

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS
IN HUNGARY



Annual report
2015



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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SUMMARY



TEV Foundation and its associated research center, The Brussels Institute, are new additions in the struggle against anti-Semitism. Their activities include the scientific research and monitoring of anti-Semitism and related prejudices—confronting and surmounting ignorance. Since 2013, the Institute has issued monthly and yearly reports on anti-Semitism. The reports cover two types of actions: hate crimes and hate-motivated incidents, defined by OSCE as follows:

- hate crime: a criminal offense motivated by bias or prejudice towards particular groups of people
- hate-motivated incident: an offense motivated by bias or prejudice towards particular groups of people which may not reach the threshold of a criminal offense

The extensive monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crimes requires the simultaneous use of several types of sources. The events must be recorded and categorized based on their characteristics. The annual report summarizes the data from the monthly reports by types of incident and presents the legal cases. Based on standard international methodology, in our monthly and annual reports we categorize hate crimes as actions, events, atrocities or manifestations with proven anti-Semitic intention or content that are directed towards Jewish people and their institutions or property. The seven form of hate crimes are: murder, serious physical offense, assault,

vandalism, threat, hate speech and discrimination. Of these, the amount of hate speech is clearly the highest since 2013; other recorded forms were vandalism, assault and threat. Other forms have not been reported.

Since 2013, TEV Foundation has provided an annual, comprehensive survey on Hungarian society's attitudes towards Jews. The third questionnaire-based survey, conducted in November 2015, shows that the proportion of anti-Semitism slightly increased last year. The summary of the results shows that one-third of the population harbors (to varying extents) the most common and clichéd anti-Semitic stereotypes. The survey examined the respondent's opinions and attitudes towards Jews, the frequency and strength of anti-Semitic prejudices, perceptions, and associations of anti-Semitism. The sample size was 1200 respondents, aged 18 and older. The respondents were questioned in person. We based our survey methods on the ideas and questionnaires developed by the sociologist András Kovács. We used updated, extended versions of questionnaires that have been used repeatedly since 1995, allowing us to juxtapose data from different years.

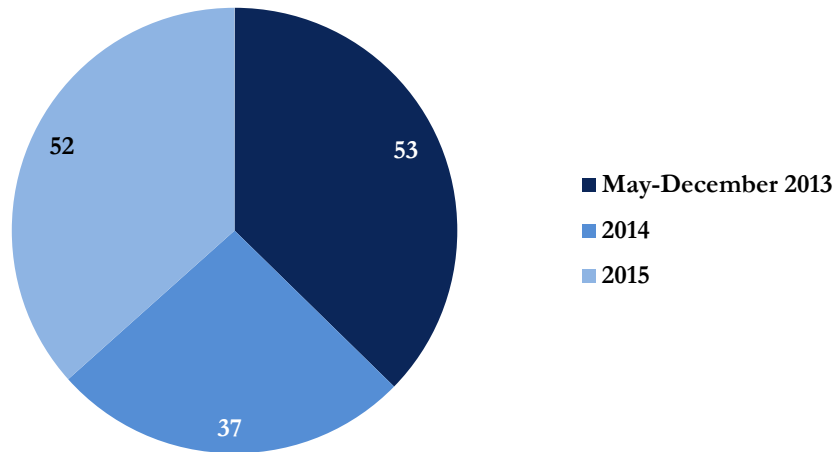
We also discuss an encouraging legal action: punishment for denial of the Holocaust by a Mrs. Z. V., the result of action taken by the TEV Foundation.

NUMBER OF HATE CRIMES

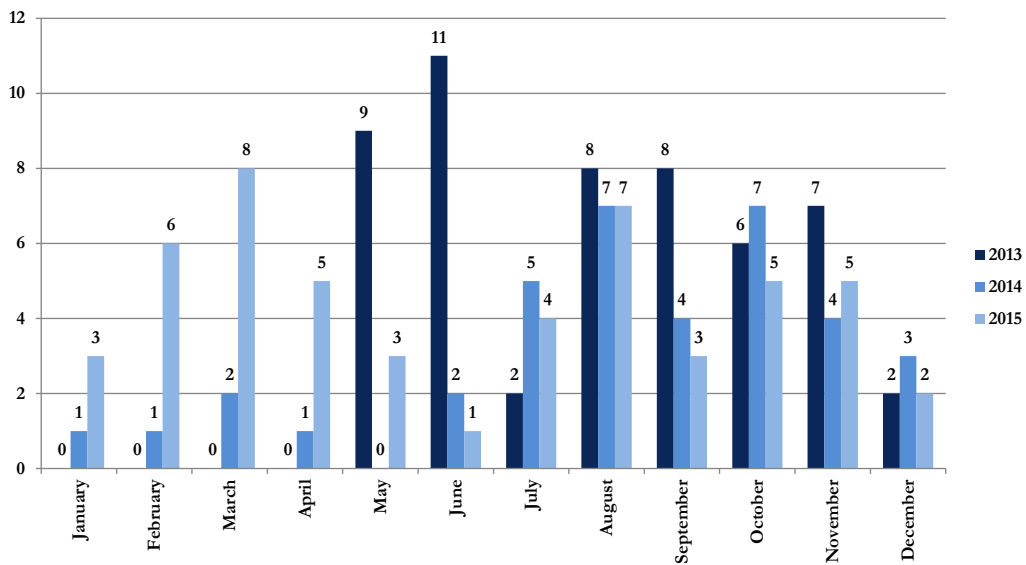


The monitoring activity of TEV Foundation identified 52 anti-Semitic hate crimes from January to December 2015. The number of cases is almost the same as the data for May to December 2013, but is much higher than the 37 cases recorded in 2014. Consequently, there were less cases of hate crimes per month than in 2013, but more cases than in 2014.

Graph 1 *Anti-Semitic hate crimes, May 2013 – December 2015, in yearly division (number of cases)*



Graph 2 *Anti-Semitic hate crimes, May 2013 – December 2015, in monthly division (number of cases)*



Trends seen over the past two-and-a-half years show that the monthly fluctuation in the number of cases is highly arbitrary: although in December and January the number of hate crimes was low, in the political “*layoff*” time of August the numbers

are very high. During the parliamentary election campaign of 2014, the number of registered cases was low, but in the period preceding the local elections, the numbers were much higher.

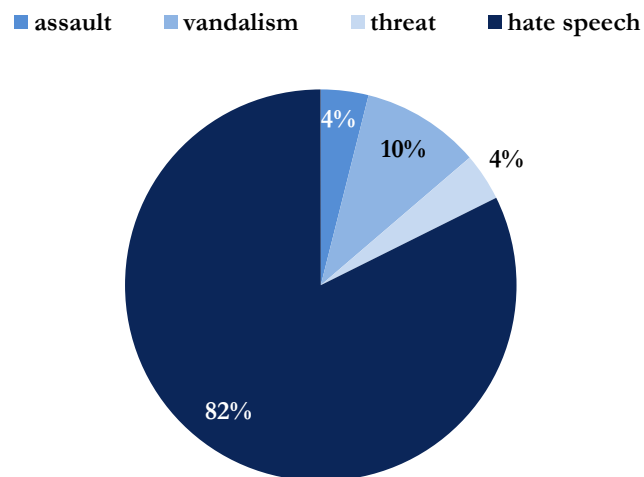
DIVISION OF HATE CRIMES BY CATEGORY



A division by type of hate crimes shows that the number of hate-speech and related manifestations was by far the highest. Vandalism, assault, and threat occurred more frequently in 2013 than in the two subsequent years, but, nevertheless, with low numbers, it is difficult to draw conclusions.

The number of hate speech cases was highest in 2015, but the effect of the beginning of 2014 can be observed here as well. Incidents of murder and serious physical violence or assault have not been recorded in the past three years.

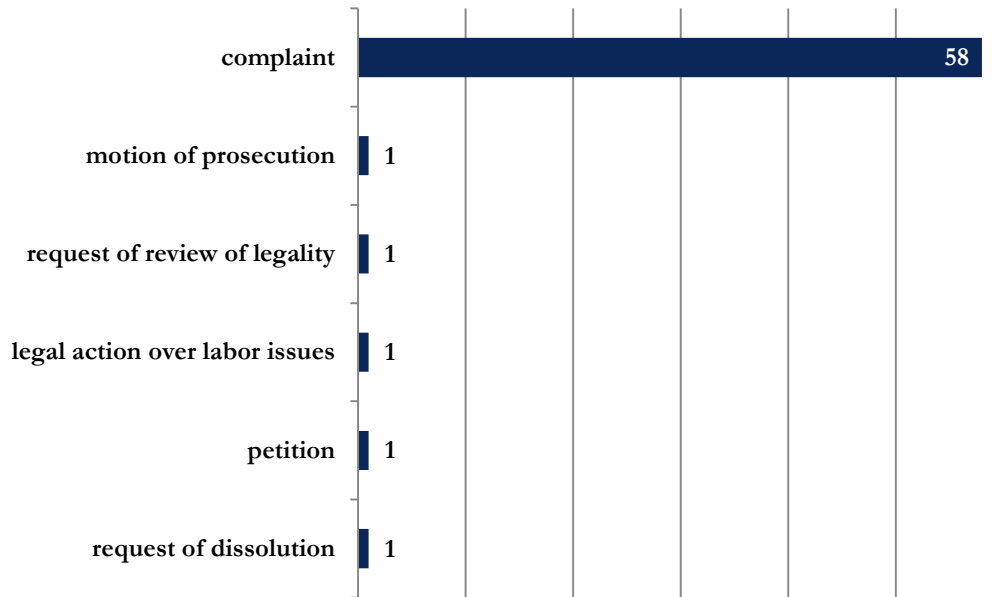
Graph 3 *Division of hate crimes in 2015 (percentage)*



LEGAL CASES OF TEV FOUNDATION



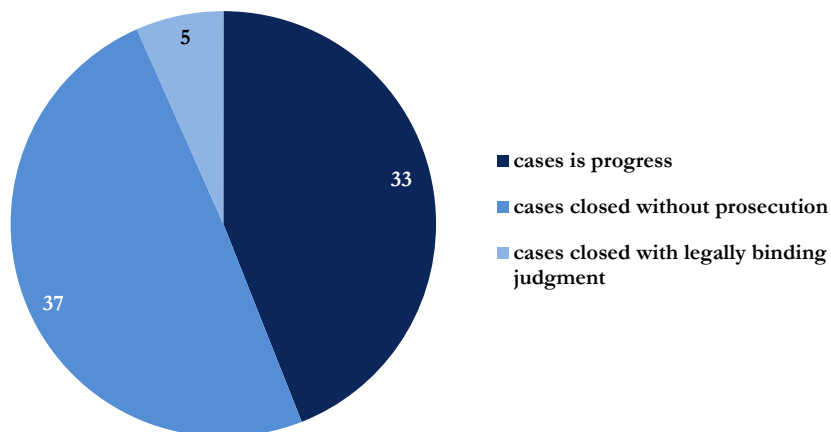
Graph 4 *Legal cases initiated May 2013 – 2015 (number of cases)*



In its two-and-a-half year's of activity, the Foundation has taken legal action in 63 cases, 90 percent of which were complaints. The rest of the cases were (one each): request of dissolution, petition, lawsuit over labor issues, request of review

of legality, and motion of persecution. Of the 63 legal actions of the Foundation, 75 statements of facts were determined. This disparity is because, in certain cases, more than one statement of facts is established.

Graph 5 *Outcome of legal cases initiated, May 2013 – 2015 (number of cases)*



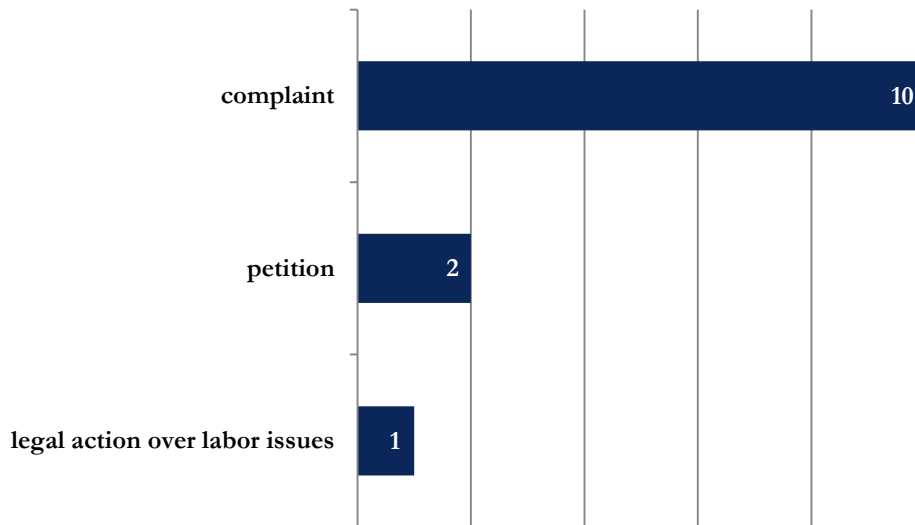
Legal cases often continue for years, therefore in 33 cases initiated by the Foundation, the legal proceedings continue. In several cases, the proceedings are suspended or the prosecution has been deferred, or the Foundation has received no further knowledge about the case. Legally binding decisions have been reached in 5 cases by the end of 2015. In four cases, a court judgment has been passed, and in one case, the legal action was closed with an out-of-court settlement. In most

cases closed without prosecution, the police were unable to identify the perpetrator. In some cases, the procedure was closed because there was no criminal offense could be proven. In almost one-third of the cases, the complaint was dismissed due to lack of sufficient evidence. Five penal procedures were suspended, and one request of dissolution, one infraction procedure, and one prosecution were rejected.

LEGAL ACTIONS OF TEV FOUNDATION INITIATED IN 2015

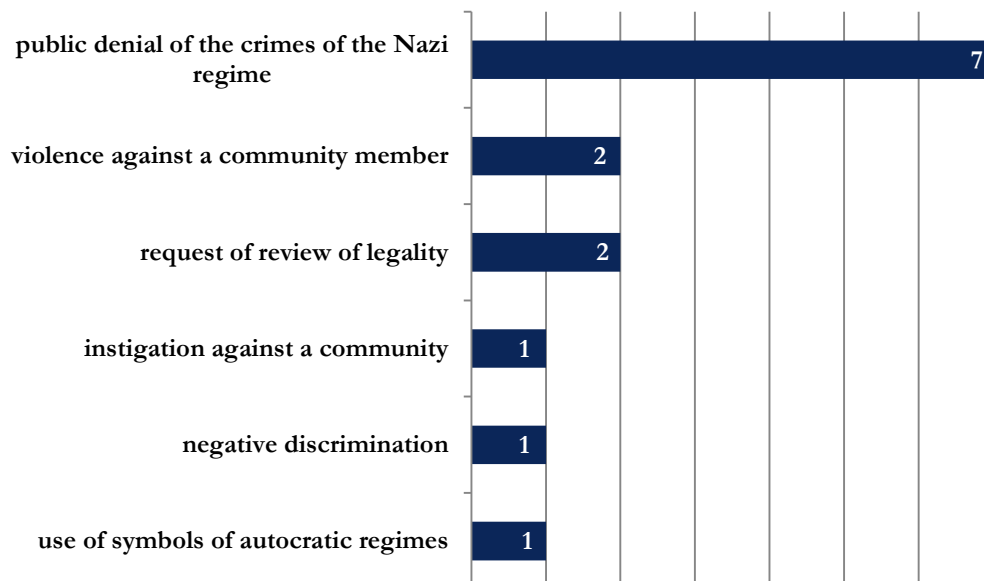


Graph 6 *Submitted legal cases (number of cases)*



Similar to previous years, in 2015 the majority of initiated legal cases—10 out of 13—were complaints. The Foundation also filed two petitions and one legal action over labor issues.

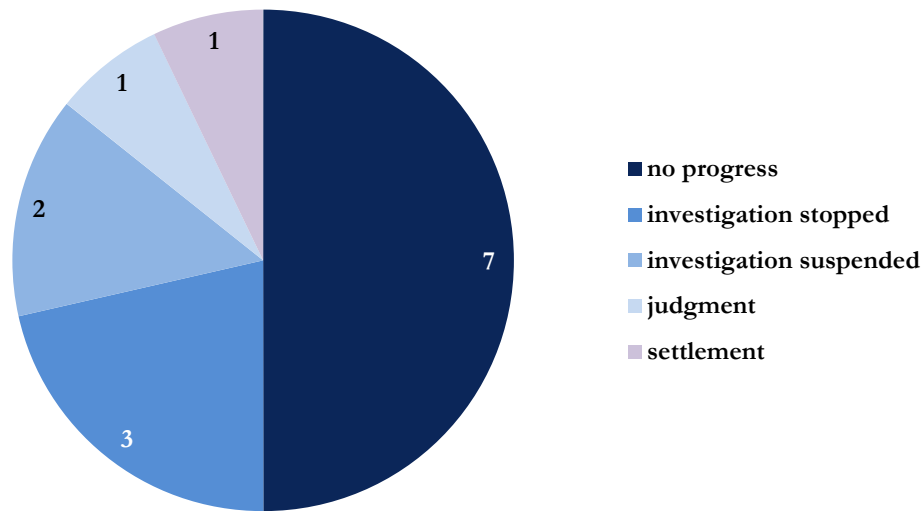
Graph 7 *Statement of facts for legal cases filed in 2015 (number of cases)*



Similar to previous years, in half of the 14 cases reported in 2015, the main motivation was the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime. Two complaints were filed because of violence against a community member. The Foundation

requested review of legality in two cases; three complaints were filed because of the use of symbols of autocratic regimes, negative discrimination, and instigation against a community.

Graph 8 Outcome of legal cases initiated in 2015 (number of cases)



For half of the 14 legal cases initiated in 2015 no decision has been reached so far, in 3 cases the investigation was stopped, in 2 cases the

investigation was suspended, in one case a legally binding judgment was passed, and in one case the procedure ended with out-of-court settlement.

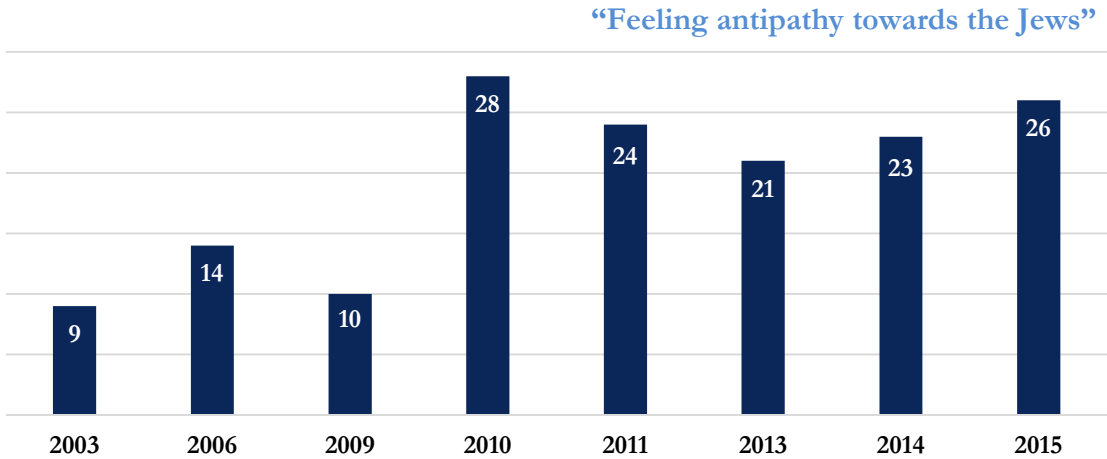
ANTI-SEMITIC BIAS IN CONTEMPORARY HUNGARIAN SOCIETY



A majority of respondents could not name an event of great publicity as regards the Jews in the past year. Only 11 percent of the respondents could name specific events shown on the news in the last 12 months. Accordingly, Hungarian voters seem uninterested in news or events connected

to Jews if they are not personally involved. Consequently, the survey offers an accurate view of the respondents' attitude towards Jews, but not on how significant the respondents deem this issue.

Graph 9 *Affective rejection of Jews, 2003 – 2015 (proportion of those who agree, percentage)*

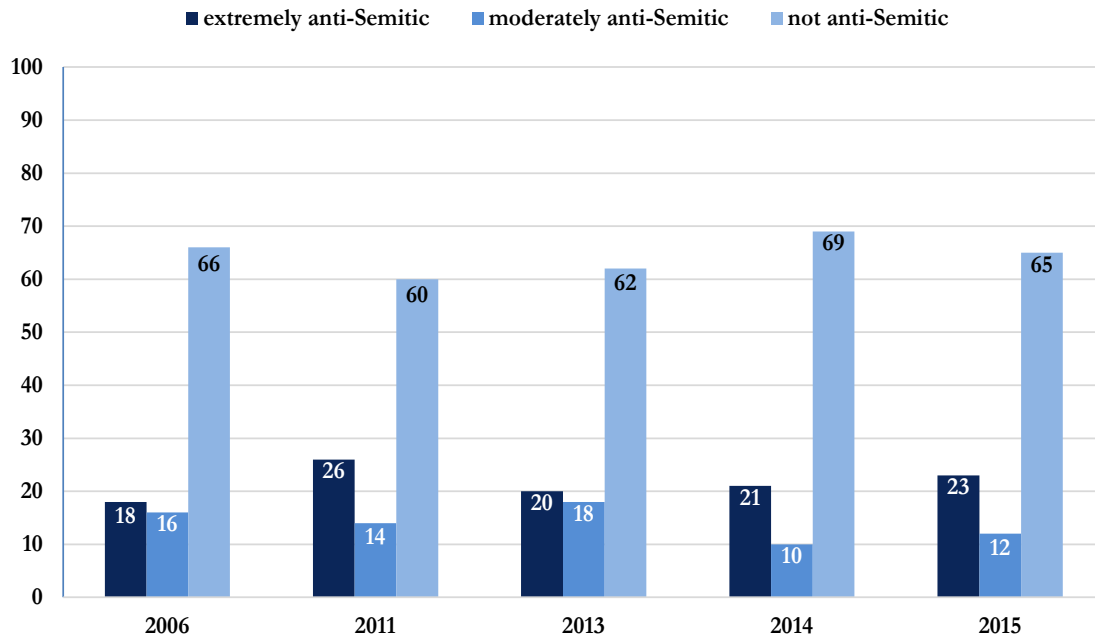


Degree of anti-Semitism

The research analyzed two distinct dimensions of attitude towards Jews. We distinguished between cognitive anti-Semitism based on responsiveness to notions, misconceptions or conspiracy theories

connected to Jews, and affective anti-Semitism based on the degree of general affective rejection and social distance towards the Jews.

Graph 10 Proportion of anti-Semites in the Hungarian society, 2016-2015 (percentage)



The findings reveal that cognitive anti-Semitism in Hungary has been rising to a small, yet detectable extent in the past three years. The extremely anti-Semitic category included 11% of the population in 2013, 13% in 2014, and reached 14% in 2015. Similarly, the proportion of moderate anti-Semitism raised from 22% in 2013, through a small decrease of 21% in 2014, to 22% in 2015.

The analysis of affective anti-Semitism should include study of the evolution of the attitude towards Jews in throughout history. The proportion of 9% of those who agreed to the statement “Feeling antipathy towards the Jews” in the past 12 years in now 26%. Just as importantly, the increase was not linear, but witnessed a booming peak in 2010: that year, the affective rejection of Jews suddenly jumped to 28% compared to 10% a year before.

This turn was likely connected to the efforts of the nationalistic, xenophobic, Jobbik political party during the 2010 parliamentary elections, and it also shows the increasing legitimacy of expressing antipathy towards Jews. The decrease following the peak percentage in the election year reversed again in 2013: the 21% measured that year climbed again to 26% in two years’ time.

Comparing the results of the two kinds of attitudes towards the Jews, we see that approximately one-third of the society is anti-Semitic. The percentage of moderate anti-Semites increased from 20% in 2013 to 23% in 2015. The percentage of the extremely anti-Semitic population, after a decrease from 18% in 2013 to 10% in 2014, increases again to 12% in 2015.

Anti-Semitism and xenophobia

Negative attitudes towards Jews in Hungary is not a unique phenomenon. Much of Hungarian society equally rejects other minorities, ethnic groups, and religions. The recent, high-level antipathy was directed towards Arab refugees, most of whom were traveling through Hungary to other countries in Europe. Negative attitudes directed towards Arabs and those of African descent have risen to the highest levels in the last 10 years. However, the analysis of the results also includes the observation that xenophobia and intolerance towards “otherness” is very high in Hungary even when compared with other European countries. One-third to one-fifth of Hungarian society would reject even groups considered most agreeable.

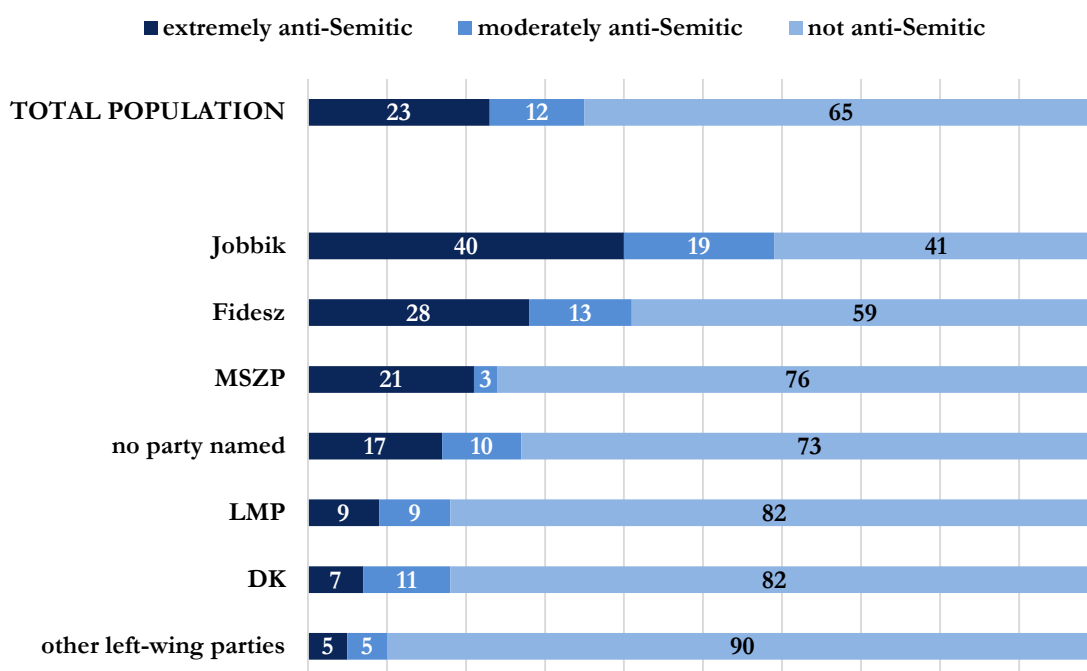
Anti-Semitism and political orientation

The correlation of anti-Semitism and political preferences shows that those who more easily and eagerly share anti-Semitic opinions are closer to the right side of the political spectrum. The concentration of anti-Semitism lies at the radical, far-right wing, more traditional, moderate conservatives show less tendency towards overt or covert anti-Semitism. Nevertheless, the proportion of those who agree with anti-Semitic statements is also high among leftists, liberals, and moderates. Anti-Semitic voters are more vocal, therefore the

The correlation of bias and demographic, economic, and social status revealed that there is only a weak connection between anti-Semitism and social background: anti-Semitism is present to virtually the same degree in all social groups. The results also confirmed that anti-Semitism is related to other mentalities and attitudes that are not directly connected to Jews. These include ideas and ideologies, such as nationalism, xenophobia, and unconditional pride and confidence in certain social norms and rules.

public opinion may overestimate their proportion. At look at attitudes within Jobbik—the party that attracts most of those especially prone to anti-Semitism—shows that 40% of their supporters are extremely anti-Semitic and 19% are moderately anti-Semitic. For Fidesz voters, the percents are 28%; 13% (extremely anti-Semitic; moderately anti-Semitic), for MSZP voters 21%; 3%, for LMP voters 9%; 9%, for DK voters, 7%; 11%. The balance of left-wing parties, 5%; 5%.

Graph 11 *Anti-Semitism and party choice (percent)*



Unclosed past and problems of the present

Compared to 2014, more people would like to continue the national discussion of the past persecutions of Jews, yet, disturbingly, denial of the Holocaust has grown. In fact, it has become much more frequent compared to 2006. The entire society’s relation to the Holocaust and the perplexity surrounding this issue were evident from the survey’s most worrisome data, but also one that most calls for action: between 2006 and 2015, the proportion of those who thought that the horrors of Auschwitz were the fabrication of Jews doubled, from 9% to 19%.

Also important is the evaluation of answers to questions about the state of Israel. The majority of the respondents was uncertain about this question and was not familiar with the subjects concerning the state of Israel. Only 4% of respondents clearly condemned the Jewish state. Probably because

of the wave of migrants, the Hungarian public opinion became sensibly more understanding towards Israel in the past year (compared to 22% in 2014, in 2015, 25% think that the self-defense of Israel is legitimate). In this respect it is also noticeable that three times as many Jobbik voters think that the Jewish religion is closer to European values than Islam.

Finally, the probability of anti-Semitism is significantly reduced if one has Jewish acquaintances. However, this does not mean that there is a consensus about what counts as anti-Semitism. The majority of the respondents has never encountered anti-Semitism in their private sphere. Therefore the perception about the strength of anti-Semitism is probably determined by the political sphere and the media rather than the individual experience of people.

EXEMPLARY JUDGMENT IN A CASE OF HOLOCAUST DENIAL



Our case study discusses a legally binding judgment for the denial of the Holocaust, following a TEV Foundation complaint. We consider the decision of the District Court of Szeged exemplary: the offender was required to visit the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Páva Street.

On 21 November 2014, a person wrote a comment denying the Holocaust denying on a Facebook post of an article published on origo.hu with the title *“The mass murderer’s grandson did penance in Budapest”*. The article wrote of the visit to Hungary of Rainer Höss, grandson of Rudolf Höss, the former Auschwitz concentration camp commander.

On 21 November 2014, the owner of Facebook profile Z.V. wrote this comment: *“Let’s forget this holohoax, and even if it was true, what does this man have to do with his grandfather’s actions???”* (literal translation). With this comment the Facebook user committed the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime by publicly using the word *“holohoax”*.

On 3 December 2014, TEV Foundation filed a complaint to the District Court of Szeged for the public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime.

Ferenc Szanka, spokesman of Csongrád County Prosecutor’s Office, told MTI on 10 April that the District Court of Szeged would expedite the

verdict. According to the accusation, the comment doubted the existence of the Holocaust and referred to it as a lie. By his comment and the expressions used in it, the defendant publicly claimed that the genocide committed by the Nazi regime was a lie and doubted that it had happened.

On 16 April 2015, the District Court of Szeged passed a legally binding judgment for the woman, aged 61, from Szeged. The court found the defendant guilty for public denial of the crimes of the Nazi regime, and convicted the woman to 18 months probation and supervision. As a special behavioral rule, the court also ordered the defendant to visit the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Páva Street, Budapest. Judge Krisztián Kemenes stated that there was no question as to the defendant’s guilt. However, due to mitigating factors – the defendant’s confession and apology – the judge gave a lenient sentence.

The woman visited the Memorial Centre on 29 July 2015, accompanied by a member of TEV Foundation. After the tour the woman said that the exhibition was a shocking experience, and that it was inconceivable to her how humanity was ever capable of such a thing. The Foundation wants to fight anti-Semitism primarily with education and the dissemination of knowledge, while at the same time, affirming that the offensive denial of the Holocaust must be fought against and denounced for its harmful fabrications of history.

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) 51 00 000

The website of Action and Protection Foundation:
www.tev.hu/forrodrot

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

Action and Protection Foundation's undertaking

can only be successful if great numbers share in our commitment to prepare the grounds for the right to fair process for all those who have suffered offenses. In aid of this cause please support the work of the Foundation with your contribution!

Donations can be made to the Foundation on the following bank account:

13597539-12302010-00057157

Contact details for Action and Protection
Foundation

Address: Semmelweis utca 19, 1052 Budapest,
HUNGARY

Phone: +36 1 267 57 54

+36 30 207 5130

<http://www.tev.hu>

info@tev.hu

Contributors and publisher information

Publisher: Brussels Institute Nonprofit Ltd.
Kálmán Szalai, *Executive Director*

Author: Dr. Dániel Róna, *political scientist, instructor at Corvinus University of Budapest*

Editors: Viktória Burka, *research scholar*
Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Dr. Kristóf Bodó, *legal advocate,*
legal representative of Action and Protection Foundation and the Brussels Institute
Kata Majoros, *Communications consultant*
Melinda Minkó, *research scholar,*
head of the Incident Monitoring Group of the Brussels Institute
Tibor Pásztor, *research scholar,*
monitoring leader of Action and Protection Foundation
Dr. Krisztina Szegő, *research scholar,*
Emese Czintos, *translator*

Contributors: Dániel Bodnár, *philosopher,*
Chairman of the Action and Protection Foundation Board of Trustees
Andrew Srulewitch, *Director, Anti Defamation League*

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2016 Budapest

ותוכן אנטישמיים. שבעת הסוגים הם הריגה, אלימות הגורמת פציעה באורח קשה, תקיפה, השחתת רכוש, איום, דברי שטנה ואפליה. מבין אלה, דברי השטנה כסוג מיוחד של הסתה הם הנפוצים ביותר מאז 2013, בנוסף להשחתת רכוש, תקיפות ואיומים. אין דוגמאות לשאר הסוגים.

עמותת מאבק והגנה מכינה סקר שנתי מאז 2013 על יחס החברה ההונגרית ליהדות. לפי הסקר השלישי ברציפות, מנובמבר 2015, ניתן להסיק שבשנה האחרונה יש עליה מסוימת בהזדהות עם רגשות המזוהות כאנטישמיות. מהסיכום הקצר של תוצאות הסקר ברור, שכשליש מהאוכלוסייה מזדהים עם רגשות אנטישמיים נפוצים. במהלך הסקר נבדקה דגימה של 1200 איש מעל גיל 18, בנושאים כגון דעות בנוגע ליהדות, תפיסות, שכיחותן של דעות קדומות אנטישמיות, הבנת האנטישמיות ואסוציאציות עם היהדות. המתודולוגיה מבוססת על הקונספט שפותח ע"י הסוציולוג אנדרש קובץ', ומבצעי הסקר משתמשים בגרסאות החדשות, האקטואליות והמורחבות של הסקרים שהכין ב-1995. כך ניתן לבדוק את השינויים והמגמות בפרטים והתוצאות לפי פרקי זמן.

דו"ח אנו מציגים גם הליך משפטי שהסתיים זה עתה, שמשמש כדוגמא, בה עקב הגשת התביעה בנושא הכחשת שואה ע"י עמותת מאבק והגנה, הנאשם ב.ז. הורשע.

עמותת מאבק והגנה ומכון המחקר שלה, מכון בריסל, עוסקים במאבק נגד הברות וחוסר הידע במסגרת האלטרנטיבה החדשה למאבק באנטישמיות, בעזרת מחקרים מקיפים בנושא והשגחה על זיהוי סימני נאצה. המכון התחיל את עבודתו ב-2013 ומוציא דו"ח חודשי ושנתי על תקריות אנטישמיות שזוהו ככאלה. בדו"חות מופיעות שתי סוגי תקריות: פשעי שנאה ותקריות שבסיסן שנאה, אותם מגדיר הארגון לביטחון ולשיתוף פעולה באירופה (OSCE) בצורה להלן:

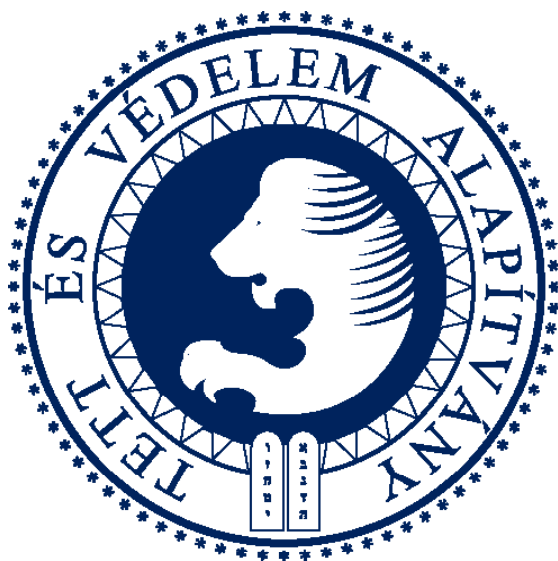
- פשע שנאה: פשע המוגדר כך לפי החוק הפלילי, נגד קבוצה ספציפית של אנשים
- תקרית המבוססת על שנאה: פעולה נגד קבוצה ספציפית של אנשים, אך לפי הגדרת החוק בדרגה נמוכה מפשע.

בכדי לעקוב באופן שותף אחר פשעי שנאה אנטישמיים יש צורך במספר משאבים בו-זמנית. מעבר להכנת דו"חות על המאורעות חשוב לקחת בחשבון את המאפיינים של כל תקרית. הדו"ח השנתי הוא מעין סיכום של הדו"חות החודשיים לפי סוגי תקריות ותביעות משפטיות. המתודולוגיה המוצגת בדו"ח השנתי מבוססת על סטנדרטים בינלאומיים, ומגדירה כפשעי שנאה פעולות, תקריות, מאורעות ויציאות שכוונו נגד אנשים, ארגונים ונכסים יהודיים, כאשר ניתן להוכיח כוונות

פשעי שנאה ותקריות אנטישמיות



דו"ח שנתי
2015



מכון בריסל