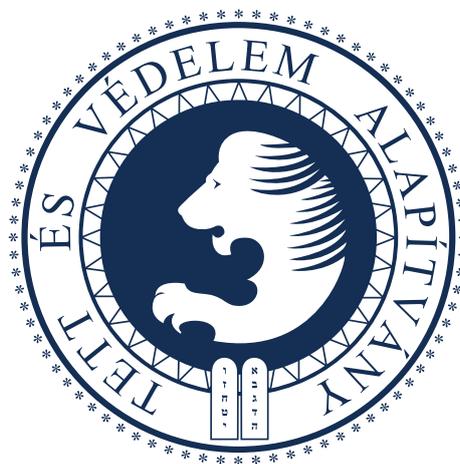


ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS IN HUNGARY

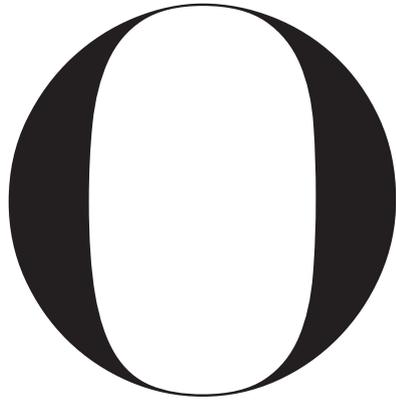
JANUARY - JUNE 2017



ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION

BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

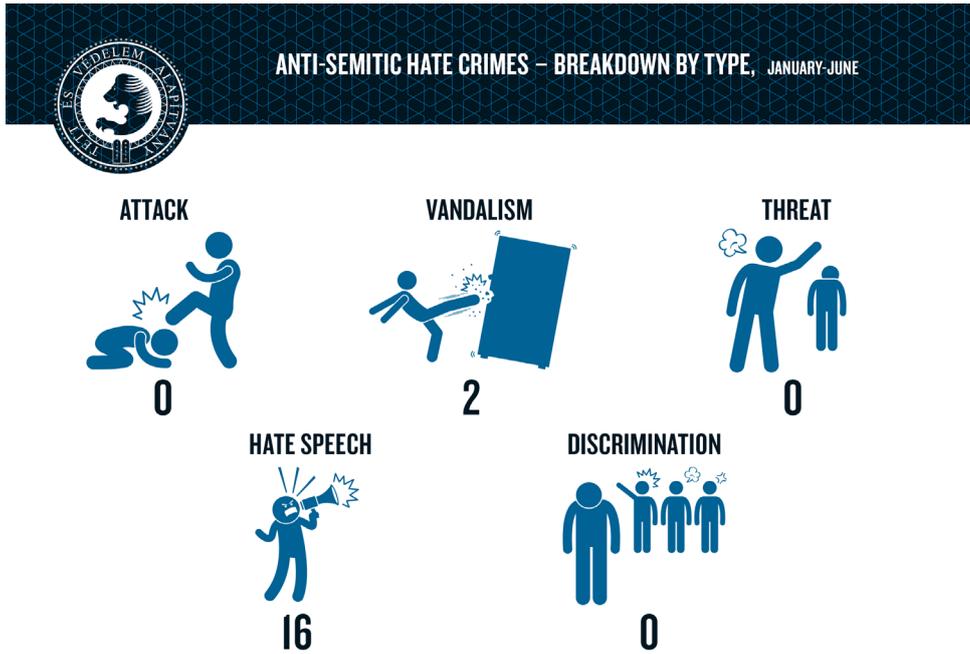


One of the most important preconditions of the fight against anti-Semitism is possessing knowledge of the prevalence of anti-Semitism and the reasons behind it. Consequently, the main objective of Action and Protection Foundation (APF) is to fill

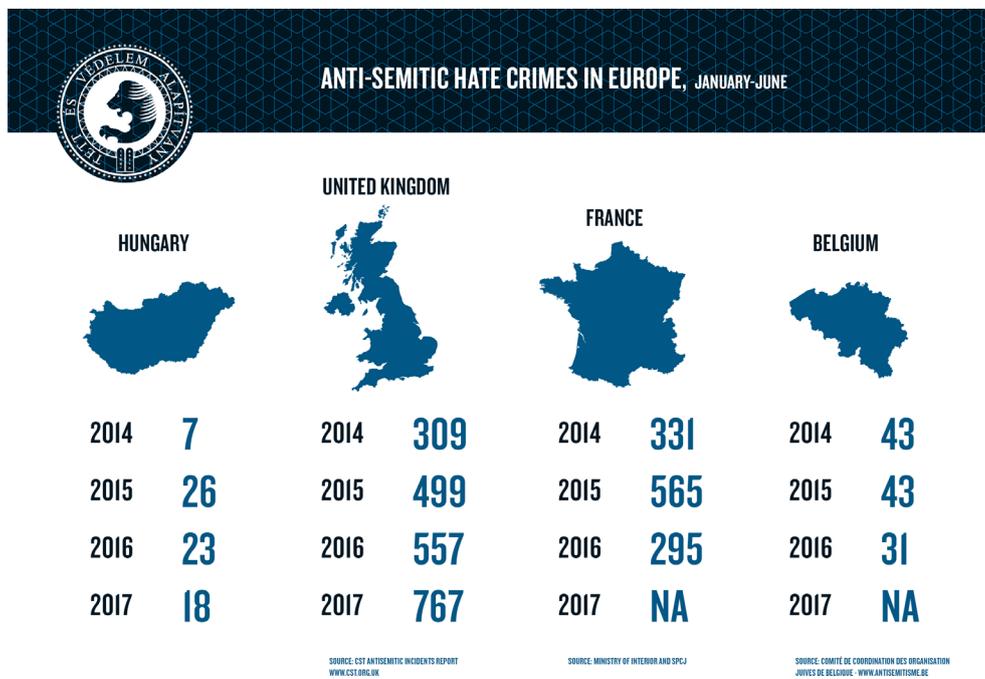
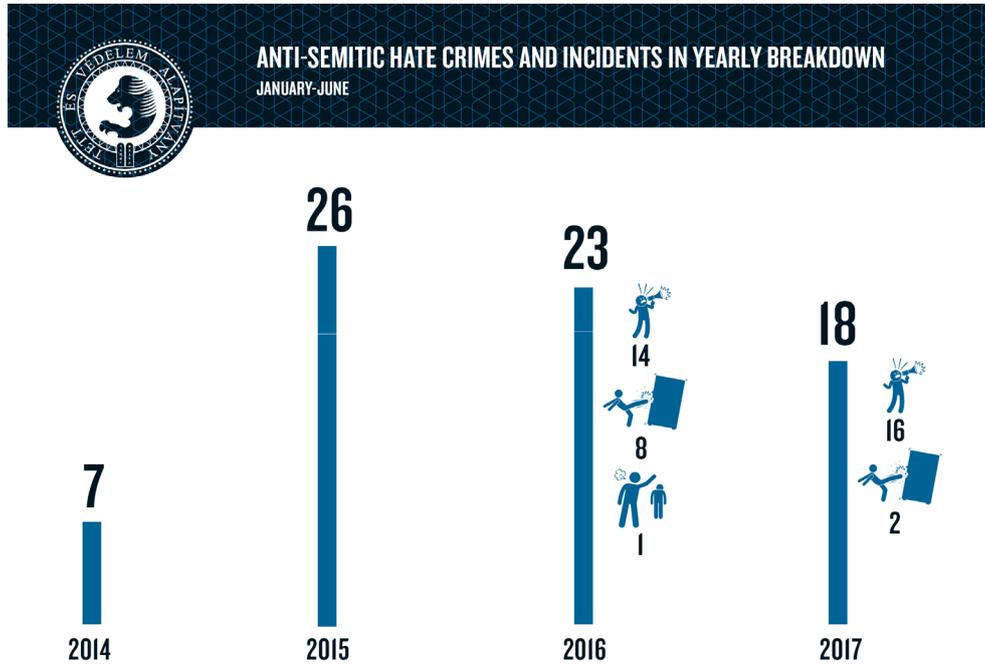
this knowledge gap. APF monitors Hungarian public events and media on a monthly basis and points out anti-Semitic actions. Without analyzing and evaluating the data collected by the regular monthly monitoring activity, there is no real protection for the community. In this semiannual report, we summarize the results of our monitoring activity between January and June 2017. The report deals with two different kinds of actions: anti-Semitic hate crimes and incidents generated by hatred. In this report, we call both of these two actions hate crimes. In both cases, it is an important criterion that anti-Semitism is identified in the background as a main driver.

DATA

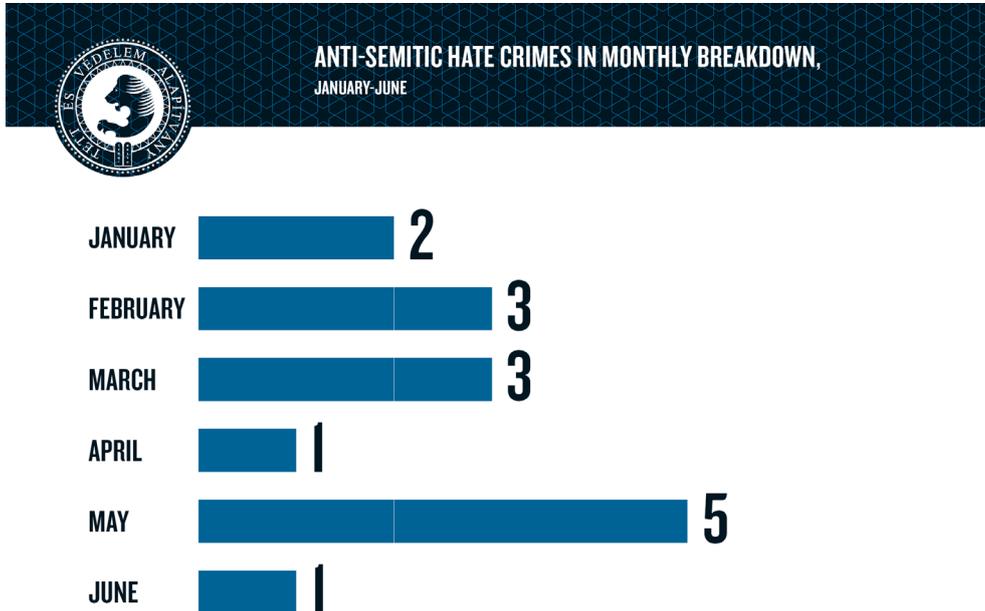
During the first six months of 2017, Action and Protection Foundation identified 18 anti-Semitic hate crimes. Sixteen of these are considered hate speech. We also registered two cases of vandalism.



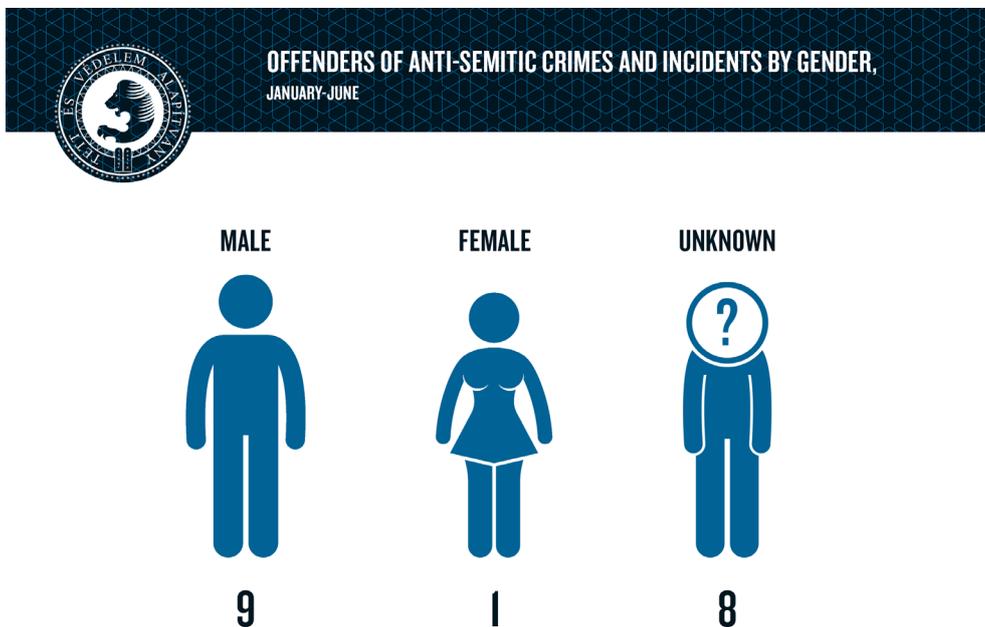
The number of actions slightly decreased compared to the number of the previous year. In 2016, we reported 23 actions: 8 cases of vandalism, 1 case of threat and 14 cases of hate speech. Compared to previous years, in January-June 2015 we reported 26 cases, in 2014 only 7 cases. (Our Foundation started to run its essential monitoring activity in May 2013, consequently we only have fragments of data for that year.)



When we look at the monthly breakdown, the number of cases (5) was notably high in May. On average, we reported 2.3 cases per month.



6 In most cases (8), we could not identify the offender. Out of those offenders who were identified, one was female, the rest of them (9) were male.



In most cases, the acts were not crimes, they occurred spontaneously. Some of the actions of vandalism, such as graffiti, require some preparation.

In addition to the reported cases, we registered further twelve cases of anti-Semitic hate crime. We register those cases in this category where the anti-Semitic intention was not fully justified. We registered five cases of vandalism and seven cases related to hate speech.

 **FURTHER ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES – BREAKDOWN BY TYPE, JANUARY-JUNE**



HATE SPEECH



7

VANDALISM



5



7

During the first six months of the year we filed two charges. One case, launched in 2017 was suspended. Another case, launched in 2013 and suspended in 2015 was re-launched. One proceeding was closed. One file, launched in 2014 was closed with reprimand.

 **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE FIRST SIX MONTH OF 2017**

NEW PROCEEDING



2

CONTINUATION OF PROCEEDING



1

SUSPENSION



1

REPRIMAND



1

METHODOLOGY¹

The report deals with two types of offences: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows² (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 people³
- hate-motivated incident: an offence, also based on prejudice against a certain group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

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. 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.⁸ In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹Our methodology basically remained the same since the beginning of our monitoring activity in May 2013. The methodology was elaborated by Ildikó Barna, her text appears in this chapter. Slight modifications in formatting are separately highlighted.

²The 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.

³For 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).

⁴For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

⁸These kinds of descriptions are some of the strengths of the Anti-Defamation League.

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection Foundation is an initiative of Jewish NGOs which, following the Jewish traditions, is ready to take the necessary steps against the spread of anti-Semitic phenomena.

In case anyone is insulted on the basis of his or her Jewish identity, we strongly advise to inform us so we can forward the case to designated authorities.

Reports shall be made at our Foundation:

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000

On the webpage of Action and Protection Foundation: www.tev.hu/forrodrot
On its Facebook profile: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

The activity of Action and Protection Foundation can only be fruitful if many of us share the responsibility of creating the necessary conditions for the daily operation of the organization so we kindly ask you to make a donation.

Donations can be made at the following bank account number:

13597539-12302010-00057157

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IMPRESSZUM

Publisher: Kálmán Szalai, chief executive officer
Brussels Institute Nonprofit Ltd.

The publisher is grateful to András Kovács, Phd university professor of CEU for his support and constructive advices.

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The publisher is grateful to those volunteers whose ongoing help led to the creation of this publication under professional guidance. The entire or partial use of this publication is only permitted with the written consent of the publisher with precise references to the source document.

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