime: violent offences committed against the member of a group, and incitement to hatred of a community. The recently adopted Criminal Code (Act C of 2012) deals with these in Chapter XXI, Paragraph 216, on crimes against human dignity and certain basic rights, as well as Chapter XXXII, Paragraph 332, on crimes against public peace. The crime of violence against a member of a group may be established if the perpetrator assaults or otherwise coerces the victim, because they belong to a protected group. Additionally, this is also the case if the perpetrator demonstrates provocative behavior against a community that is apt to cause alarm. The crime is only affected if there is a concrete victim. Incitement against a community most often means hate speech, and it can only be defined as such on the condition that it is committed in public. Incitement to hate crimes does not target concrete individuals but a group of people. It is important to add that other crimes may

also be categorized as having been committed on racist motives. In such cases the courts must pass a heavier sentence<sup>6</sup> (TASZ 2012, 3–4). Apart from these, Paragraph 333 of the Criminal Code also describes the crime of denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regime. Furthermore, Paragraph 335 bans the distribution and use in wide public, or public display of the symbols of various autocratic regimes (among them the swastika, the SS insignia, arrow-cross).

Detailed descriptions of approaches to, and recent tendencies in the definition of hate incidents can be found in our May Report. The report also cites the findings of literature in this field internationally. The present report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, wherever perpetrator, target, means or message of a case suggest it. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument or other property. It is important however, that anti-Semitic motivation can only be spoken of if the perpetrator chose the given target expressly because it was assumed to belong to Jewry. In this context it is not finally relevant whether the assumption is correct: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient. In the course of monitoring, on one hand, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code (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), 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 recorded during the monitoring

<sup>3</sup> Our methodology remains the same since we started our monitoring in May 2013. The methodology was elaborated by Ildikó Barna, her text was integrated in this chapter. Small modifications are marked separately.

<sup>4</sup> The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakraborti 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.

<sup>5</sup> For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behavior would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24).

For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

<sup>6</sup> The Criminal Code does not include racist motives verbatim, but for example the case of "contemptible motive" is fulfilled, if someone commits a crime out of such a motivation.

period<sup>7</sup> are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

For the widest possible scope in monitoring anti-Semitic hate incidents the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. The victims' filed reports are of especially great importance to this study. If the victim cannot, or does not want to file a report with the Brussels Institute, the involvement of an intermediary may be facilitated to gain information. Such an intermediary may be a family member, acquaintance of the victim, a witness of the incident or another civil organization. The earlier mentioned 24-hours-a-day Hotline operated by the Foundation serves to ease the passage of reports. Additionally there are options for online filing of reports, which allow even greater anonymity for the person placing the report.

It is a declared objective of the Foundation to keep in touch with the authorities, since they are the most likely to be first approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent important 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, so called, online hatred, which seems currently to have become an ever-increasing threat.

Monitoring of these media channels is covered in part by a paid team of experts within a professional framework, while volunteers are involved additionally in the media watch, sending information gained on to the Brussels Institute for processing. It is an aim to cover an 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 networking pages and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried through systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

<sup>7</sup> These are described in the *Methodology* section.

<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.

Among the monitored hate incidents there are some that are considered a part of the statistics, but there are also some that are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics.<sup>8</sup>

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

- Only hate incidents that occurred in Hungary; no matter whether the victim is a Hungarian citizen or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an anti-Semitic 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, explicit anti-Semitic message was paired with the vandalism [for example, a Jewish synagogue's window is broken with a stone])
- Anti-Semitic comments that have been reported to Action and Protection Foundation appearing on blogs, fora, community pages
- Anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi material delivered to particular Jewish individuals, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi material deposited at Jewish-owned property, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Criticism related to Israel and Zionism, if they go beyond a political statement and serve to recall traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes
- Events apt to raise fear among Jews.

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics<sup>9</sup>:

- Anti-Semitic hate incidents that are related to Hungary and Hungarian Jewry, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in Hungary)

- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online fora, and have not been personally reported to Action and Protection Foundation.

A number of the aspects of the registered incidents are recorded. The indicators that help decide whether a given incident was motivated by prejudice have been mentioned earlier. 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—possibly legal—consequences.

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 (CEJI 2012, 10–12):

- 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
  - 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 environs in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often processes, rather than separately occurring events can be spoken of (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which aid understanding of the environment surrounding the incident.<sup>10</sup> In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

<sup>10</sup> These descriptions in particular are held to be a most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

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## ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

### – FEBRUARY 2018

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In the course of its February monitoring activity, Action and Protection Foundation identified four anti-Semitic hate incidents, which belong in the category of hate speech.

#### HATE SPEECH

*The Pécs president of the political party Momentum made anti-Semitic, anti-Roma, homophobic comments in 2010 – he now apologized*

Sources: origo.hu; mandiner.hu; atv.hu; 444.hu

2–3 February 2018 Origo news portal reported a radio interview from 2010 in which current Pécs president of Momentum and candidate for a seat in Parliament, Balázs Nemes made extreme-right statements. The hour and a half long conversation included statements from Balázs Nemes saying that freedom of speech should allow for someone to throw things at participants of the Pride Parade: “it would be a bit harsh to throw paving stones”, he adds, but food leftovers would be fine. “Israel does not exist historically; just as Slovakia doesn’t” and the territory is not called Israel, but British Mandate for Palestine – the then 18-year-old Nemes said. Though he did not consider himself anti-Semitic in the 2010 radio interview, but certainly an anti-Zionist, whose problem is not with the Jews, but the “form of behavior”, they represent. He also joked about how “There is no anti-Semitism in Hungary; but there certainly is a demand for it”. At another point, he brought up that “extreme Zionism is inhumane, it was not for nothing that the UN considered it criminal. Then this view was retracted, could it be because of the Jew-

ish lobby?” Jews are also discussed at other points in the interview, for according to the conversation partner, the reason for such a proficiency in legal matters in the USA is that everyone there is Jewish. At another point, he declared his joy about the memorial plaque for István Horthy in Budapest. In his opinion, there are too few good examples of this kind in the capital city, and this should be a cause for satisfaction even if at the same time “a sign says Holocaust museum”. He also said he is a believer in constitutional monarchy, because a republic is nothing but trouble. Later in the program, he made anti-Roma statements in connection with a crime story in the news.

The audio material published by Origo was the podcast radio, Bétahullám’s (Beta wave) first broadcast. One of the makers of the program, Ádám Scheer-Komjáthy told Origo: “Yes, you can hear Balázs Nemes in the recording; he was an ardent radical nationalist at the time and editor, along with me, of the Bétahullám podcast radio and website. This was a continuation of the website Bombagyár, run by Tomcat. Since then Balázs has become an arrogant young leftist, but it was a mistake to join Momentum, after all he could just as well be a member of the current Jobbik.”

Momentum acknowledged that Nemes’s voice can be heard on the recording, and issued a statement: “Balázs Nemes distanced himself from extremism specifically on account of the community he found in Momentum, among others. If Momentum is able to do this with larger masses, it will have done a great service to Hungary.”

The portal 444.hu notes that Balázs Nemes has come far in terms of ideology since he was eighteen. He even took part in the Prime Minister’s Office’s internship



Source: MTI

program for two months, and then went on to become one of the organizers and speakers of the protests against the, so called, internet tax, and corruption.

The following day, Nemes apologized in a video he posted on his Facebook page, explaining how much he had changed since he was 17. *“This was made 8 years ago. I was 17 at the time, now I am 26. At 17, I made statements that are absolutely far from me now. Though this is history, I take responsibility for my statements and want to apologize to everyone. I want to say sorry to all gay people and Hungarian people of Jewish and Roma origins, whom I hurt or offended with my sentences. (...) Hungarian political culture creates immense hatred and conflict within society. We seek peaceful politics in the country, and part of this is being able to say sorry to one another. I can only hope that you will accept my apology.”*

*Once again Zsolt Bayer portrayed Jews in a negative light, his article shows serious deficiencies of knowledge*  
Source: badog.blogstar.hu

**8 February 2018** Zsolt Bayer wrote mainly in reaction to István Vágó’s declaration (discussed in this report). The essence of his argument was that it is unfair that a member of the Democratic Coalition (a social liberal party) is “allowed” to make an anti-Semitic statement, while someone on the government side is not (he did not clarify who he thought would overlook Vágó’s offensive statement). Meanwhile in his piece, *“A bémálkozni <<szokók>> és egyéb ateisták”* (Those who “keep getting” Confirmed, and other atheists) Bayer himself regurgitates numerous anti-Semitic tropes: as he puts it, the Jews who escaped from tsarist Russian to Galicia and then Hungary

*“had no intention of fitting in, assimilating (rings a bell?), instead they brought their earlocks, their caftans, their hats, the prayer shawl tied around their waists, the leather strip tied around their arm, the leather what’s-its-name tied onto their foreheads during prayer, the seclusion, the introversion, the complete and perfect alienation – let us not forget: Reb Tevye only disowns the daughter who marries a non-Jew, the Ukrainian peas-*

*ant kid! – bringing the command of “tradition” [ed. used in English in the Hungarian context] (and only they are allowed the luxury of a tradition in our times!), bringing the mentality that shuts them into a ghetto even if, who knows, no one wanted to put them in a ghetto. They bear all of the tropes that majority society, of which they themselves excluded themselves, then accused them of. They carried the attributes of outsiderism, of strict and unquestionable detachment, and continued their strict lives, just as incompatible with modern, liberal democracy, with their incomprehensible family relations, medieval sexuality, unquestionable hierarchy, and first and topmost of all, a bigoted and overriding religiousness. Someone has said this before, and we can now only repeat: anyone who has to live their lives under so many incomprehensible prescriptions, rules, traditions, limits and commands, will be eo ipso coded with frustration, introversion, and bad mental health.”*

The long list is extraordinarily stereotypical: ignores the merits of Jewry, the positive influence they had on Hungarian society of the time, only perceiving them as the causes of hardship and trouble, treating it as a fact that the conflict between the majority population and Jewry can only be the fault of the Jews. Generalizing among Jews, it depicts Jews as psychologically wrecked, unmanageable people. In comparison, it becomes only second in importance that Bayer is not competent with regard to the divisions between Jewish religious denominations, the diversity of places of their origin, the traditions, norms, value systems, family life and customs of contemporaneous Jewry.

*Jobbik candidate for Member of Parliament quotes Hitler and Szálasi*  
Source: magyaridok.hu

**12 February 2018** The Hungarian daily Magyar Idők reported that the Jobbik candidate for a place in the National Assembly from Jászszág, Lóránt Budai presented Szálasi and Hitler as examples to be followed on his social network page. The newspaper notes: *“Lóránt Budai was less a man of the people’s party a few years ago, and*



Source: magyaridok.hu

was more in the thrall of Nazi ideas.” Apart from a quote from Hitler, the other quote he shared with his followers and friends was from Ferenc Szálasi, whom he called a protector of the Hungarian nation: *“The internal enemy is always more ruthless, depraved, dishonorable, merciless, vile, violent and bloodthirsty, than the external one. And rather than carrying all of these qualities openly, he hides them in religiousness, nationalism, neighborly love and patriotism, anything just to achieve his aim. The external enemy is always open.”* According to the daily the Hitler quote was as follows: *“If a nation has become cowardly, and only a thousand remain who want something great, and who have the strength to reshape the state, then these thousand people are the nation”*. This sentence from Hitler was among those shared by the Jobbik candidate from Jászág, on his social network page. The Online news website did not write about when the content was shared, and did not publish a photo of the social network website – which was presumably Facebook, and there is no information about how the Jobbik representative responded to the news.

*László Toroczkai shares his exclusionist opinion on his social network page*  
Sources: facebook.com;  
atv.hu; hirado.hu

**23 February 2018** *“It is absolutely right that Hungary takes Poland’s side against Brussels, but its should do so against Israel as well. If any people really suffered a great deal in the Second World War, it was the Polish, and it is past boring to listen continuously to how all people other*

*than the Jews are guilty. It is now obvious what a mistake it is to put the Visegrad 4 under the Israel”*, the vice-president of Jobbik wrote on his social network page. He attached to his post the photograph in which the Polish Embassy in Israel can be seen with graffiti abusing Polish people. Warsaw wants to prevent the use of expressions such as the *“Polish death camps”* with the introduction of a law. In the legislation, the description of instances dealt with said anyone who accuses the Polish nation or the Polish state of institutional complicity in the war crimes committed by Nazi Germany is punishable. Many in Israel interpreted the law as an attempt by Warsaw to block scientific study of the Holocaust, and in given instances to punish the survivors of the Holocaust who give testimony. A diplomatic conflict has broken out between the two countries because of the amendment.

The crew of the state television channel M1 wanted to know how the other vice-president of Jobbik would comment on the statements of his fellow party member regarding Israel, and whether he agrees with László Toroczkai, but Dániel Z. Kárpát did not respond substantively.



Source: facebook.com / hirado.hu



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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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In the course of its monitoring during February 2018, Action and Protection Foundation identified four incidents that cannot be included in the statistic, because – as explained in the chapter on methodology – the circumstances of the case or its anti-Semitic nature are not clear and beyond doubt, or the identity of the perpetrator is unknown.

*István Vágó's "strange" statement  
whips up a storm*

Sources: facebook.com; mno.hu;  
atv.hu; magyarhirlap.hu; tev.hu

**8 February 2018 (16 December 2017)** In December, our Foundation gave an account of the former quizmaster, István Vágó's rather "strange" statement posted on his Facebook page. The politician of the Democratic Coalition wrote that he could feel no community with the Jews: *"As an atheist I am not interested in the relationship of the Jews and G.d (written fully; or dotted, beginning with a capital letter or not, it's all the same to me), I find the sight of kaftan-, hat- and payot-wearing Jews repellent, their ceremonies do not touch me, and I feel no community with them. And would not want to either"*.

The media once again discussed the comment in February. Queried by atv.hu the politician confirmed: he did in fact write the comment, and maintains what he had written there. According to his statement, he does not believe in "demonstrative religiousness", and in his opinion the Jews with kaftans and payots are demonstrating their covenant with God through their appearance. Besides, he does not keep any practices related to religion, and so does not believe in taking Saturday's off work or the prohibition on pork, "which is not looked upon kindly by the people on the other side". He announced, he has no business with those "who believe in God in such spectacular fashion". The politician noted that he is of the opinion that his comment has no anti-Se-

mitic tone. In answer to ATV's question whether his views applied to the burqa and the rosary as well, he replied "they also belong in the same category; as does everything that is part of "demonstrative religiousness".

The national daily Magyar Hírlap asked Slomó Köves, Executive Rabbi of EMIH for his opinion in regards to the comment. His thoughts were that unfortunately it is once again proven that our greatest enemy is actually not hatred, but the immense lack of knowledge-generating the hatred. The rabbi's message was, "I do not suppose any bad intentions on the part of István Vágó. He belongs to my parents' age group, I know what anxiety, taboos, and fears they had to fight and reach a compromise with. Members of EMIH are a long way from all being kaftan and payot wearers, but those members who do wear kaftans and payots are also people wrestling with and thinking through similar human dilemmas, questions, as those posed by him."

The Secretary of our Foundation also released a statement in the matter. "Action and Protection Foundation monitors public discourse constantly; and particularly hate speech appearing in public debates continued on social media. In the course of our work, we had noted István Vágó's words at the time of their utterance in December (...) and our experts examined to what degree it fit into the category of free speech, and whether it could breach any law against hate speech. According to the analysis conducted on the basis of the methodology recommended by the OSCE, the conclusion arrived at was that though the noted comment did not breach the legal prohibition on incitement against a community; it does offend common decency; the unwritten laws of cultured conversation, and the Hungarian citizens availing themselves of the right to free practice of their religion, however the level of social threat does not reach a penalizable minimum." At the same time: "His words communicate to the Hungarian electorate that profession of atheism legitimizes the humiliation and exclusion of believers."

*“Day of Honor” held again in Budapest*  
Sources: nepszava.hu; merce.hu;  
Action and Protection

**10 February 2018** The so-called day of honor – or breakout day – was commemorated again this year. It says a great deal about the nature of the event that participants were warned in advance: they are not allowed to wear symbols of autocratic regimes, Arrow Cross signs or swastikas, or even SS symbols. The organizers made it clear in their call detailing clothing and behavior guidelines that *“if the police detect such symbols they will have it covered over, and if any resistance is shown, the individuals will be removed from the area of the event!”*.

Prime Minister’s Office had announced to the press, not much after the “day of honor”, that *“the Internal Ministry would find the legal solution to prevent such events”*.

Participants lined up in formations under the banners of the most radical extreme right – among them, skinhead and Neo-Nazi – organizations on Kapisztrán Square. They were approximately five-hundred, including Germans and Poles also. In the lead-up, the speaker said that they are primarily raising a memorial to those who sacrificed their lives in the fight against the *“red filth”*. As once Budapest, now the whole of Europe stands besieged, the speaker proposed. It is up to them, he thought, to beat back the *“conquerors”*. He then announced



Source: nepszava.hu

The extreme right commemorates every year in February that in 1945 – having suffered great losses – German and Hungarian troops tried to break out of Buda Castle, besieged by the Russian army.

This year, the location of the extreme right gathering was once again Kapisztrán Square in the Buda Castle. Organizers of the demonstration celebrated it as a victory that *“our long-drawn legal battles had been crowned with success”*, and they can *“salute the heroes of the breakout”* in a public place. What measures were taken by the Internal Ministry is not yet known. The portfolio only responded to our inquiries to say that it had *“made the relevant proposals”*. Indeed, last year Bertalan Havasi, the leader of the Press Office of the

that they would break out of the *“conquering claws of the new world order”*.

Béla Incze, introduced as co-leader of the Sixty-four Counties Youth Movement spoke at length about how the authorities tried to prevent the event, until finally the court withdrew the banning decision. Incze extended special greetings to the *“rats of the liberal media”*. Zsolt Tyirityán, leader of the Outlaws’ Army, came after a German speaker. Unlike last year, he did not glorify the Waffen SS, but he did express his dislike for the *“communist scum”*.

The event did not pass without disturbance. Behind a multiple police cordon, though within hearing distance, anarchists waving black and red flags protested against



the Nazis. They blew whistles, banged drums, and chanted the international anti-fascist slogan in chorus: *Alerta, alerta, antifascista!* Another group of counter-protesters placed a highly visible banner of a fist breaking a swastika up near the Bécsi Kapu, so all those arriving would see it.

Apart from the memorial, an organization called the Börzsöny Action Group organized a Breakout Memorial Trek for the 12<sup>th</sup> time. Groups attending it were clad in camouflage or some sort of military gear, and carrying backpacks. The call for the event says it is a sporting event and historical remembrance – without a political aim. They add, “*the banned autocratic symbols occasionally appearing on the uniforms and stamps are solely there to ensure historical accuracy, for historical interest, as a demonstration.*”

The article written by our Foundation on the events<sup>11</sup> explains: the Breakout trek is not merely a recreational activity. The intention of the organizers is unequivocal: “*under the guise of a socially desirable recreational activity they are trying to make their extremist ideology palatable, and thereby attempt to somewhat legitimize their fake remembrance policy. A majority of those participating in the outing probably don’t even realize what sort of ideology they are legitimizing with their participation. Our most important task is therefore to help those who are not able to assess the threat of these sick ideologies due to their lack of knowledge, and the most efficient means of doing so is through education and raising of awareness.*”

*Inflammatory flyer in a by-election campaign*  
Source: index.hu; facebook.com

**23 February 2018** In the election campaign for the by-elections of Hódmezővásárhely, unknown individuals disseminated a flyer around the city in which they collected the supporters of one of the candidates – Péter Márki-Zay. The candidate himself posted the flyer on his Facebook page. The first page displays politicians in the parties that support him, along with György Soros. However, on the back, private individuals can be found, along



Source: facebook.com / index.hu

with the Jewish congregation. “*Their interest lies in chaos, division, and robbing the municipal funds.*” “*Only hatred unites them.*” Such comments were written on the flyer published by SME (no indication what sort of organization this was).

“*The Jewish Congregation of Hódmezővásárhely (HZSH) did not make a political declaration, or endorse either any party or candidate, and never took a position in the mayoral election campaign*”, the President of the Congregation, Miklós Erdélyi told Index. Mazsihisz reacted in a statement, saying that participation in party political struggles would be wholly irreconcilable with their approach to their role as a church. According to Miklós Erdélyi, who is a practicing lawyer, the only aim of adding the HZSH, was to turn the public mood in the city against Márki-Zay, even though he is a faithful Catholic, by strumming anti-Semitic strains, which may achieve its purpose. The lawyer appears highlighted on the flyer by name as well. As he said, he has not participated in politics for years, but it is true that he had been an opponent of Lázár in past years, as had the other persons listed on the flyer. According to Miklós Erdélyi, a precedent to this case was when on one occasion in 2006; his opponents had added the birth name of his father, Grünwald next to his name, the goal being the

<sup>11</sup> <http://rev.hu/naci-e-vagy/>

same as this time. The congregation has 52 members, and Erdélyi estimates the number of those in the city with Jewish origins to be around 80–100.

In replying to the query from Index, Zoltán Hegedűs, the mayoral candidate for Fidesz condemned anyone in Hódmezővásárhely being branded for their opinion, worldview, political or religious affiliation, and said it was very disappointing that the election campaign for mayor had hit such a low.

*Abuse in the shop called Kosher Market*

Source: Action and Protection

**26 February 2018** A report was filed with the Foundation about the salesperson in the 7th-District shop called Kosher Market being abusively treated. The incident occurred on 29 March in the afternoon, and a video recording was made. A man appeared in the shop and wanted to buy chicken

liver. He had an issue with the prices not being shown, then started shouting, and addressed the salesperson with obscene words, approaching him threateningly. The perpetrator took a constant threatening stance and struck the kippah off the head of the salesperson, leaving the site in a great hurry after that. The Foundation will decide about the legal steps to be taken based on an evaluation of the witness accounts and video recordings available.



Source: Action and Protection

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*Slomó Köves appears on István Hollik flyer*

Sources: [index.hu](http://index.hu); [mno.hu](http://mno.hu); [zsido.com](http://zsido.com); [hirtv.hu](http://hirtv.hu); [mandiner.hu](http://mandiner.hu)

**6 February 2018** Slomó Köves, executive Rabbi of EMIH, appears on KDNP MP candidate István Hollik's flyer distributed in electoral district one of Budapest. On the flyer, he expressed support for the politician: *"Jewish cultural and religious life in the inner city of Budapest has been revitalized over recent years, and for this to continue, and to preserve the peaceful life and security of the Jewish community we need active partners."* István Vágó first posted the flyer on his Facebook profile, and later received broad news coverage.



The rabbi of the Budapest Rabbinical Committee, which works under the aegis of Mazsihisz, published an open letter calling Slomó Köves to account for *"getting into politics"* with the support he expressed here. He said, this action gives the impression that he has *"given up 4,000 years in return for 4"*.

In an interview, Slomó Köves clarified that his support was addressed to the specific consensus beyond political parties, which supports the Jewish community in the public life of the inner city and Leopold Town. He said he only met Hollik once or twice, *"but on the other hand knows the socialist Pál Steiner, or Tibor Pásztor, and for that matter, Antal Rogán and András Puskás quite well, and this kind of constructive cooperation with them has marked the last one and a half*

*decades. They also received my support on a local level, or may receive it in the future, as would any one of the candidates of the democratic parties who considers the cause of the inner city Jewish religious and community life important and affirms this in action."*

He also explained in Hír TV program *Egyenes beszéd* (Straight talk) that when a Christian Democrat politician campaigns with a rabbi, it *"is a meaningful step against anti-Semitism"*. In answer to the question whether he would, in retrospect repeat the action in the same form he replied, perhaps not. Köves thinks the move drew strong emotions from people, and in light of this it may not have been worth it in the balance.

*Slomó Köves queried about EMIH and political participation*

Source: [magyarnarancs.hu](http://magyarnarancs.hu); [index.hu](http://index.hu); [hvg.hu](http://hvg.hu); [magyarhirlap.hu](http://magyarhirlap.hu)

**15 February, 20 February, and 22 February 2018** Slomó Köves, Executive Rabbi of EMIH, was asked some questions on the program *Alinda*, in Hír TV. In regards to Jobbik, he said that a leader of a community would have to defend it against this party, because the extremist party had been born of hatred and anti-Semitism. He did however say Fidesz-KDNP also has anti-Semitic members, after the anchor of the program quoted anti-Semitic sentences from a number of Fidesz politicians. Though he added that there is a marked difference in whether a party came into existence as anti-Semitic, participated in hate marches, and if certain members, politicians within a party have made a number of such statements.

With regard to the anti-Soros campaign, he said that it disturbs him on a human level. *"The form in which it is cast saddens and repels me."* He does not however think that the most effective way to take action against the campaign is to call it anti-Semitism straight out.



Source: 24.hu

In the interview he gave to the portal 24.hu on 20 February, he stated once again: *“The issue of migration in Europe today is undoubtedly a question that requires solving. The way in which the importance of the matter is expressed in public discourse goes beyond the limits of my sensitivity; but that is a separate issue.”*

In an interview he gave to *Magyar Hírlap* on 22 February he elaborated that by our

times it should be have become natural that a church leader gives expression to the fact, if a political community or local representative gives more priority to the values he considers important. *“Political publicity is actually a forum we must use to realize the values represented by the Jewish communities”*, he said. Migration and Soros were also discussed. According to the rabbi, a Muslim fundamentalism attuned to total violence has now escalated in Europe, fundamentally transforming the position of Jewry. *“If we are looking at France: the proportion of Muslims in large cities comes close to thirty-five percent. Yet on the news portal 444 I read that this should not be exaggerated, and Europe has been beset by other sorts of terror too, more than ten times the numbers die in car accidents than in terrorist actions.”* He adds, *“Life is not only about whether I Live or die, but also about my general sense of comfort.... No doubt, the everyday existence of the Jewish community is not endangered in Hungary (...). I would like this to remain the case!”*

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*House search held at the Gede Brothers  
Publishing House*  
Sources: kuruc.info;  
Action and Protection

**7 February 2018** On the afternoon of 7 February, the premises of the Gede Brothers Publishing House, known for publishing extremist views, including Holocaust-denial, was searched by the 13th District Police Headquarters of the Budapest Police Force (BRFK). The extremist news website kuruc.info also reported on the event. Authorities provided a record of confiscated items. Police started an investigation based on a civil complaint for denying and relativizing the Holocaust. This investigation began on 6 February 2018, citing paragraph 333 of the Hungarian Criminal Code (about the criminal act of public denial of the crimes of the National Socialist or communist regimes). The publications seized include Lars Adelskog, *Egy üres zsák nem áll meg magában* [An empty bag cannot stand]; Richard E. Harwood, *A hatmillió zsidó mítosz nyomában* [English: Did Six Million Really Die?]; Robert Lenski, *A holocaust a törvénytelen* (*Az Ernst Zündel-ügy*) [English: The Holocaust On Trial: The Case of Ernst Zundel]; or Germar Rudolf, *Felboncolt holocaust* [English: Dissecting the Holocaust].

TEV has also previously taken steps against the Publisher, and welcomes the proactive measures taken by the authorities. In our opinion, even the mere titles of the seized works indicate that they deny the Holocaust.

*Court ruling passed on man  
who wore a swastika*  
Sources: MTI; kemma.hu

**8 February 2018** A Slovakian man who wore an armband with a swastika in the center of Esztergom City was fined four-hundred forints in a final judgment passed by the courts – as announced by the chief pro-

secutor of Komárom-Esztergom County. According to information made available the man, along with a friend, visited a number of catering facilities in the city on 11 January 2018, and in one of the bars acquired a red armband – from an unknown individual – with a black swastika in a white circle in the middle. The 39-year-old Slovak citizen put on the armband with the part showing the swastika visible to everyone. A police patrol apprehended the perpetrator as he walked through the center of town. The behavior of the man was capable of disturbing the public peace, and for his action, the County Court of Esztergom fined him 400,000 HUF in its ruling.

*DK denounced the “Day of Honor”  
– but mixed two separate events together*  
Sources: 168ora.hu; nepszava.hu

**11 February 2018** Of the political parties this year – so far as our media observation has indicated – only DK spoke up in relation to the event organized for the “Day of honor”. *“A procession of several thousands of neo-Nazis in Buda has been reported by the news, on the anniversary of the breakout from Buda Castle in 1945. Members of the procession wore armbands with swastikas and the Nazi uniforms of the period, and yet the police did not prohibit the event, even going so far as to secure the march of these people reminiscing with nationalist romanticism about the genocide”* the Democratic Coalition’s statement issued to 168 Óra said, adding that it considers it outrageous that the Nazi procession on the “day of the Outbreak” were not followed by consequences. DK seeks answers to why the police did not ban the event on account of prohibited symbols of autocratic regimes being worn and why it did not at least intervene on site? For according to the party *“it is impermissible that the extreme right should march under the same banners that had flown over the Nazi murder of 6 million Jews, 600 thousand Hungarians among them, during the Second World War.”*

In this regard the BRFK indicated that *“the Police Chief of Budapest had – contrary to some loaded public statements – banned the event on Kapisztrán Square and the event involving a procession that followed it, which both fall under the jurisdiction of the law on public gatherings, however, the decision to ban them was overturned by the courts.”* They continued: contrary to news appearing in the press the police did not secure the event involving a procession. In response, the daily *Népszava* remarked that presumably the police had reacted to the protests from DK, which had wrongly confused the two events – also described by our Foundation – as one. On Kapisztrán Square, various extreme right-wing – among them skinhead and neo-Nazi – organizations held a demonstration on

the occasion of the “Day of Honor”. Then the Breakout Memorial Trek (described by the police as event involving the procession) organized by the Börzsöny Action Group started from the same place immediately afterwards.

There is no great difference between the two in terms of ideology, and the circles of participants also overlap. However, in the case of the demonstration the organizers banned the wearing of symbols of autocratic regimes, while for the memorial trek these were permitted for the sake of *“historical accuracy”*. The first was secured by the police martialing considerable forces – after the court overruled the banning decision – while the latter, which formally counted as a sporting event was not secured.

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**NEWS AND OPINIONS  
ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM  
IN HUNGARY**

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This month, the Foundation detected no news or event to be discussed in this section.



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## OTHER NEWS

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*Conference on prejudice held*  
Source: abcug.hu

**1 February 2018** According to the most recent, one-and-a-half-year-old survey by the Pew Research Center, Hungarian society is most prejudiced against Muslims, Roma and Jews – the order of their mention reflects which group more people reject. Taking up the matter, Political Capital organized a day-long conference. Speakers were mostly researchers and civil organizations involved in informal education – and specifically prejudice reduction by these means.

Independently of who are targeted, prejudices between groups are based on the same mechanism: a reticent, hostile approach is shown to another person merely because that person belongs to a given group, and we assume with regard to them that they also have the negative qualities we attribute to this group.

Though they are based on the same roots, anti-Roma and anti-Semitic feeling have fundamental differences – said Anna Kende of the Department of Social Psychology at ELTE Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology. It is a far more accepted thing in Hungary to hate Roma than to hate Jews. There is a contrast, because anti-Semitism is much less acceptable socially, and is far more divisive: people either strongly disapprove of every form of anti-Semitism, or expressly identify with it. There is no significant median set. The anti-Semites would not, for example, have a problem with their neighbor being Jewish. They practice their prejudice on a more conceptual level. It is a widely held anti-Semitic theory, for example, that by some means the Jews seek to rule the country, or the world.

Both social and personal circumstances determine who would become a prejudiced or even racist individual. For example, in a society where the nation means a community of people belonging to the same ethnic group, people are much more likely to

be exclusivist towards others who are not members of this circle. Research conducted in this field usually concludes that people who readily subject themselves to the ruling powers, find it important to follow social norms and disapprove of anyone who does not submit to these norms, and are more prone to prejudice.

András Kovács, sociologist and professor at CEU, has measured levels of anti-Semitism consistently since the mid-1990s. These surveys show the number of those confessing to anti-Semitic views surged in Hungary in 2010. According to Kovács, the reason is the entry of Jobbik into the political mainstream - it then became acceptable to state such beliefs openly. It affected latent anti-Semitism, and made people more comfortable with stereotypes of Jews as the enemies of the nation. Some politicians even made openly anti-Semitic statements on the floor of the Parliament.

*Having made numerous anti-Semitic and extremist statements, Adrián Magvasi is still a regular guest of Hír TV*  
Source: origo.hu

**6 February 2018** Origo reported that Adrián Magvasi has been a nearly constant guest of the Hír TV program, “Főszerkesztők klubja” (Chief Editor’s Club) since December 2015. Adrián Magvasi is a Jobbik candidate for Member of Parliament, a president of the party in the Angyalföld electoral district. In addition, he is also chief editor of the news portal affiliate of Jobbik called Alfahír – this was the capacity in which he was invited to the earlier mentioned program. Magvasi was a member of the presidency of the Sixty-four Counties Youth Movement (HVIM), and participated a number of times in the events commemorating the attempted Buda breakout in 1945, was a member of the paramilitary organization called “Farkasok” (Wolves) from 2012–2013, which also operated under the umbrella of HVIM.



Magvasi was also founder and chief editor of the Szent Korona Radio (Holy Crown Radio), which had a permanent program in which anti-Semitic, Holocaust-denying, racist and other extreme statements could be heard. Our account of these can be found in our Report of November 2017. Magvasi was not merely a passive audience to the anti-Semitic and racist discussions, but at times also their participant. In a discussion on the EC-Israel Association Agreement in 2010, the following was said: *“There is a chosen people, they are allowed everything, they are the sacred cow. The politics carried on by Israel is outrageous, an embodiment of racist theory. Does it even occur to the parliamentarians voting for this how it would feel like if their children were attacked with white phosphor or flesh-tearing bombs? No, and that’s all. This is all that should have been said.”* On another occasion, Magvasi had those present (e.g. Zagyva) talk about how the well-known Hungarian philosopher Gáspár Miklós Tamás (TGM) got into a conflict with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA). They said that TGM did not even have a diploma, and he was first seen working at the MTA in November. *“Typical Jewish tempo, he can give his opinion in the 168 torah”*, a reference to the journal 168 Óra.

*Church service dedicated to Horthy celebrated*  
Source: Action and Protection;  
168ora.hu; mno.hu; zoom.hu

**9 February and 11 February 2018** On the 61st anniversary of the death of Miklós Horthy a ceremonious church service was held in the Calvinist church on Szabadság Square. An account of the event was given by the president of the Horthy Miklós Society, Ferenc Zetényi Csukás, on his Facebook page. The event was held in the church whose minister is Loránt Heged s. This is where a bust of Miklós Horthy was inaugurated in November 2013 – to general indignation.

Zoom.hu also reported that Action and Protection Foundation was planning to appear at the event in protest. The volunteers of Action and Protection Foundation handed out a publication containing the texts of

the anti-Jewish laws to all those who were interested. *“Contrary to some mistaken beliefs the anti-Semitic laws were not only characteristic of the end of the Horthy period, their spirit permeated the whole regime, from the time of the Numerus Clausus to the increasingly harsh racial laws introduced later”* the Secretary of the Foundation, Kálmán Szalai emphasized in his statement to the press. Action and Protection Foundation believes that a lack of knowledge about history is one of the main reasons for all sorts of xenophobic and anti-Semitic manifestations, as well as initiatives to rehabilitate unworthy former public personalities. Based on this concept the organization prepared a publication. Prior to the service they distributed in Szabadság Square an over 20-page-long publication containing word for word the three anti-Jewish laws (Law XV of 1938, Law IV of 1939, Law XV of 1941) and the Numer-



Source: Action and Protection

us Clausus (Law XXV of 1920, limiting the entry of students of Jewish origin in institutions of higher education). This laid the foundations for the later laws.

Independently of the action undertaken by Action and Protection Foundation, a counter-demonstration was also held. The group of around thirty people holding flags of the European Union gathered across from the church. The songs of János Bródy and – among others – Tamás Pajor were played in loudspeakers. In exchange, Lóránt Heged s and his people amplified the service being held within so it could be heard outside. Photographers and TV crews were not allowed to work within the church. Andrea Zoltai, the representative of the group Tiszta emlékezettel a sza-

badszágért, demokráciáért (A clear memory in the service of freedom and democracy), chief organizer of the demonstration emphasized: they are not seeking to disturb a church service, but demonstrating against a vile disgraceful political event. *“We will not be considerate of a church service dedicated to a mass murderer. Because it is appalling that he is taken into the house of God, and it is appalling that politics is allowed into the church, and appalling that the souls of people are poisoned with this ideology.”*

The Calvinist minister, Lóránt Hegedűs, who held the mass, said in his sermon: they do not agree with the approach that the church should not deal with historical issues. *“There is no perfect human. Regent Miklós Horthy was not one either. No one who*

*deeply respects Horthy could say such a thing. But one thing can certainly be stated of him: he salvaged what could be saved. One statement would certainly be true: yes, he was the representative of humanity in inhuman times.”*

Our foundation also gave an account in its January Report of the major public uproar caused by a memorial mass for Horthy Miklós organized by the Association of Christian Intellectuals that was to be held on Holocaust Memorial Day. The commemoration which was going to be held in the Inner City Parish Church of Budapest, that is, the Catholic church in Március 15 Square, was cancelled by the organizers. Participants of the mass would have included Sándor Lezsák, Speaker of the National Assembly, and Péter Boross, former prime minister.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

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*Consumer protection  
complaint transferred*

Source: Action and Protection

**5 February 2018** Our January Report gave an account of a complaint we filed with the Local Government of Budapest District 7 in a consumer protection case. The cause of the complaint was that under the address 9 Wesselényi Street in District 7, a business undertaking called “Shoah Cellar Museum” operates a space in a cellar. Deceiving visitors, the business tries to make the impression that this cellar was the place in which Hannah Szenes, the first Israeli woman parachutist was executed, the remembrance of which was the reason the “museum” was founded. On the advertising flyer, they also state that this was the first and only Holocaust Museum in the world which is located in a Nazi bunker. They also stated that the museum houses the office of Adolf Eichmann, as well as a torture chamber. In another advertisement consumers were also informed that this was the birthplace of Tivadar Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement. All of these are refuted by historically proven facts and our personal review of the site, so the Foundation turned the matter over to the authorities.

The Local Government of District 7 informed the Foundation that since this is a case related to unfair commercial practice it had transferred the procedure to the competent authority, which is the Budapest City Government Office of the 5th District.

*The number of publicly accessible  
anti-Semitic videos has decreased  
on account of TEV*

Source: Action and Protection

**14 February 2018** Last autumn, Action and Protection Foundation initiated a campaign to remove content on social media that incites hate. YouTube administrators were open to the initiative, and they have already removed half of the material reported by TEV from the video sharing portal. Yet sadly, there is still a score of lying, anti-Semitic, Holocaust-denying videos with Hungarian subtext or in Hungarian still available on the largest video-sharing site of the world.

Action and Protection Foundation seeks to establish partnerships with the IT companies operating social media. To further this cooperation, we sent a large number of trustworthy reports to YouTube of anti-Semitic content inciting hatred of Jewry or denying the Holocaust, in Hungarian or with Hungarian subtitles.

Over the last three months, the Foundation has reported a total of 121 videos to administrators at YouTube, and of these 63 are no longer accessible. In the following months, Action and Protection Foundation will continue this effort to help cleanse social media of hate inciting materials.

The removed videos include a speech by Tibor Ágoston, Member of Parliament for Jobbik, in which he deliberately uses the word “*Holohoax*”. Regarding the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, he said that the number six million is surely not correct; it must be much less, but if the data would be correct, “*how much better that would be*”.

## 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.	1 <sup>st</sup> of February	Conference on prejudice held	Other News
2.	2-3 <sup>rd</sup> of February	The Pécs president of the political party Momentum made anti-Semitic, anti-Roma, homophobic comments in 2010 – he now apologized	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
3.	5 <sup>th</sup> of February	Consumer protection complaint transferred	APF Legal Actions
4.	6 <sup>th</sup> of February	Slomó Köves appears on István Hollik flyer	Community News and Responses
5.	6 <sup>th</sup> of February	Having made numerous anti-Semitic and extremist statements, Adrián Magvasi is still a regular guest of Hír TV	Other News
6.	7 <sup>th</sup> of February	House search held at the Gede Brothers Publishing House	Official News and Responses
7.	8 <sup>th</sup> of February	Once again Zsolt Bayer portrayed Jews in a negative light, his article shows serious deficiencies of knowledge	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
8.	8 <sup>th</sup> of February	István Vágó's "strange" statement whips up a storm	Further Hate Incidents
9.	8 <sup>th</sup> of February	Court ruling passed on man who wore a swastika	Official News and Responses
10.	9 <sup>th</sup> of February	Church service dedicated to Horthy celebrated	Other News
11.	10 <sup>th</sup> of February	"Day of Honor" held again in Budapest	Further Hate Incidents
12.	11 <sup>th</sup> of February	DK denounced the "Day of Honor" – but mixed two separate events together	Official News and Responses
13.	12 <sup>th</sup> of February	Jobbik candidate for Member of Parliament quotes Hitler and Szálasi	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
14.	12 <sup>th</sup> ; 20 <sup>th</sup> ; 22 <sup>nd</sup> of February	Slomó Köves queried about EMIH and political participation	Community News and Responses
15.	14 <sup>th</sup> of February	The number of publicly accessible anti-Semitic videos has decreased on account of TEV	Other News
16.	23 <sup>rd</sup> of February	László Toroczka shares his exclusionist opinion on his social network page	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
17.	23 <sup>rd</sup> of February	Inflammatory flyer in a by-election campaign	Further Hate Incidents
18.	26 <sup>th</sup> of February	Abuse in the shop called Kosher Market	Further Hate Incidents

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## CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection Foundation is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread anti-Semitic manifestations.

In case anyone faces insults or anti-Semitic 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 10 00 00**

The website of Action and Protection Foundation: [www.tev.hu/forrodrot](http://www.tev.hu/forrodrot)  
The Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany](https://www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany)

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

**13597539-12302010-00057157**

Contact details for Action and Protection Foundation  
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The publisher wishes to thank Dr. András Kovács, sociologist,  
Professor at CEU, for all the encouragement and helpful advice.

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

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publisher and such use must properly cite this report as a reference.

2018 Budapest

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