

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

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MARCH 2018



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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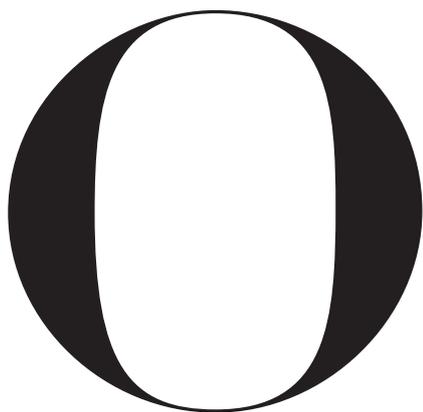
Executive Summary	5
Action and Protection Foundation	6
Unity	6
Brussels Institute	6
About the Report	7
Methodology	9
Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents — March 2018	12
Hate speech	12
Vandalism	12
Further Hate Incidents	13
Community news and responses	14
Official and civil responses	18
News and opinions about anti-Semitism in Hungary	20
Other news	22
Action and Protection Foundation legal actions	24
The Month's Chronicle	25
Contact and Support	26
References	26
Contributors and Publisher Information	26



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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 two anti-Semitic hate incidents this month, which belong in the category of hate speech and vandalism. The first case involved "Jew-baiting" on Kossuth Square during the national celebrations of 15 March. Two protesters addressed a camera operator working on-site for a news website. One of the men asked the camera operator not to take photographs, while the other, standing closer to the camera added, "Let him carry on. The kid's a cripple Jew." In the other case, the Érd offices of a political party were vandalized. According to a statement issued by the party, swastikas were painted on a sign and a display case.

No incidents were registered in the category of further anti-Semitic hate incidents this month.

The Foundation did not initiate legal actions this month, and received no information regarding progress in any of the cases initiated earlier.

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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 – MARCH 2018

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During March, Action and Protection Foundation identified two anti-Semitic hate incidents, one in the category of hate speech, and the other in vandalism.

### HATE SPEECH

*Jew-baiting and scuffles reported  
at the national celebrations*

Source: 24.hu

**15 March 2018** The news portal 24.hu gave a video report of a demonstration, the Peace March in support of the government, called on the occasion of the national holiday on 15 March. The material from Kos-

suth Square in Budapest shows that apparently the presence of the person filming – and the camera – bothered a number of persons there. Some gave expression to their discomfort through vulgar speech, and others by pushing the equipment away. In an other shot, demonstrators were seen trying to send off a few young people, who had turned up though visibly did not belong among them. Two men around 40 also appear in the video, one only asked the cameraman to stop filming, but the man closer to the camera added: *“Let him carry on. The kid’s a cripple Jew.”*

### VANDALISM

*Democratic Coalition office in  
Érd vandalized*

Sources: MTI; propeller.hu

**25 March 2018** On 25 March, the party offices of the Democratic Coalition (DK) was discovered to have been vandalized by unknown individuals. According to the party’s statement, swastikas had been painted onto a sign and a display case. The DK Press Office wrote, *“this approach brings bad memories from the thirties and forties of the previous century to mind.”* DK requested a police investigation of the site, and filed a complaint against an unknown individual. No photographs were released of the incident.



Source: 24.hu

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## **FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS**

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In the course of its monitoring during March 2018, Action and Protection Foundation identified no incidents that belonged in this category.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*“Business and Jewry” – TEV response  
to the 15 February article  
in Magyar Narancs  
Source: tev.hu*

**1 March 2018** Kálmán Szalai, Secretary of Action and Protection Foundation had to respond to a statement made in a journal article on 15 February. In the national weekly *Magyar Narancs*, Gergely Miklós Nagy published a lengthy article with the title *“Több mint kóser”* (More than kosher) dealing with the growth of the EMIH community, and the state support it had received, even dedicating half a sentence to Action and Protection Foundation (TEV). According to the piece, TEV *“accounts for government support in the tens of millions”*, and in return *“always draws attention to the anti-Semitism of Jobbik, while remaining silent about the government’s anti-Soros campaign”*.

The author of the article disregards the diversity of the Foundation’s activities: over the last six years, TEV has published a monthly report on anti-Semitic incidents and manifestations in Hungary. With the cooperation of the Medián Opinion and Market Research Ltd., it has prepared a representative annual survey of tendencies in measurable anti-Semitic prejudice in Hungarian society. Its legal work includes initiation of 98 criminal procedures for Holocaust denial, offences to the dignity of communities, and other hate incidents. On the basis of our initiative in 2013, the Facebook page of kuruc.info, with over seventy thousand followers was deleted. With the help of our legal partners in the United States, we succeeded in having Béla Varga, owner of kuruc.info and the man who registered its domain, arrested, making it impossible for him to continue making a living within the United States.

TEV took part in the preparation of the 4th amendment of the Basic Law, which establishes the constitutional principle of the dignity of communities. We initiated the

harmonization of the criminal offence of incitement against a community as defined by the Hungarian Criminal Code with the European framework laws, and cooperated in the amendment of the law regulating the use of symbols of autocratic regimes. In the framework of our educational program, we have held awareness-raising lectures for over 2,000 students in 37 high schools, and 298 teachers have participated in our teacher-training program. Within the framework of our program developed with the National University of Public Service, police officers taking part in the training are acquainted with the basic ideas of Jewry, as well as learning about the nature of hate crime and the legal framework to combat it.

Our work – contrary to what was stated as fact in the article – does not currently receive, and has not received any form of state support since 2015.

Regarding the purported “silence” mentioned in the article, Slomó Köves has made numerous statements when government communications that were of concern to Jewry have become known, while renowned experts from Hungary and abroad analyzed the issues with the anti-Soros campaign and criticized it categorically at TEV’s international conference in November 2017. When national television quoted Ayatollah Khomeini to call Soros an *“evil Zionist billionaire”*, contrary to all accusations, we qualified this as an anti-Semitic hate speech in our – freely accessible – report of May 2017. The infamous post shared by János Pócs, a government member of parliament, with a pig (inscribed “he was next”, next translates as soros in Hungarian), was also denounced by our Foundation (*“Antiszemítizmus, szellemi mosdatlanság”* [Anti-Semitism, the unwashed intellect], 168óra, 21 December 2017). From time to time, positive statements and memorials for Miklós Horthy create controversy and, every time, EMIH and TEV have criticized these ideas. Simi-

larly, our Foundation has protested the numerous times that memorials were planned for Bálint Hóman and György Donáth. We have even proposed a “guide to erecting statues”. Because of our efforts, there are no longer public space named after Bálint Hóman, or József Nyírő.

The “tens of millions of support” mentioned in the article gives the reader the false impression that TEV ensures the resources required for its operation from state funds. Contrary to this, the fact is that it continues its work through the support of the organization led by its founder, EMIH – the secretary of our Foundation, Kálmán Szalai concluded his response.

*Dániel Bodnár: “The operational model of Jobbik poisons society”*  
Source: Magyar Hírlap

**2 March 2018** “It is absurd that renowned liberal and leftist intellectuals want to cooperate with Gábor Vona and his party, and show support for any form of union”, Dániel Bodnár, President of Action and Protection Foundation declared.

“You can’t make bacon out of a Hungarian Vizsla”, Dániel Bodnár paraphrased a Hungarian proverb about how it is impossible to make bacon from dogs. He stated this during an interview with the national daily *Magyar Hírlap*, as the President of the Foundation responded to Gergely Rubi’s following statement in Echo Tv: “Even members of the board of Jobbik harassed Jews and Gypsies on a daily basis. They still do.” The former Member of Parliament for Jobbik added, the peoples’ party campaign, the cute image is only the sugar-coating. He recounted, how “on a faction meeting in Mezőkövesd we started talking about Jew-baiting, and Gábor Vona said, he would like to go to the men’s bathroom and see, when taking a piss, which of my fellow MPs are circumcised.”

Bodnár made it clear: “Our stance is consistent: until Jobbik does not formulate a public and general statement about how the earlier behavior of the party was a mistake, and that it had tried to disseminate an operational model that is detrimental to political life and poisonous for the whole of Hungarian society (...), till

that time we consider Jobbik a quasi neo-Nazi party based on a general consensus”. He emphasized, this approach cannot change even if on the level of gestures, the party has given voice to notions over the last months that are different from its earlier attitudes, the ranks of the party are still filled by people who have earlier held, and still hold views that are traditionally seen as neo-Nazi.

“It is simply appalling that the idea could even be broached”, Ádám Mirkóczki, spokesperson of Jobbik reacted to Gergely Rubi’s statements to the daily, *Magyar Hírlap*. He stressed that the party was not interested in TEV’s opinion, since such a question, and any other related issues have nothing to do with politics or a normal campaign.

*TEV participates in Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism*  
Source: Action and Protection

**19–20 March 2018** The 6<sup>th</sup> Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism (GFCA2018)



Source: Action and Protection

was held in Jerusalem between 19 and 21 March this year, organized by the Foreign Ministry of Israel. Action and Protection Founda-

tion also received an invitation to the event, and was represented there by Secretary Kálmán Szalai. Speeches were given by Naftali Bennett, Israeli Minister for Education, and the President of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), Ronald Lauder.

On the second day, the Israeli Minister of Justice Ajelet Saked gave a presentation criticizing Twitter for its role in spreading online anti-Semitism. Saked suggested legal steps, since in his opinion “terrorist organizations can disseminate terrorism and incite violence through Twitter”. Nathan Sharansky, Chairman of the Jewish Agency (Sochnut) spoke about how many people say they are friends to Jews, but at the same time are hostile towards the state of Israel. “We cannot consider them the friends of the Jewish people”. As a follow-up to the subjects discussed with Nathan Sharansky on his most recent

January visit, TEV Secretary Kálmán Szalai informed the Chairman of the Jewish Agency about the general atmosphere among the Hungarian Jewish communities, and the news and public activities concerning Jewry in the run up to national elections.

One of the most important speakers of the third day was Abraham Foxman, former National Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). He also emphasized



Source: Action and Protection

the alarming levels of on-line incitement to hatred in his speech. *“Technology has changed anti-Semitism. The internet has wiped out civilized discourse. Therefore, the internet means a serious challenge”*. Manuel Valls, former French Prime minister spoke

about the French history of anti-Semitism in his presentation in the last section, the Dreyfus affair among others. Valls praised the stand taken by Zola and Clemenceau, but also made a positive mention of Tivadar Herzl.

TEV had opportunity to continue bilateral discussions with representatives of the other organizations present, and to coordinate the state of projects currently underway, as well as agree the action plans for the upcoming period. On these premises, TEV Secretary Szalai met with Katharina von Schnurbein, the European Commission’s Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism about making cooperation with enforcement authorities more effective, the experiences gained through the educational programs of TEV, and opportunities for their further development. The issue of a European regulation dealing with hate speech was also discussed in the meeting, analyzing risks and advantages in regards to the various tabled proposals. The Foundation’s Secretary also held talks with the leaders of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the American Jewish Council (AJC) and the Community Security Trust (CST), which protects the Jewish community in Britain. They discussed the results of the joint initiatives to identify hate speech in social media and stop it and ways this could progress.

Hungarian Ambassador Andor Nagy, at the head of the Hungarian diplomatic delegation in Israel, and Gábor Galik, Head of Department at the Hungarian Prime Minister’s Office on the part of the Hungarian government, as well as representatives of the Tom Lantos Institute and Mazsihisz were also present.

*Yossi Amrani: “Anti-Semitism still exists, but Hungarian Jews can live in security”*

Source: fuhu.hu

**22 March 2018** A line must be drawn between justified criticism and worrying stereotypes noted by people and the reactions they elicit, said Israeli Ambassador to Hungary Yossi Amrani in an interview given to the Független Hírügynökség (Independent News Agency). Ambassador Amrani was asked his opinion on the number of political campaigns in recent years, which according to many had anti-Semitic overtones. He said he was careful with the use of the word anti-Semitism. According to his definition, *“to be an anti-Semite simply means that someone has certain particular views about the Jewish people and Israel.*

*If he thinks in a way about an individual [...] that does not mean anti-Semitism. Someone can have an opinion about individuals, it is permissible to criticize Israel, up to the point that this is not accompanied by anti-Semitic overtones. To me, an anti-Semitic tone means that prejudices and superstitions about certain Jews are generalized.”* In the same line, he was also



Source: Izraeli Nagykövetség – fuhu.hu

asked about the photo of the pig inscribed with Soros, posted by János Pócs in December. He was of the opinion: *“If someone takes a picture that can be related to a well-known Jew, and it is a killed pig that we see, I would call that insensitivity, bad taste, and a lack of adequate value judgment.”* He also added though, if this is repeated, and people feel that this, or the general tone of voice incites against Jews, and *“recalls various horrendous images from the past, then this is a serious threat to society, beyond anti-Semitism.”*

In response to questions about Hungarian anti-Semitism, Amrani said that the Jewish community in Hungary was safe, the Hungarian government supports the Jewish way of life and history. Going further he said, *“The numbers and incidents around the world indicate that the horror of anti-Semitism still exists.”* Opinion surveys in Hungary also show that anti-Semitism is present. *“There are people who hold certain opinions, certain views, which can be considered anti-Semitic”*, he added.

*Let us stand together  
against anti-Semitism*

Sources: Action and Protection;  
makohirado.hu; mno.hu;  
mazsihisz.hu; mandiner.hu

**23 and 27 March 2018** TEV put out a statement on its own website: *“TEV calls on Mazsihisz to continue their membership in the TEV Board of Trustees, and at the same time to take measures in order that none of its leaders supports an anti-Semitic political community in the name of Mazsihisz. Action ought to be taken in order that Miklós Erdélyi cannot represent Hungarian Jewry.”*

The statement was a response to the leader of the Hódmezővásárhely Mazsihisz community, Miklós Erdélyi who attended a Jobbik campaign event and gave a speech calling on locals to vote for Attila Kiss, the Jobbik candidate.

TEV stated that Attila Kiss joins the parliamentary faction of Jobbik, including people who are well-known for their anti-Semitic actions, statements and opinions

and are sure to have a parliamentary seat in 2018 as they are at the top of the party list. These members of the faction have not recanted their earlier statements, nor has the party distanced itself from them.

Action and Protection Foundation does all it can to marginalize the extreme-right in Hungarian public life. TEV seeks to work together with Mazsihisz towards this goal and asks the organization to take determined steps in order that no one who appears in public as a supporter of an anti-Semitic party is allowed to represent Jewry.

In reply to queries from mandiner.hu, Miklós Erdélyi said that he had not spoken in the name of his congregation, but in his own name, and on behalf of “left-leaning” people. In his opinion *“Jobbik has changed over the last three–four years, for the better. The democratic character traits have been strengthened”*. To affirm his point of view he added, *“This is the example of Churchill: he allied himself with the greatest dictator, Stalin, to send Hitler to hell. He had no scruples, because that was the greatest threat.”*

MAZSIHISZ issued the following statement: *“Miklós Erdélyi, president of our member congregation in Hódmezővásárhely, campaigned for the local independent candidate of Jobbik. The member congregations of MAZSIHISZ are independent in many ways, and we do not have the means to ban Miklós Erdélyi from engaging in party politics, but we do not accept any community with his statements, MAZSIHISZ does not participate in party politics, does not agitate for political parties now, and will not do so in the future.”*

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*Indictment against members  
of the Magyar Nemzeti Arcvonal  
(Hungarian National Front)*

Sources: ugyeszseg.hu; 168ora.hu

**12 March 2018** In the course of police operations and house searches targeting an extremist political organization in autumn 2016, police found firearms, ammunition and explosives. The case has altogether



Source: 168ora.hu

eight accused – the Budapest Chief Prosecutor’s office statement says.

According to the indictment, seven of the accused kept firearms, ammunition, and explosives in their homes without permits, while their eighth accomplice assisted in the illegal purchase of weapons that require authorization. In the course of the house searches, spread across a number of locations, more than 30 firearms, thousands of rounds of ammunition, parts of firearms, and in the case of one of the accused nearly a kilo of explosives were seized.

Against two of the accused, the Prosecutor’s Office also filed an indictment for preparation for violence against members of a specific community. The Hungarian National Front is a hierarchically structured paramilitary organization grounded in extremist political ideology, it published numerous anti-migrant and anti-Jew articles through 2015 and 2016 on affiliated websites, with the aid of the two accused

mentioned above. The texts published incited hatred against people belonging to the above communities.

The organization held military camps for its members: in addition to training in military tactics, physical fitness and martial arts, ideological indoctrination also formed a part of the training. The texts authored by the accused, the recruitment of members to the Hungarian National Front, and the military-camp training combined, carry the concrete threat of violent assault against members of the mentioned groups.

The process of preparation for violent assault against members of the community was interrupted by the police action. The Budapest Prosecutor’s Office will be filing the indictment for the crime of abuse of firearms, ammunition and explosives and the offence of preparation for violence against the members of a community with the competent court on Monday.

*Extreme right arms trafficker  
apprehended in Hungary*

Sources: propeller.hu; index.hu;  
hvg.hu; 444.hu

**28 March 2018** Mario Rönsch sold gas pistols to the value of over 100 thousand euros through his since banned website Migrantenschreck (Migrant-dread), according to the news. Detectives suspect Rönsch behind the web store, which sold illegal arms firing rubber bullets to at least 193 clients recently. The website, which is a favorite among neo-Nazis, offered arms, especially gas pistols, against migrants and extreme leftists. According to German news sources the arms dealer was apprehended in Hungary, not far from the Malaysian embassy, in Pasarét.

*Deutsche Welle*, the German public media channel said the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and ARD Television had explored the matter in close detail. They had found that there may be Russian links, since Anonymous.

ru and Patrioten.ru also advertised the Migrantenschreck website. The content spread by these hate-inciting websites is extreme right, anti-Semitic, and Holocaust relativizing – questioning the qualitative difference between the Holocaust and other historical tragedies. The suspect is embedded in the far-right subculture in Germany and was earlier a member of the party called Alternative for Germany (AfD).

The weekly journal *HVG* noted that Rönsch has been living in Hungary since 2016 and has used Russian websites to incite against refugees in Germany. He managed his online store from here as well. Rönsch considered the weapons he recommends effective against not only refugees, but also antifascists. “*Whether you keep it in the drawer or the cupboard, or takes it along to the next antifascist demonstration – this product is bound to enhance your sense of security significantly*”, Rönsch wrote.

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## NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN HUNGARY

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*International press review about  
the Prime Minister's March 15 speech*

Sources: fuhu.hu;  
alfahir.hu; b1.blog.hu

**16 March 2018** The international press reported Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's speech in Budapest on 15 March. Some of the Hungarian press interpreted parts of the Prime Minister's speech as a threat, with regard to the situation, which would follow the elections.

 According to the **Guardian** Viktor Orbán turned to far-right rhetoric and stated that Europe is flooded by a wave of refugees. In his opinion, the states that do not take steps against this invasion will be lost. At the same time, he positioned the parliamentary elections as an "*existential conflict*", a fight for existence from the point of view of the survival of Hungary and the continent. The tone of the Prime Minister's attack on Soros carried, in the opinion of critics, a coded anti-Semitic message. They emphasized that the regime portrays the investor as someone who diabolically manipulates the puppets and strikes at Europe with his stimulus for migration.

In their reviews, **The New York Times** and **The Washington Post** followed the **Associated Press** in highlighting the apocalyptic vision Viktor Orbán drew of Western Europe. The American papers recounted that the Hungarian Prime Minister had even drawn the ire of Prince Zeid bin Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein, current United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with his constant tirades against migrants (refugees): the official called the Prime Minister

a racist, a xenophobe and a dictator, and described his rhetoric as "misguided". The reviews also referred to the threats meant for the opposition, underscoring that the Prime Minister tries to paint his rivals as being directed from abroad.



The **Der Standard** consistently referred to the Prime Minister as a "*radical rightist*". They reported that the Hungarian Prime Minister gave a show of strength with a huge mass event, at which he said that a great battle, greater than any before was approaching, because outsiders want to take away the land of the Hungarians. Certain forces are intent, he added, to get Hungarians to voluntarily hand over their country to outsiders over the following decades. The central theme of the election campaign is the fear of immigrants, of refugees. The Hungarian government hardly allows in any refugees, and those who are allowed to stay also carry on moving westwards. Since they receive no support in Hungary, they are not offered any help for integration.

About the Peace March (Békemenet) they wrote that it was a demonstration of force leading up to the elections on 8 April.

 **Die Welt** addressed the festive speech of 15 March and the April elections taking a larger perspective. It presented the holiday as a trial of strength for the Hungarian parties since the elections were around the corner. Viktor Orbán took hundreds of thousands onto the streets, while the opposition only managed thousands. They also wrote about the Peace March (Békemenet), which has not actually set off

for years. Participants were brought from all over the country by bus, and Polish sympathizers took part. The article in *Die Welt* also looked at the events organized by Jobbik, and quoted Gábor Vona, who made it clear: candidates of the party would not withdraw in favor of any other party's candidate, because a majority of their voters would not support this. He added that their sympathizers had rightwing convictions, so they would rather vote for Fidesz than the left wing candidates.

*Eli Hazan: "It is frightening that an alliance of the radical right and the parties on the left may be realized in Hungary"*

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

**21 March 2018** Eli Hazan, the Foreign Affairs Director of the Israeli Likud party published an opinion piece in the *Figyelő* regarding the Hungarian elections on 8 April and the political relationships this has engendered, as well as Hungarian anti-Semitism.

He starts his article by mentioning that Hungary gained international attention in 2017, because of the Soros campaign. He notes, that though Hungarian Jews criticized their government's campaign and denounced it vehemently, as anti-Semitism on state level, in his opinion, the organizations supported by Soros endanger the security of Hungary, Israel, and other western nations. Regarding the elections, he raised the issue that *"presently the anti-Semitic Jobbik wants to bring about an alliance with the parties on the left."*

He notes that Jobbik was founded in 2003 to *"offer a real alternative to the far right electorate"*. In the election campaign of 2014, their emphasis was no longer on the traditional anti-Semitic rhetoric and anti-Roma politics; they campaigned for order. Meanwhile, Hazan brought many examples of

the anti-Semitism of Jobbik. He gave the example of István Apáti (who envisioned a Jewish conspiracy in Hungary), Gábor Vona (who said that if he found out he was Jewish, he would resign his post as party president immediately, and called Israeli investors *"conquerors"* at an event), Márton Gyöngyösi (who proposed that people in Hungarian politics of Jewish origin should be listed), and Gergely Kulcsár (who spat in the *Shoes by the Danube* memorial). He added, *"It is frightening that an alliance of the radical right and the parties on the left could be realized in Hungary: Increasing numbers on the left say that they accept Jobbik as legitimate participants."* In his opinion Jobbik had not changed, their turning into a people's party is merely a campaign tactic.

To conclude, he explained that Hungary has an extended Jewish community of around 100 thousand individuals, whose large majority supports the left according to the opinion surveys. *"They need only look back on those times when liberal forces helped the Nazis to power in Germany."*

*The Guardian: Anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim campaign by Hungarian government*

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

**31 March 2018** In an opinion piece that appeared in *The Guardian*, Nick Cohen, a journalist at *The Observer* wrote about the approaching Hungarian elections. The current government is trying to win the elections with anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim propaganda, he opines. *"[Orbán] has come up with a novel combination of anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim bigotry,"* Cohen writes, and then shows that the government has made George Soros enemy of the people. Nick Cohen points out, *"As Soros does not command a government, Fidesz would have struggled to explain how he could flood Europe with Muslims."*

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## OTHER NEWS

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*Flags burned by far-right political organization*

Source: varosikurir.hu

**8 March 2018** The extreme-right Hungarian movement called Strength and Determination, a fusion of the Outlaws' Army and Identitesz, held a remembrance on memorial day for the victims of communism on Szabadság Square in Budapest. According to János Lantos, member of the board of directors, the most fundamental elements of



Source: youtube.com

Bolshevism are not economic issues but that they declare war on God, the homeland, and the family. They think they will cleanse Hungarian public life of those parties and politicians, who think differently about this matter. On this account, they burned MSZP (Hungarian Socialist Party) and DK (Democratic Coalition) flags at the memorial in Szabadság Square adding, *"This was the least that Strength and Determination could do to them"*. Zsolt Tyirityán and Balázs László also spoke at the event, the usual exclusionist ideas were regurgitated in their speeches – among them *"I hold out by my race"*.

*According to Ádám Mirkóczki Jobbik was not a Nazi party even before its turn*

Sources: magyaridok.hu; mandiner.hu; zoom.hu; szegedma.hu;

**20–23 and 26 March 2018** Ádám Mirkóczki, the spokesperson for Jobbik, gave an interview to Zugló TV. In the interview, he practically denied the pre-2010 era of the party and stated that in fact the party was not what it had seemed in the radical period. Tamás Gaudi-Nagy, former MP for Jobbik called this the *Őszöd* speech of the party (referring to Ferenc Gyurcsány's speech, admitting lies, and eliciting strong protests and public outcry in 2006) in the daily *Magyar Idők*, and also made it clear that the earlier radical sympathizers of the party had been spat on. In the above interview Mirkóczki also spoke about how director Róbert Alföldi *"is not only acceptable, but a requirement for a normal country"*. In comparison, the party had even organized a public demonstration against Alföldi in 2010. In radio broadcasts from 2010 and 2011 on Szent Korona Radio (posted now by Mandiner.hu), Adrián Magvasi, a Jobbik candidate for Parliament, and "Robertina" András, currently a Jobbik MP for Budapest, referred to Alföldi as *"Farföldi"* (far means back, and föld means land in Hungarian). In the discussion György Szilágyi, MP for Jobbik says, *"The shame hangs over us unquestioned, since he is the director of the National Theater"*.

A few days later, Mirkóczki gave another statement to zoom.hu. He responded to a statement by Gergely Karácsony (MSZP-P candidate for prime minister) in *Magyar Narancs* about how the Nazis in Jobbik are not active at the moment because *"they have been forbidden to voice their Nazi convictions"*. Karácsony opined that someone who switches moral convictions should be kept at an arm's length, because they may easily switch back.

*“Plain stupidity”*, Ádám Mirkóczki said. *“We haven’t been Nazis till now”*, the spokesperson for Jobbik added, who qualified as appalling the suggestion made by Karácsony, that a cooperation with the party lead by Gábor Vona (Jobbik) would be possible in single-member constituencies, only if the candidate is not Nazi. The Jobbik Press room later issued a statement saying: *“Our aim is to replace the government, not Gergely Karácsony: Karácsony offended the voters of Jobbik. We would never do such a thing with the people on the left. We count on them as well, for the electoral win.”*

Related to this news, Gábor Demszky, former mayor of Budapest, posted a video – prepared to fight Jobbik in the 2014 elections – on his Facebook social site, in which the infamous anti-Semitic speech given by Márton Gyöngyösi proposing that Jews be listed can be seen, along with reactions to it. *“I recommend this parliamentary speech, among others, along with the lead in, to the attention of those who consider Jobbik a partner, and legitimize it (...).”*

*Miklós Radnóti Anti-Racist Prize awarded*

Sources: MTI; 168ora.hu; nepszava.hu

**21 March 2018** The anti-racist award named after the poet Miklós Radnóti was bestowed on the recipients on the International Day Against Racial Discrimination on 21 March. The Hungarian Federation of Resistance Fighters and Antifascists (MEASZ) established the award in 2000. The prize was given to its 14 awardees for the 18th time this year.

The prize winners are: the editorial board of 168 Óra; Mariann Falusi and Györgyi Lang; actor, theater manager Tamás Jordán; Managing Director of Kossuth Publishing, András Sándor Kocsis; author, litterateur, journalist, Judit Láng; Magyar Békesszövetség (Hungarian Peace Alliance); Hungarian Helsinki Committee; constitutional lawyer László Majtényi; Mayor of Nyírbátor, Antal Máté; author István Sz. Konecz; actor József Székhelyi; Mayor of Szentes, Imre Szirbik; Council Member for Budapest 13th District, Ferenc Takács; and university professor László Trencsényi.

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**ACTION AND  
PROTECTION FOUNDATION  
LEGAL ACTIONS**

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Action and Protection Foundation did not initiate any legal actions this month. There was no progress reached in previous cases either.

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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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

No.	Date	Esemény	Kategória
1.	1 <sup>st</sup> of March	"Business and Jewry" – TEV response to the 15 February article in Magyar Narancs	Community News and Responses
2.	2 <sup>nd</sup> of March	Dániel Bodnár: <i>"The operational model of Jobbik poisons society"</i>	Community News and Responses
3.	8 <sup>th</sup> of March	Flags burned by far-right political organization	Other News
4.	12 <sup>th</sup> of March	Indictment against members of the Magyar Nemzeti Arcvonal (Hungarian National Front)	Official News and Responses
5.	15 <sup>th</sup> of March	Jew-baiting and scuffles reported at the national celebrations	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
6.	16 <sup>th</sup> of March	International press review about the Prime Minister's March 15 speech	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
7.	19-20 <sup>th</sup> of March	TEV participates in Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism	Community News and Responses
8.	20-23 and 26 <sup>th</sup> of March	According to Ádám Mirkóczki Jobbik was not a Nazi party even before its turn	Other News
9.	21 <sup>st</sup> of March	Eli Hazan: <i>"It is frightening that an alliance of the radical right and the parties on the left may be realized in Hungary"</i>	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary
10.	21 <sup>st</sup> of March	Miklós Radnóti Anti-Racist Prize awarded	Other News
11.	22 <sup>nd</sup> of March	Yossi Amrani: <i>"Anti-Semitism still exists, but Hungarian Jews can live in security"</i>	Community News and Responses
12.	23 <sup>rd</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> of March	Let us stand together against anti-Semitism	Community News and Responses
13.	25 <sup>th</sup> of March	Democratic Coalition office in Érd vandalized	Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism
14.	28 <sup>th</sup> of March	Extreme right arms trafficker apprehended in Hungary	Official News and Responses
15.	31 <sup>st</sup> of March	The Guardian: Anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim campaign by Hungarian government	News and Opinions about Anti-Semitism in Hungary

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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

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