

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

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YEARLY SUMMARY

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2016



ACTION AND PROTECTION  
FOUNDATION



**HATE MOTIVATED CRIMES  
OF THE YEAR 2016 IN HUNGARY  
BY ACTION AND PROTECTION  
FOUNDATION**



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## 1. JANUARY

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There was no monitored incident.

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## 2. FEBRUARY

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APF identified 9 incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during February monitoring. APF classified 1 incident as vandalism and the other 8 incidents as hate speech.

### VANDALISM

**The menorah was stolen from the Holocaust memorial in Zalaegerszeg**

*Zalaegerszeg, Zala County*

*Source: MTI, Zalaegerszegi Hírlap*

On the weekend of 27-28 February, unknown culprits stole the menorah from the Holocaust memorial that was set up in Zalaegerszeg in 2005.



Holocaust memorial with menorah in Zalaegerszeg, Source: Szombat

### HATE SPEECH

**Gypsies and Jews cannot become members of Betyársereg**

*Budapest*

*Source: YouTube*

A citizen reported to APF that, on 5 February, a video introducing Betyársereg was shared on YouTube. Leader of the organization, Zsolt Tyirityán, states in the video that Gypsies and Jews are not able to become members of Betyársereg.

### Outbreak Day

*Székesfehérvár, Fejér County*

*Source: ATV*

On 6 February, organizations with the Arrow Cross Party's spirits held a commemoration ceremony in Székesfehérvár. Új Magyar Gárda (ÚMG, New Hungarian Guard), Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom (HVIM, Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement) and Betyársereg were among the organizers.

The Day of Honor at the Buda Castle and an event titled »Remember the heroes of the outbreak!« both commemorated the victims of the German-Hungarian military attempts to break out from the Soviet encirclement of Buda on 11 February 1945. Participants commemorated the victims with a mass, a concert, and the wearing of SS uniforms and helmets. Jobbik vice-president, Előd Novák, was also going to participate in the event, but he canceled his participation in the end. He said he was surprised when he saw the program, by which he probably referred to former member of the Waffen-SS, Klaus Grotjahn, who was invited to but later excused himself from the event for health reasons.

Leader of Betyársereg, Zsolt Tyirityán, who was one of the main speakers at the event, shouted "Glory to the Waffen-SS" into the microphone. Then, he called Szálasi's coup of 15 October "the basis of Hungarism" because, according to him, there would be no Day of Honor without that, as Hungarians would have laid down their arms to the Soviets by then. Tyirityán called Soviets "the delegates of the devil".



March of Outbreak Day in Székesfehérvár, Source: Feol.hu

### SS veteran's speech in Kisbér

*Kisbér, Komárom-Esztergom County*

*Source: Kemma.hu*

After the neo-Nazi march in Székesfehérvár on 6 February, SS veteran Klaus Grotjahn gave his speech privately in a night club in Kisbér.

### Outbreak memorial tour with Jobbik Óbuda

*Budapest*

*Source: Index, YouTube*

On 7 February, Jobbik Óbuda organized a memorial tour for Outbreak Day. The route followed the path that Hungarian and German soldiers used to flee in 1945. The event this year started off with a commemoration ceremony where Jobbik vice-president Előd Novák said that “we need to break out of Shimon Peres and his kind's blockade. It is acquirers we need to face. They invade our country differently, they seize our country differently.”



Előd Novák at the commemoration ceremony before the Outbreak tour, Source: Facebook

### László Toroczkai's comment about the Jews

*Ásotthalom, Csongrád County*

*Source: László Toroczkai's Facebook profile*

On 8 February, APF received a citizen notification that mayor of Ásotthalom and leader of the Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement László Toroczkai submitted a comment to a post that presented research regarding French Jews moving to Israel. The comment of 23 January read: “Somebody please tell them that the main supporters of illegal migration, which causes

their sufferings, are actually people of Jewish origin. In Hungary, for example, Antal Örkeny and Ferenc Kőszeg, leaders and founders of the two migrant support organizations with billions of foreign aid (Menedék Hungarian Association for Migrants and the Hungarian Helsinki Committee), are of Jewish origin. I believe that anyone with Jewish ancestors may, without doubt, become excellent Hungarians. However, Ferenc Kőszeg is of different opinion. He says that »only half-Jews with distorted soul become passionate Hungarians.«” László Toroczkai also attached three photos to his comment, the photos depicted Antal Örkeny, Ferenc Kőszeg and George Soros.



Antal Örkeny, Ferenc Kőszeg and George Soros, Source: László Toroczkai's Facebook profile

### Neo-Nazi march in Veszprém

*Veszprém, Veszprém County*

*Source: veol.hu*

On 11 February, the Sixty-Four Counties Youth Movement held a commemoration ceremony for Outbreak Day in Veszprém. Approximately 30 people attended the event. The Világos Veszprémért Mozgalom (a movement to counter the darkness of hatred and anti-Semitism) held a counter-demonstration at Veszprém's Holocaust memorial.



Outbreak Day ceremony in Veszprém, Source: veol.hu

## Day of Honor

*Budapest*

*Source: MTI, YouTube*

On 13 February at the Buda Castle, far-right organizations held an event named Day of Honor in order to commemorate, similarly to Outbreak Day, soldiers and civilians who tried to break out of the blockade of Soviet troops on 11 February



Day of Honor ceremony in the Buda Castle,  
Source: Magyar Nemzet

1945. The commemoration was organized by the Magyar Nemzeti Arcvonal (MNA, Hungarian National Forefront), the Pax Hungarica Mozgalom (PHM, Pax Hungarica Movement) and the Hungária Skins (HS). Speakers of the event, author and historian Tamás Retkes, representatives of the MNA, the PHM and the Slovak Testvériség (Slovenská Pospolitosť, Slovakian Brotherhood) praised the heroism of the German and Hungarian soldiers who had participated in the outbreak. The majority of the people who attended the event wore either German or Hungarian Second World War uniforms, or uniforms that resembled these. Music from the same era was played through the speakers. Among stretched banners, there was one of the Fehér Magyar Egység (White Hungarian Unit) with an inscription that read “For a free, national and social Hungary”, and there was a banner of “Blood C18 Honor Hungary”, which is the name of a neo-Nazi

organization. Many people brought MNA flags and flags that resembled those of the Arrow Cross Party. Leader of the Pax Hungarica Movement, János Lantos, said the following at the event: “The heroism of the soldiers of the outbreak still shines bright after 70 years, it has been freed from the filth and the lies that it was covered in, and that is why more and more people realize that our grandfathers were not criminals, but soldiers and heroes. They were indeed heroes, and they fought against the worst and most evil power of world history, i.e., Bolshevism marked by Jewish mass murderers. The criminals were not our grandfathers but those on the other side, and we have heard recently that they vandalized an outbreak memorial. It is enough to just take a look at this type of men, and we immediately see their souls are distorted. And this type of men, people who do such things, who disrespect the memory of heroes, are no more than sewer rats, the worst of the scum of humanity.”

A group of 100 anti-demonstrators protested against the commemoration by drumming, beeping their horns and shouting “go home Nazis” and “filthy Nazis”. The two sides were separated by a metal fence and lines of policemen.

After the demonstration was finished, participants went on a tour named »Outbreak 60-35-25 Commemoration tour«.

## Zsolt Bayer’s opinion in the Donáth case

*Budapest*

*Source: Magyar Hírlap*

On 27 February, Magyar Hírlap published »Unbearable (1)«, the first of Zsolt Bayer’s series of articles. In the article, the author stood up for the Donáth statue. The following are those extracts from the article that can be interpreted as hate speech:

“Besides all this, it is high time we said we had had enough of looking at history solely through the suffering of the Jews and writing official records based on that single perspective. Enough, enough, enough!”



“[...] was György Donáth anti-Semitic? Yes, he was. Like many of his contemporaries with unquestionable talent and greatness, without whom there would be no Hungarian culture or history. If it was enough to disinherit someone from the Hungarian pantheon for being anti-Semitic, then we could forget about Sándor Petőfi, Ferenc Herczeg, Dezső Kosztolányi, Sándor Márai, László Németh, Gyula Illyés, Dezső Szabó, Féja, Ferenc Erdei, Zsigmond Móricz — the so-called “people’s writers” (népiek) in general, and numerous great figures of our history. What is more, in many cases anti-Semitism is just an accusation, and people who write something bad or true about the Jews once in their life could immediately be accused of it. Not to mention the fact that the Hungarian Jews who were unfortunately overrepresented in the Hungarian Soviet Republic and the mass murders in 1919, against the will and the intention of many of them, could also be held responsible for evoking mainstream society’s antipathy and anger.”

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## 3. MARCH

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APF identified three incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during March monitoring. APF classified the incidents as vandalism, threat, and hate speech.

### VANDALISM

#### Gallows with a hung Star of David on Árpád-kilátó

Budapest

Source: *Forró Drót* — an individual's Facebook page

On 13 March 2016, APF received information that someone shared a photo on Facebook showing a gallows and a hung Star of David drawn on the wall of Árpád-kilátó.



Gallows with a hung Star of David on Árpád-kilátó, source: an individual's Facebook page

### THREAT

#### Threatening photo on the website of Betyársereg

Budapest

Source: *Betyársereg.hu*

On 8 March 2016, a new photo appeared on the website of Betyársereg. The photo depicts leader of the organization Zsolt Tiryityán and two other people surrounding a fourth individual (presumably all members



Photo on the website of Betyársereg, source: Betyársereg.hu

of Betyársereg). The group is pointing at the “Zyklon B” printing on his T-shirt. Zyklon B was the gas used in the concentration camps to kill victims, so the aim of the photo is clearly to provoke fear.

### HATE SPEECH

#### Zsolt Bayer's series of articles about the Jews

Budapest

Source: *nol.hu*

We wrote about the first of Zsolt Bayer's series of articles in the section titled Anti-Semitic Hate Incidents of our February 2016 report. The series is titled »Intolerable«. In March 2015, another 15 articles were published in Magyar Hírlap. The writings contain numerous anti-Semitic expressions, the majority of which reappear a number of times in the series. For instance, Bayer demonizes Jewish people, he identifies the offenders of the Red Terror during the Hungarian Soviet Republic with Jews, and refers to them as Jews. His anti-Semitic prejudice is exacerbated by claiming that Jews rule the world from the background, and they have control over Hungarian collective memory as well. He says Jews “magnify” the crimes committed against Jewish people, and they “pardon” “Jewish crimes”. Bayer relativizes the Holocaust on multiple occasions: he justifies the introduction of the numerus clausus, he does not mind if a street is named after a man who encouraged

the killings of the Jews, he describes anti-Semitism and Nazism as phenomena that are “masked” as though they were “uniquely terrible”. He says the encouragement to kill Jewish people is just an “allegation” of anti-Semitism. Although Bayer cannot be taken to court for his articles, we do believe his writings are classified as hate speech. The following is a non-exhaustive list of Bayer’s anti-Semitic statements.

*»Intolerable (3)« — 1 March*

“Right. This is exactly the reason why it is time we asked the question why we are surprised. If »Jews« invaded a farmer’s village, beat the priest, the judge and everyone they did not like to death, or hanged them from lamp posts, threatened to turn the village church into a cinema, why are we at all surprised that this simple farmer would feel »no compassion« twenty years later when gendarmerie officers take the Jews away from the village? This is important when we ponder the question of anti-Semitism, and it poses further questions. For example, who can have a statue in this country and who can make such a decision.”

*»Intolerable (10)« — 9 March*

“In other words, sins and virtues are judged and condemned on the grounds of race, as if it was important. As if it was the most important matter. Important in a way that Jewish heritage is an excuse for crimes, while crimes committed against the Jews are considered aggravating factors. Victims of Nazism (mainly Jewish people) object that Nazi crimes are compared to communist crimes because such comparison would decrease the level of their martyrdom and question the uniqueness and singularity of their sufferings. Yet, these crimes are usually put on the same platform, regardless the fact that there is no connection between them. On the other hand, it is important to highlight that the victims of Nazism and the communist offenders have a rather large common subset, and that is the Jews. This may give grounds to my starting allegation that origin is an important issue with regards to the development of collective memory and the judgment of crimes, and Jewish origin

is an excuse for crimes, while crimes committed against the Jews are aggravating circumstances.”

*»Intolerable (11)« — 10 March*

“So let’s face facts. The numerus clausus does not in any way refer to Jewish people, it only mentions different nationalities in Hungary. Let’s not forget that in 1928 Bethlen — as a response to an increasing international pressure — repealed the parts of the law which concerned the Jews. [...] Nonetheless, it was important to make sure that the proportion of students of different nationalities were equal to, but at least nine-tenths of, the proportion of people of the same nationalities or ethnic groups living in the country at the time. (Act XXV of 1920) [...] Still, no one mentions these measures along with the numerous clauses principle, and it is because of the double standards applied. Crimes committed against the Jews are exceptional and unpardonable, while crimes committed against non-Jews (especially when the offenders are Jewish) should be understood, forgotten and not brought up (»put the past behind! «).”

*»Intolerable (12)« — 11 March*

“In 1956, when Arthur Miller was brought before the House of Un-American Activities Committee, he said the following (quoted and translated from László Lengyel: *Írástudók felelőssége?*): »I was probably one of the few Americans who did actually hear Ezra Pound speaking on the radio in fascist Italy once. I thought I was listening to an American radio channel until the speaker started talking about why it was necessary to kill the Jews. His voice was so calm that first I was convinced I was just listening to a desperate comedian making some terrible and inappropriate jokes. Yet, as he carried on talking with his overwhelming enthusiasm, I had to realize he was serious. I was horrified. Europe, — he described happily — which consists of closely related nations, could easily solve its problems on its own. Only the Jews are to blame for this war, they had vowed to take revenge on the Christians, and take control of the world in the meantime. Hitler, thank God, came up

with the only solution, he was wise to realize that he had to exterminate this lousy nation for good.«

A number of cities have streets commemorating Ezra Pound in Italy, there are streets named after him in Rome, Lecce and Tirol. Castle Brunnenburg, which used to serve as Pound's residence, is situated in Tirol and it houses an Ezra Pound collection open for visitors today. There is a commemorative plaque on the building in London where the poet once lived, and there is a restaurant named after him in Perth, Australia.

Pound is just one example to show it is possible to separate one's greatness, talent and lifework from their political engagement! And it is possible to be great and talented despite being accused of anti-Semitism, fascism and Nazism."

»Intolerable (18)« — 19 March

"Confession or denial of past incidents depends on one's motivation, and there is only one thing that motivates these false and biased policies of collective memory, language policy and the writing of official records. This motivation is to deny and conceal the crimes of communism, or if they cannot be denied or concealed, one shall make up excuses for them at least. Make up excuses, explanations and create understanding, and the most understanding and exemption shall be granted to Jewish offenders. Crimes of non-Jewish offenders and crimes against the Jews shall therefore be masked unique, exceptional, terrible and unforgettable."

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## 4. APRIL

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Seven anti-Semitic hate incidents were identified in April in the course of Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity, all falling in the category of hate speech.

### HATE SPEECH

#### Commemoration of Eszter Solymosi

*Tiszaeszlár*

*Source: Indavideo online video portal, YouTube video*

On the 2nd of April, a commemoration was held by the Hungarian National Front in memory of Eszter Solymosi in Tiszaeszlár. Approximately 100 people, including members of several far-right organizations participated in the commemoration. A speech was held by László Tompó Jr. and Magdi Högyesi, both known in Hungarian nationalist, extremist circles. Several elements of the speeches contained references offensive to Jews with the potential interpretation of hate speech. In his speech, László Tompó Jr. made reference to literary and historical authors and works (e.g. József Bari, Lipót Huber) who took it for granted that, in certain Hasidic Jewish communities, ritual murder at Passover and human sacrifice occurred. On the homepage of Indavideo, the text of the video presenting the lawsuit in Tiszaeszlár also assumes that Eszter Solymosi was murdered by the Jews. Extracts from the text: "This is a lawsuit which remained unsolved not only for the past 134

years but for tens of thousands of years. The series of hidden crimes still destroy goy families now which legitimately raises the question: how does the number of detected crimes refer to the number of committed crimes? How can a legal system of a society work in a healthy and effective way by using permanent double standards? But let us stay with the Christian child murdered innocently, for whom the law still hasn't stood



Commemoration in Tiszaeszlár. Source: YouTube

up for. She suffered, she bled to death and became the victim of a Jewish ritual murder under unclear circumstances. The affair known as the "blood libel in Tiszaeszlár" could not have been kept a secret. Especially at Easter, Christian children must die according to Jewish ritual in order to serve as an ingredient for unleavened bread: matzos. (...) That time period is characterized by the fact that the judgment eventually resulted in riots and the accused Jews escaped from the country. Later it became clear that the acquittal of all the accused cost 60 million forints and several civil servants reported corruption. "The video is more than an hour long and starts with a song about the incident, a quotation from the song: "Remember her, light a candle You Hungarian perhaps it will be you tomorrow covered by a tomb. (...) Eszter Solymosi is crying, the hatred is murdering (...), those who take our blood are free to walk away,



The participants of the commemoration of Tiszaeszlár. Source: YouTube

the guilt of this famous city pollutes our air, no press cries, let the Hungarian die, for them, it is no crime.” While struggling with his tears, the head of the Hungarian National Front concluded the commemoration at the bier with the simple line: “In the defense of our nation and homeland, all means are permitted.”

Followed by the speeches, the following organizations placed a wreath to the later established shrines of Eszter Solymosi: Hungarian National Front, Hungarian National Guard, Miskolc Faculty of the Hungarian Self-Defense Movement, Guard Motorcyclists, Hungarist Movement, Hajdúnánás Wing of Jobbik party, Conscience 88 group, Tiszaeszlár wing of Jobbik party, Mountain Hunter Club of Bükk.

The commemoration was uploaded to YouTube where it was viewed by 1017 people.

15 Square. The writing states: “This, in its present form is a lie.” The police requested the staff of APF to go to the site to represent the victim. A member of the staff of APF arrived at the location, the police officers recorded the traces. In the name of the foundation, a complaint was filed. Followed by the trace recording, a member of staff of APF removed the sign.



Holocaust denying sign on Square March 15. Source: Action and Protection Foundation

### Swastika painted on a house at 31 Dob utca Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 4th of April, APF was informed that unknown individuals painted a swastika on the wall of a house at 31 Dob utca, Budapest District 7. The members of the ATID Jewish Youth organization helped APF staff to remove the totalitarian symbol.



Swastika on the wall of the house. Source: Action and Protection Foundation

### Unknown individuals wrote an offensive graffiti against Jews at a commonly used spot in Népliget Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 14th of April, a member of staff from the Action and Protection Foundation discovered an offensive sign against Jews at a commonly used spot in Népliget with a size of nearly 30 centimeters. The graffiti says: “Never trust a Jew.” The text is accompanied by a painted swastika.



### Unknown individuals vandalized a monument at March 15 Square Budapest

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

On the 10th of April, the Police Office of Budapest District 5 called the hotline of APF reporting a Holocaust denying writing on the Holocaust monument at Budapest March

### Lóránd Schuster jew-baiting at a Jobbik event Budapest

Source: ATV

On the 20th of April, Lóránd Schuster was the guest of Jobbik, Budapest District 11 in response to the invitation of the Vice President of Jobbik, Előd Novák.



Schuster and Novák at Jobbik's event. Source: ATV

The public event was organized in relation to the new book of Schuster entitled “Kaptafa” (the title is in relation to a Hungarian saying: “A szuster maradjon a kaptafánál – Let the shoemaker stick to his last” – note of the translator). “Where did the immune system of the Hungarian nation go, my dear ones?” he asked right at the beginning, introducing the essence of his lecture which can be summarized: “The media, controlled by “we all know by whom”, lies to the people day and night, as a result there is a lot of stupidity around so one must reach out for an authentic source of information.” Then he went on: „It was all laid out already in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. It is a forgery of course, but a very perfect one, as everything happens in it as it is written.” The majority of his lecture was about revealing and presuming the Jewish origin of certain musicians and politicians highlighting their roots. The ex-MIÉP rock musician quoted a few sentences from Theodor Herzl and from the London based newspaper, The Jewish Chronicle. He also discussed that the profit of each and every drop of oil goes to the Jews. He also shared that he is planning to write even more books, out of which the last one will be entitled “Antikrisztus/Anti-Christ” and “they will surely not like that”. According to László Semsei, the author of the article at ATV, Schuster declared – after the 90-minute long lecture – that he is keeping fingers crossed for Jobbik in order to remain loyal and to avoid dissolution, like in the case of MIÉP.

#### Unknown Individuals painted swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen

*Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar megye*

*Source: MTI*

An unknown individual or individuals painted an inverted cross and a swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen on the

21st of April – the spokesman of the Chief Police Department of Hajdú-Bihar county informed MTI. Dénes Dobó reported that one of the priests reported the case at noon on Thursday. The police officers went to the scene immediately and started collecting data in order to identify and search for the offender.

The Police Department of Debrecen launched the investigation for the suspicion of committing the crime, vandalism. The investigators started to analyze the recordings of the video surveillance nearby added the spokesman.



Swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen. Source: Népszava

#### Swastika was painted at a popular hiking spot in Bükk mountains

*Bélapátfalva, Heves county*

*Forrás: !!444!!!*

The portal !!444!!! reported on the 12th of April that unknown individuals drew a swastika on the top of Bél-stone, situated near Bélapátfalva, on the stones of the former limestone mine. The mountain, classified as a protected, is part of the Nature Reserve of Bükk.



Swastika on the Great Church of Debrecen. Source: Népszava

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## 5. MAY

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The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified one anti-Semitic hate crime in May, which falls in the category of hate speech.

### HATE SPEECH

#### **Anti-Semitic shouting at the Tatabánya-MTK football game**

*Tatabánya, Komárom-Esztergom county*

*Source: Magyar Nemzet website*

An anonymous eyewitness reported to TEV Foundation on 11 May that during the Tatabánya NB III – MTK II football game some of the guest supporters shouted “filthy Jews”. When one of the MTK supporters shouted back, two of the Tatabánya supporters started a fight, but two employees of MTK intervened and the fight was stopped. The report was confirmed by the fact that the Discipline Committee of MLSZ fined

the MTK 50,000 HUF and the Tatabánya team 300,000 HUF, because the committee determined “they displayed depreciatory and discriminative behavior”. Approximately 50 people were watching the football game.

The reason for this penalty, which is unusual in the third league, in addition to the shouting, was probably because Tatabánya is a recidivist. It was already fined 100,000 HUF because of the verbal abuse of MLSZ President Sándor Csányi. “We are waiting for the written decision of the committee, then we decide about the appeal” reported Zoltán Veér, secretary of the Tatabánya team, to Magyar Nemzet. He also said that he did not pay attention to the events outside the field during the game, but presumably the supporters who follow the team everywhere made anti-Semitic remarks about the MTK team.



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## 6. JUNE

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Action and Protection Foundation identified three anti-Semitic hate incidents in the course of its monitoring, one in the category of vandalism and two in the category of hate speech.

### VANDALISM

#### A stone was thrown through the windows of the synagogue in Gyöngyös

*Gyöngyös, Heves county*

*Source: mazzsishisz.hu*

On the 29th of June, the president of the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities, Péter Weisz, said that police had begun an investigation. The first picture



A stone thrown through a window of the synagogue in Gyöngyös,  
*Source: mazzsishisz.hu*

shows the stone which is approximately eight kilograms and could not have been found around the synagogue therefore it is almost certain that it was carried by the offenders. It is presumed that the crime was intentional.



The broken windows of the Synagogue in Gyöngyös,  
*Source: mazzsishisz.hu*

### HATE SPEECH

#### Complications around the creation of a turul statue in Szentendre

*Szentendre, Pest county*

*Source: 168ora.hu, szentendre.hu, magyarnarancs.hu*

In 2013, the local government of Szentendre decided to give permission for the creation of a turul statue at one of the most popular spots of the city, at the crossroad of Szentendrei and Sztratosvai streets. On the 18th of June 2016, the representative body of the City voted for a local NGO, the Conservative Circle of Szentendre to build the statue. István Holló, the local representative of Jobbik who is storing the statue in his own garden said that “we definitely have to create this statue because we have already announced the inauguration for the second of July.”

The decision of the local government is only a theoretical agreement. The project has not gotten the required legal permissions yet. This was not taken into consideration by the Foundation for the Turul Statue of Szentendre, so they started the foundation at the appointed public area on the 24th of June without the necessary permissions. A group of locals, led by Balázs Horváth the activist of a group called “Living Monument in Szentendre” launched a civil disobedience movement against the creation of the statue.

Mr Horváth, together with his fellow supporters, held a sit-in at the scene on the 24th of June, making it impossible to continue building the foundation. Áron Kubatovics, the local representative of Society for Living Szentendre (TÉSZ), also appeared at the demonstration. He opposed the statue and at the demonstration he emphasized that the attempt to set up the statue is not legitimate, not only because of the idea behind it but also because they lack permission from several competent professional authorities, although the main permission is available.

Balázs Horváth climbed on the pillar and, shortly after, the constructors called the police. According to Mr Horváth, the actions of the police were questionable. It was not clear whether the procedure was undertaken against the builders or against the person who prevented the construction. It was stated that both the construction and the climbing on the base was against the law. Finally, the builder's truck left the scene.



Anti-Semitic writing on the basis of the turul statue;  
Source: [magyarnarancs.hu](http://magyarnarancs.hu)

István Holló and András Filó<sup>1</sup>, both members of the Conservative Circle participated at the construction. The next development was an anti-Semitic message which appeared on the base of the turul statue during the night of the 24th of June. The message read, “Those who are disturbed by the turul statue should move to Israel! Hungary

is our homeland! God bless the Hungarians!” The writing was reported to the hotline of Action and Protection Foundation. A colleague went to the scene and filed a complaint. (We will further report on that in the Legal Actions chapter.)

The mayor of the city, Miklós Verseghi-Nagy and János Holló both condemned the writing. Miklós Verseghi-Nagy, the mayor of the city which has a predominantly Fidesz government, reacted to the hateful writing on his Facebook page. His opinion was published on the webpage of the city on the 27th of June entitled “Szentendre cannot be provoked”: “In the name of the Local Government of Szentendre and also in my own name, I protest against the anti-Semitic writings which appeared at the public areas of the city. I condemn any forms of hateful, discriminating behavior and I express my deepest sympathy for those who are affected in this case. I have already ordered the removal of the writings. I also ordered increased control of the scene by the Public Safety Office. We kindly ask the residents to immediately report any abuse to the local government office which might be experienced.”

#### For Facebook in Hungary, hate speech is acceptable

Source: [444.hu](http://444.hu)

According to the [444.hu](http://444.hu) webpage, on the 21st of June, a photo appeared on Facebook, published by user “Háborús Bűnös”, which illustrates a piece of soap with the following writing: “Son of Saul! This is the way I love you!” Both the photo and the writing are considered hate speech because it refers to the Facebook user’s vision that he would like to see Jews as a piece of soap just like in the movie of András Jeles Nemes.

The author of the article shared the information that he reported this hateful con-

<sup>1</sup> András Filó, ex-member of Parliament of Jobbik, founder of Gárda. Mr. Filó was in the national news in 2010 because anti-Semitic writings appeared in the window of his party-office in Szentendre before the national parliamentary elections, such as “the weapon of Jews is money, don’t put a weapon in his hands.” Mr. Filó denied that he placed the posters himself, according to him, it was an activist. Moreover, there were no such writings at all, and the word “Jews” did not even appear, he explained in front of the cameras of RTL TV channel. He admitted that Viktor Orbán and Antal Rogán were wearing kippah on the poster and Jewish rabbi counting money also appeared. Mr. Filó disagrees with the idea of Jews being always given indemnities and anyway these are the Jews who create anti-Semitism. He elaborated on the real estate investments in Hungary which are financed by the Jewish although “This is Hungary, not Israel” and “the Hungarians are only considered to be Hungarians together with their land”. The politician filed a lawsuit against Népszava, although Court declared legally: because of this concrete case. Mr. Filó has bear the word “Jewbaiter” used by the newspaper.

**Saul fia!**



**Én így szeretlek!**

The photo on the Facebook profile "Háborús bűnös",  
Source 444.hu

tent to Facebook but he got the following response from the Hungarian representative: "We found that the picture does not harm the Community principles." The staff of Action and Protection Foundation also notified Facebook several times that the picture is insulting but they got the same response. Afterwards, a colleague of ours wrote a letter expressing his disagreement but he didn't even get a response. The photo is still available on the profile of Facebook user "Háborús Bűnös". The case is difficult to understand because according to our May report, Facebook accepted the EU Directive of 31st of May, 2016 on hate speech, consequently all content and comments must be eliminated within 24 hours which are categorized as hate speech. Our colleague pointed this out in his letter.

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## 7. JULY

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2 anti-Semitic hate incidents were identified in July in the course of Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity, both falling in the category of hate speech.

### HATE SPEECH

**With the emotionally charged situation around the Liget Project intolerance was also manifested**

*Hungary*

*Source: 24.hu*

12 July 2016. Heightened emotions around the Liget Budapest Project led to an anti-Semitic act. During a standoff between the environmental protectors of Liget and security personnel on 12 July, security men broke through one of the entrances barricaded by the activists and got through to the building site. Shouting and a scuffle broke out at the gate following which a person dressed in black ran away, though activists said he had been sent to fight them.

The statement issued by the legal representative of the security company follows: "It is ridiculous even to suggest that they could have anything to do with this Jewish fellow." (Emphasis by TEV.)

**FOI request elicits Jew baiting outrage from László Toroczkai, mayor of Ásotthalom**

*Hungary*

*Source: 444.hu*

22 July 2016. András Léderer, coordinator of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee's refugee program, requested an FOI from the local government of Ásotthalom with regard to the operations of the armed regional guards on duty there.

On his Facebook profile Léderer writes that he did not receive an answer to his questions, but mayor László Toroczkai, elected as an independent and since having joined the ranks of Jobbik Party as its deputy leader, posted his photograph to his own Facebook page and reacted in a personal manner. In his post Toroczkai emphasized that Léderer was earlier a member of the Party of Free Democrats (SZDSZ), and that "he is Jewish, and thought it very important to make it public last year that he is homosexual", going on to explain, that "those of his ilk" i.e. people disturbing the order in his opinion had been banned from Ásotthalom in a decree.

Léderer recounted that while he had not received a reply, he did receive many comments that were anti-Semitic, and dealt with his Jewish background and sexual orientation in both messages and comments citing a small selection of these in his post.

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## 8. AUGUST

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APF identified 2 incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during August monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech.

### HATE SPEECH

#### Police investigation into Nazi tattoo

Source: *hvg.hu*

16 August 2016

A man was photographed on a Balatonlelle beach last year having Nazi tattoos covering his entire back – an imperial eagle, a swastika, and the face of a soldier with a bloodstain-like red stain behind it. The man was at the counter of a bar and he did not seem to mind that he was wearing banned totalitarian symbols. The photo was published by Index last year<sup>2</sup>.

According to the Hungarian Criminal Code, “any person who distributes, uses before the public at large, or publicly exhibits the swastika, the insignia of the SS, the arrow cross, the sickle and hammer, the five-pointed red star or any symbol depicting the above (...) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by custodial arrest, insofar as the did not result in a more serious criminal offense”.

According to the person who took the photograph, the tattooed man is Hungarian and he was seen topless on the beach of Bavaria Yacht Club, which is rather popular with families. The manager of the yacht

club stated that “the gentleman may have been a lodger or visitor of the apartment building located within the territory of the club, and this is why he was seen on the territory used by yacht owners.”

On 25 July, István Tényi filed a complaint at the Prosecutor’s Office of Budapest District 5, and he also sent his complaint to RomNet. According to RomNet, the complaint was transferred to Fonyód, and, on 10 August 2016, the Prosecutor’s Office of Fonyód District ordered an investigation against an unknown individual for use of totalitarian symbols. The investigation shall be conducted by Fonyód Police Department by 10 October 2016.

#### Budaházy would have been interviewed by 24.hu

Source: *24.hu*

Budapest, 30 August 2016

A reporter from 24.hu also attended György Budaházy’s trial, where Budaházy was convicted, but the decision is not final. Following the trial, the 24.hu reporter wanted to ask a question from Budaházy, who asked back: “what is this, are you Jewish?”. After the reporter answered yes, Budaházy refused to answer his question and stated even later, outside the court building that he did not want the reporter to be around any more.

<sup>2</sup> Source: [http://index.hu/mindekozben/poszt/2015/07/21/elve\\_fogjak\\_megnyuzni\\_a\\_magyar\\_nacit/](http://index.hu/mindekozben/poszt/2015/07/21/elve_fogjak_megnyuzni_a_magyar_nacit/)

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## 9. SEPTEMBER

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APF identified 6 incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during September monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech.

### VANDALISM

#### Anti-Semitic writings at Köki Terminál

*Source: tev.hu*

*7 September 2016*

APF was informed through its Facebook page that unknown individuals painted openly anti-Jewish and anti-Semitic graffiti, which incites hatred, on part of a wall in Köki Terminál shopping center (Budapest District 10). On 14 September, we were notified that unknown individuals removed the graffiti.

#### So-called “Live Memorial” damaged twice in a row

*Source: 444.hu*

*10 and 16 September 2016*

Unknown individuals damaged some of the exhibits of the “Eleven Emlékmű” (“Live Memorial”) on Szabadság tér. The pictures, for example, were torn down. The extent of the damage was published on the memorial’s Facebook page and the organizers of the memorial released a statement to 444.hu which stated: “Just as forecast on kuruc.info, vandals desecrated it (...) we pressed criminal charges immediately”. The organizers also arranged a flash mob through Facebook to restore the memorial. A few days later, however, unknown individuals tore down numerous laminated photos commemorating the Holocaust and scribbled over the agenda board of the community initiative. The organizers pressed charges again. The flash mob took place without any major incident, but many expressed their disapproval of both the flash mob and the memorial by leaving anti-Semitic comments on the Facebook event page.

### HATE SPEECH

#### Holocaust denial and anti-Semitic comments on YouTube

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation*

*12 September 2016*

The Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) launched a series of videos titled “Jewish tales” on YouTube. The second video and the individual appearing in it received multiple anti-Semitic and Holocaust-denying comments. Based on their profiles, the commenters were fake YouTube users, but APF decided to take legal action anyway. The “Jewish tales” are short videos shot in starred houses and present what Judaism means to young people. The majority of people appearing in the videos are not Jewish, like the 15-year-old girl who speaks in the second one. Commenting has been turned off for the videos since the incident.

#### New Holocaust-denying website

*Source: tev.hu / amagyaroldal.hu*

*15 September 2016*

During our monitoring activity, APF encountered a video interview on magyaroldal.hu taken with György Budaházy about the delivery of judgment in his case. Another video was linked to the interview, in which an individual defined as an “English MP” said he or she believed anti-immigration policies and the rejection of liberalism would be the solutions to today’s crises. A companion article to the video described the “Arrows of Hungarians” and the whole Budaházy case as a Jewish conspiracy theory.

During reviewing the website, APF noticed a number of Holocaust-denying and anti-Semitic posts and therefore decided to take appropriate legal actions. We pressed charges and requested the content of the website be inaccessible.

**Defamatory montage of Slomó Köves on a blog**

*Source: Action and Protection Foundation  
17 September 2016*

On 17 September 2016, the owner of puccsista.blog.hu published a montage of Executive Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation (EMIH) Slomó Köves. The montage included a photo of the Rabbi with defamatory text likely to incite to violence and implying the Rabbi threatens the life of Hungarians. APF contacted the competent host service provider immediately and requested the content be deleted as soon as possible since the blogger breached the conditions of use. APF also took legal action against the blogger.

**Jew-baiting and tearing down posters**

*Source: 444.hu  
22 September 2016*

In Szentendre, a taxi driver attacked two young activists of the Hungarian Two-tailed Dog party. Both activists are minors. The ac-

tivists recorded the attack. The video shows the driver tearing down the party's posters and punching the minors as they approach him. 444.hu managed to reach the activist who had taken the video. The activist told the news portal that the incident took place on the afternoon of 22 September at the final stop of suburban railway line H5 in Szentendre. According to the activist, they had been placing posters on rubbish bins and lamp posts in the area when the taxi driver asked them what they were doing. After telling him they were placing posters of the Two-tailed Dog Party, the taxi driver shouted "You Jewish motherfuckers!". Later on, the activists were on their way back to the station when they noticed the taxi driver was tearing the posters down. When they approached him, the driver started punching them, causing one activist fall to the ground. The activist was unsure whether he or she wanted to file a complaint, but Gergely Kovács said his party will definitely press charges.

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## 10. OCTOBER

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3 anti-Semitic hate incidents were identified in October through the monitoring activity of Action and Protection Foundation, all in the category of hate speech.

### HATE SPEECH

#### Falsification of history at the House of Hungarians

Sources: [tev.hu](#); [egipatrona.hu](#)  
11 October 2016

A report detailing a falsification of history in a label under a picture at an exhibition in the House of Hungarians (Magyarok Háza) was submitted to our Foundation. An exhibition in Memory of '56 was held at the House of Hungarians, an affiliate of the World Federation of Hungarians, with an inscription under one of the tableaux that begins with a mention of Prince Primate József Mindszenty, followed by: "He rescued the Jews, and would have rescued Hungarians too, if the Jews had let him." A representative of the Foundation took a look at the picture in question and then the Foundation took a stand against the false and highly anti-Semitic statement and called upon the World Federation of Hungarians to remove it immediately.

The exhibition presents material by the late Sándor Rác compiled at an earlier date for a 50th anniversary but provided to the World federation of Hungarians by the family of the compiler this year. Photographs of individuals who played an important role in the Revolution can be seen at the exhibition.

An article by the House of Hungarians about the opening of the exhibition which may be considered hate speech in its own right described the call made by our Foundation as an attack, and a "violent, anti-Hungarian intervention". Twisting our words under the slogan of free speech, it labeled the request censorship of the late

Sándor Rác and a falsification of history, announcing that the picture would remain in place in the form it takes at present.

#### Holocaust denial in a comment posted to an online article

Source: [sonline.hu](#)  
20 October 2016

In the course of its monitoring activity our Foundation found a news item discussed in our current Report in which inquiries were made with the authorities about an ongoing case against a person photographed with Nazi tattoos on the strand in Balatonlelle. This was also reported by the Sonline.hu. Under the article a person registered as László Abonyi, without a profile picture or public profile, left a public comment denying the Holocaust:



Abonyi László · Budapest

és ma fél Magyarország most már horogkeresztet rajzol a homlokára, akkor fél Magyarországot lecsukják??? Pont ez a zsidó faszködés, és folyamatos holokamu sírás az oka annak, hogy ilyen jelenségek vannak. Na de Nagy Sándort és Napóleont is elfelejtettük már, talán egyszer ezt a szarságot is el fogjuk.

[László Abonyi - Budapest: and if half of Hungary draws a Swastika on its forehead today, will they jail half of Hungary???) This is exactly the sort of Jewish fucking around, this continuous whining about the Holocaust that prompts such phenomena. But then we have forgotten Alexander the Great and Napoleon too, perhaps we'll also forget this crap soon..]

The Foundation will file a complaint in the matter, with the required data presently being secured.

#### Anti-Semitic shouting and scuffles on 23 October

Sources: [24.hu](#); [hvg.hu](#); [444.hu](#)  
23 October 2016

A number of news portals presented events that occurred in Kossuth Square on 23 October in video reports. Demonstrators joined the crowds that had gathered on



the square in front of the Parliament, to express disappointment with the government and the Prime Minister by whistling, blowing whistles, or shouting. The whistling elicited antipathy in some of the people in the crowd, and they gave expression in both words and action. One individual emitted a steady stream of Jew-baiting and promised a beating, sending the whistler to Israel, following this up by attacking the person. A scuffle broke out in a number of places in fact. In each case, attempts were made to take the whistles, or other instruments away from those expressing their opinions, a number of reports came in about people being struck with walking sticks or umbrellas – for example, the historian Krisztián Ungváry protested with a whistle in hand and a bleeding head, after an unknown person struck him with his fist. The portal 24.hu also reported that journalists were at the receiving end of physical assaults as well, while trying to do their jobs.

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## 11. NOVEMBER

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APF identified 6 incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime during November monitoring. APF classified the incidents as hate speech.

### HATE SPEECH

#### Zsolt Bayer published a hate speech opinion piece

Source: *tev.hu; egipatrona.hu*  
11 November 2016

On his blog, Zsolt Bayer referred to Pál Dániel Rényi's 444.hu article about Rétvári Bence's (KDNP) proposal in regards to the persecution of Christians. Rényi wrote that, by the proposal, the Hungarian government would label the persecution of Christians as genocide. He also presented some steps taken against the persecution of Christians, and implied that these have been somewhat inefficient. Bayer's piece was a reaction to this article, the publicist wrote that Rényi "came from a rather interesting family and he finally found his success in the cesspit of 444.hu." Bayer saw no big difference between recent attacks on Christians in the Middle East and the Jewish Holocaust. He finished off his piece by relativizing the Holocaust: "Or you, Rényi, and all the miserable people with views like yours, do you really think that suffering, genocide, sacrifice and execution for one's religion and heritage will be Jewish privileges for good? In the past, the present and the future? You are wrong, Rényi!"

In APF's opinion, the closing sentence is dangerous because there is an accusation behind the words, an accusation that Jews demand certain privileges because of the Holocaust and they show no respect towards the suffering of other people and other ethnic groups. His words make a clear generalization and a collective judgment.

#### Anti-Semitic blogger

Source: *Action and Protection Foundation; vizavzsodor.blogspot.hu; fenyeszelek.blogspot.hu*  
22 November 2016

APF was informed of a blog with anti-Semitic publications. The actual post we were notified of is from 2014 but the blog is still active today. It mostly shares, adapts and refers to articles from *kuruc.info* and other well-known fake news websites like *naturahirek.com*. The content of the articles is strongly anti-Semitic, and they usually present highly unrealistic themes according to one article, for example, McDonald's uses missing children as ingredients to their hamburger meat...

The blogger does not use his or her real name, but has been writing the articles under the pen name "Sodródunk" ("Drifting") since April 2011. According to his or her profile on *Blogger.com*, he or she operates two blogs with exactly the same content.

APF is acquiring the necessary data and information, and we will press charges in due course.

#### Holocaust-denying Facebook comment

Source: *Action and Protection Foundation; Sim Salom Jewish Congregation*  
23 November 2016

APF was informed that Facebook user Pirooska Soproni made a comment that denies the Holocaust on a post on *Sim Salom Jewish Congregation's* Facebook profile. The post was part of a series of article which interview women involved in Jewish community and religious life about whether they think the equality of women is necessary in Hungarian Neolog Judaism. The president of the synagogue at the Budapest University of Jewish Studies, Magda Vadász, was interviewed in the article. Its title was Freedom should be provided to every trend of Judaism. Pirooska Soproni's reaction to the post was:



“Provide freedom to your motherfuckers filthy Jews. Feel free to go back to Israel and there you may bark about your free space. It’s not enough that we pay your HoloHoax, you want more.”

Piroska Soproni’s Facebook wall mainly includes anti-Semitic posts, and reshares of her own posts. APF is now acquiring the necessary data and information, and we will press charges in due course.

#### Anti-Semitic Facebook users

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; Facebook  
28 November 2016

APF was informed of a profile on Facebook with anti-Semitic posts and an identifying name. The profile was named the Hungarian Anti-Semitic Alliance. Its profile picture was a caption of “Fuck You Israel” and a Star of David crossed out in red. The latest post was about a well-known person of Jewish heritage including the following comment: “the physical appearance of this race is so wizened per se (...) give them prison clothes and there you have a terrible “Holocaust-photo”.



Comments on the page included some that said the pure existence of the user was “horrendous and shameful”.

APF acquired the necessary data and information about the Facebook profile, but it has been unavailable since 4 p.m. on 28 November 2016.

#### Anti-Semitic Facebook users

Source: Action and Protection Foundation  
29 November 2016

APF encountered numerous anti-Semitic profiles during our monitoring activity in

November. Facebook user L. Szabó, for example, shared an altered picture of the well-known gate from the Jurassic Park movie on 10 June 2016. The picture includes a caption of “Auswitz” (sic) and the following sentence: “Unfortunately, because of the migrants, Jurassic Park had to be emptied and turned into a camp for migrants!”. The picture also depicts an outraged dinosaur swearing. The post and the caption in the picture are not very coherent and contain grammatical errors, yet we still consider them anti-Semitic and inflammatory. The reason is that the user had previously published similar posts. He made fun of Auschwitz, and therefore the Holocaust. Another post of Szabó described Jews as a group of people who threaten the world and cause the “destruction of wealth”. These were shared as views attributed to Ferenc Kölcsey, or at least, they were presented along with a picture of Kölcsey. In addition, there are pictures of banned totalitarian symbols and arrow crosses on Szabó’s profile. APF is now acquiring the necessary data and information and we will press charges in due course.

#### Anti-Semitic Facebook users

Source: Action and Protection Foundation  
29 November 2016

APF was informed of another anti-Semitic profile. Facebook user Imre D. published a picture depicting the entrance of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp with the following caption: “everyone leaves from different platforms, everyone travels on different tracks and everyone has a final destination.” The post is rather inappropriate, but not necessarily anti-Semitic. However, the user who describes himself a “Jew hunter” published numerous aggressive and bigoted posts, one of which resulted in D. being banned from Facebook for a period of time. His profile picture is also informative. It depicts the Hungarian tricolor with the caption of “I am Hungarian, not Roma or Jewish.”



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## 12. DECEMBER

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Action and Protection Foundation identified three anti-Semitic hate incidents in December, all in the category of hate speech.

### HATE SPEECH

#### Holocaust denial on Facebook

Sources: *Action and Protection Foundation; facebook.com*  
7 December 2016

A concerned citizen's report brought the content shared under the Facebook profile of Imre Facsar to our attention. In the content shared there can be found instances of Holocaust denial, conspiracy theories, and a mixture of the two — mostly including photos. The classic fundamental thesis used by Holocaust deniers — describing Auschwitz as a quasi holiday camp — was underpinned by what it purported scientific facts. These “facts blurred the line between Freemasonry, Islam, and Christianity. Its message is not exhausted — relativizing of the Holocaust, but in trying to prove that it never happened. It concludes that what we call the Holocaust was a planned, conscious event that mislead the world, and served to rescue the Jews. The Foundation will investigate and file a complaint.

#### Provocative fake profile

Sources: *Action and Protection Foundation; Facebook.com*  
7 December 2016

A civil complaint brought to the Foundation's attention a fake profile registered on Facebook that abused the identity of a well-known Jewish personage. The profile ran under the heading “Zoltai Andrea barátai” (Friends of Andrea Zoltai) and expressed a commitment towards Jewry in its initial posts then turning increasingly provocative in style, both where its posted content and comments were concerned — posts included messages such as the following: “I wish every citizen of New Israel (formerly called: Hungary) a peaceful Shabbat! Shalom Isra-

el!”; or sharing the national anthem of Israel with “I am frequently asked what the new national anthem of Hungary will be. The answer is obvious. When do you think we should make it compulsory?”

The obvious provocation elicited masses of anti-Semitic commentary ranging from simple “Jew-baiting” to Holocaust denial.

The fake profile was reported to Facebook, along with a number of those who had added comments. Due to the extremity of anti-Semitism and Holocaust-denying views exhibited by many of the commenters, the Foundation collected data on them separately, and plans further legal steps.

#### Tibor Ágoston on Facebook

Source: *Action and Protection Foundation*  
22 December 2016

A notification through the online contact form of the Foundation indicated that a post from 29 April 2014 on the Facebook profile of Tibor Ágoston, who has received a final court sentence for Holocaust denial in a post that speaks in lengthy detail about how Jews — a particular Jewish elite, the Zionists, it claims — sent the Jews to the death camps, is still publicly accessible. Tibor Ágoston's post could later no longer be found.

Action and Protection Foundation had earlier reported that the County Court of Debrecen had found Tibor Ágoston, the former Debrecen Municipal Council representative, and member of parliament candidate for Jobbik, guilty of the denial and trivialization of the crimes of the National Socialist regime according to paragraph 333 § of the Hungarian Criminal Code. The sentence was a fine of 750,000 HUF, which could be converted to 300 days in prison.

On a remembrance event on 12 January 2014, Ágoston spoke about a “holohoax, holló-kaszt [Hung.: cast of crows] and holocaust”, which the audience received with elation. Ágoston added that the mispronun-

ciations were deliberate. Complaints were filed in the case by, among others, Action and Protection Foundation and the Jewish Congregation of Debrecen.

### **Hanukkah greetings from Jobbik with an anti-Semitic rejoinder**

*Sources: zsidó.com; mno.hu; 24.hu; hvg.hu; 444.hu*

*Budapest, 27 December 2016*

Slomó Köves, rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation replied to the Hanukkah greetings sent by Gábor Vona, leader of Jobbik in an open letter, noting with regard to the greetings: “I was surprised, and perhaps even felt uneasy about it”, because, as he explained, “they do not consider members of the Hungarian Jewish community who are also members of the Hungarian nation, deserving of equal esteem.”

He also said he could name numerous individuals and occasions on which Jobbik politicians made anti-Semitic statements in the very recent past – which have never even been retracted, and even Gábor Vona himself stated in 2013 that Jewry seeks global domination, and sought a ban on diplomatic relations between Hungary and Israel, going so far as to say that if it came to light that he was Jewish, he would resign from leadership of the party.

To conclude, the rabbi noted, “politicians, public personalities, can not only offend the dignity of hundreds of thousands of people with their undignified utterances, but also set a negative example for millions of others, as has been the case for 10 years in the widest public discourse, and still continues on a daily basis on the part of Jobbik. It may be that they intended their good wishes on Hanukkah as some sort of gesture, but I would consider it more effective, if they gave voice to these gestures on those fora that have until now advanced hatred, outrage, and not lastly promoted the darkness of ignorance, rather than light.”

Gábor Vona responded in an open letter: “It is the same single God we both adore. You, and me.” The party leader then elaborated: “the gesture of greeting was intended sincerely, from the party which is to form

the next government.” In his opinion, the rabbi “had slept through the last three years. In the course of Jobbik becoming a people’s party I have publicly repeated over and over again, and also proved on a number of occasions that [...] it has crossed into a responsible, and constructive adult period.”

He added: “Besides, if we are on the subject, it is very easy to find offences, and offensive sentences on both sides. I could do so myself. You can as well. And others can do so too. Everyone. Any person who feels comfortable in their own, well-built mental trenches will always find reasons to remain there. It is much simpler to do so. After all, no great bravery is required for someone to take shots at others from their own mental trenches, and it takes far more bravery to come out of there. Sadly, the 20th century, in terms of our shared history, was all about the the ever deepening trenches.

The Christian Hungarians and Jewish Hungarians struck innumerable wounds on each other. The promising beginnings in the 19th century were followed by a century of walls, trenches, and devastation in the 20th. If we take a look at the great historical turning points – Hungarian Soviet Republic, the Horthy era, the Second World War and the Holocaust, the ÁVH, 1956 etc. –, we see that in these moments we moved increasingly away from the ideal of Hungarian-Jewish peaceful co-existence and nation building.”

Action and Protection Foundation considers the above statement to contain a collective judgment and generalization that is smear on Jewry. Vona brought up the old, collective “grievances” in the context of an argument that was originally aimed at the present, and the statements made by the party he leads.

He condemns Slomó Köves and the Jewry of the present for – among others – for events that took place a 100 years ago: he creates the impression that the “grievances”, the “crimes” could be attributed to them, as if the “Hungarian Jewry” of the present were collectively responsible for them.

Secondly, the party president revitalized typical anti-Semitic stereotypes by describ-

ing the Hungarian Soviet and the ÁVH as bones of contention between Jewish and non-Jewish Hungarians. Unfortunately, it is quite common for people to attribute the horrors perpetrated by these regimes to Jewry.

While the leadership of these may have included many people of Jewish origin, they did not consider themselves representatives of Jewry – not to mention that the victims of these crimes were of Jewish background just as often as the perpetrators. Thirdly it is also worth noting that Vona (also) referred to the holocaust as a moment in which “we moved increasingly away from the ideal of Hungarian-Jewish peaceful co-existence and nation building.”

Finally, the party president repeated an argument he has frequently brought to prove that Jobbik cannot be called anti-Semitic in any light, since it has Jewish members. “Péter Jakab is, for example, one of our most talented politicians. He is of Jewish background. And he is now one of our national spokesmen. I have nothing to add to that.”

#### **Anti-Semitic manifestation from the Jobbik organization in Vecsés**

*Sources: 24.hu; mno.hu; atv.hu; betyarsereg.hu, pestisracok.hu*

*29 December 2016*

President of Jobbik, Gábor Vona, and spokesperson Ádám Mirkóczy sent their good wishes on the occasion of Hanukkah to – among others – Slomó Köves, the Executive Rabbi of Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation. The party organization of Vecsés however distanced itself from the party president, who is campaigning for a people’s party. Their statement on the organization’s official Facebook page read: “Vecsés JOBBIK DOES NOT send greetings to Jewry on the occasion of Hanukkah (or whatever the f\*ck)! This organization distances itself from anyone to whom such a ridiculous notion even occurs!”

The statement created a great stir, even within the party. Gábor Vona gave the national daily, Magyar Nemzet a statement on the matter indicating he had initiated an ethical review of the case in the party

leadership. In his opinion such defamations of religion were not acceptable even in Jobbik’s “adolescent period”. “Anyone who shows such a stance must leave the party.”

He said that if the whole organization in Vecsés shares this opinion, the whole organization would be cut off. The party affirmed in a press release that an ethics procedure had been initiated on account of the statement published on the Facebook page of the Vecsés Jobbik organization, a statement that is defamatory about religion and diametrically opposed to the stance held by Jobbik and the leader of the party.

Hungarian television channel atv.hu contacted the head of the Jobbik ethics committee, who also reported that the official procedure had been initiated on the basis of the complaint filed by the party leader. According to Gábor Staudt, their first task is to establish who wrote the post, which would be followed by the committee’s decision on such conduct being out of line with the statutes of the party. This would make way for sanctions that range from a reprimand to exclusion from the party. As he pointed out, a disbanding of the local organization, or the initiation of a new one the prerogative of the national board, not the ethics committee.

After ten years as a member of the Outlaw’s Army (Betyársereg) and receiving a mandate in the representative body of the Vecsés municipal government under Jobbik colors, Attila Szabó gave an interview to the portal of the extreme right group. In the interview, he said that the post had been written by him and his friends. He claimed they had not intended to put Gábor Vona in a difficult situation, but meant it only for Slomó Köves, who had humiliated them, and “once again given evidence of his immeasurable hatred and incompatibility. We felt he had humiliated us as well. Maybe the way we put it was a bit tough, too impetuous, but those who know the outlaw mindset will not be surprised by this.”

Answering the question whether it was a mistake to publicly share his opinion in written form, he said: “Where the message itself is concerned I would certainly not say it was a mistake, and we stand by it even

now.” So far as transforming Jobbik into a people’s party is concerned, this Jobbik representative from Vecsés considers the process far too exaggerated, and painful that the party elite has forgotten the old troopers, who “braved snow and ice, as well as the stifling heat to plaster whole towns with the posters and took up the cause of Jobbik, often even at their own expense.”

As it turned out, not much after the post became widely read it was deleted from Facebook. The Vecsés organization was not the only one to talk of its annoyance with the party president’s gesture. Imre Orbán, Jobbik representative in the municipal government of Veszprém County also protested, reacting, among others, with a statement: “Thank you Mr. President, for making fools of us and humiliating us.” Imre Orbán has often allowed himself anti-Semitic comments on Facebook before.

#### **Márton Gulyás victim of Jew-baiting in a Budapest restaurant**

*Sources: facebook.com; mno.hu*

*31 December 2016*

Márton Gulyás, a political activist used his own vlog to give an account of being the victim of an anti-Semitic assault by a fellow guest at an Italian restaurant in Budapest, late in the afternoon of 31 December. Gulyás describes on Facebook how he had arrived at the restaurant a little more than an hour before it was going to close, and had been assured that he would be able to order food as the kitchen was still up and running. But when he wanted to make his order he was informed that he would not be able to eat there. Since he felt he had been misled he asked for the complaints register, upon which the restaurant staff decided they would rather prepare the food.

After this, one of the guests at the restaurant came up to him, and quoting Gulyás “asked me if I had been the one who argued with ‘Laca’ Toroczka. I replied in the affirmative. He exclaimed that I was a liberal asshole. I thanked him for his opin-

ion, and wished him a beautiful evening. He said, beauty is external, so Hungarians wish each other a good evening. I said, fine, let’s leave it at that. However, he continued to spout his crap, and then when he finally left the table, he turned around at about 10 meters distance and shouted: ‘Clear off, go back to Israel, we don’t serve Jews!’ At this point I jumped up and started to argue with him, announcing that we would now leave. I did stay to explain the situation to the foreign guests at the restaurant, so they understood what had transpired.”

The video uploaded to Facebook also shows that there was another clash of words in front of the restaurant, where the man who had got into the argument with him appeared once again, and continued his politically motivated series of attacks. “A person who talks like that with László Toroczka is no Hungarian. You don’t measure up to the dust off his foot”, the man said.

The case was also treated in an article by the mno.hu. As it turned out, the person shown on the video was Márton Mikus, who directs the Polgári Mulató (Civic Club). He admitted in a Facebook post that he had insulted Márton Gulyás. “This little gulyás got testy with me today...he was ushered out of the place he does not belong. Go and eat in Dohány Street! ;) Anyone who gets argumentative with my friend Laci, can get out, if I’m around. No pardon to be expected. Get along!”

The restaurant distanced itself from the incident with the following message: “We do not profess any discriminatory religious, racial, denominational views, and hereby also distance ourselves from any. The incident occurred between two guests at our restaurant. One of the owners of the restaurant, who was present, attempted – as seen on the video – to settle the situation that had come about between the two parties, especially in order to guard the reputation of the restaurant, but was not able to do so. Our staff on the other hand are not competent where intervention in personal conflicts between guests is concerned.”

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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 1 00 000**

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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