



Hungarian Helsinki Committee

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General climate of intolerance in Hungary

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I. The Roma minority

Members of the **Roma community** are discriminated against in almost all fields of life, and this is also the opinion of the public: 90% of respondents in a survey conducted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2009 stated that discrimination based on ethnic origin is widespread in Hungary.¹ Furthermore, **62% of respondents belonging to the Roma minority stated that they were discriminated against** in the preceding 12 months in various fields.² A survey by the Marketing Centrum in 2009 showed that 29% of the respondents would not accept a Roma person as a co-worker, 43% of the respondents would not accept a Roma as a neighbour, 76% would not accept a Roma person as a partner.³

a) Employment

The social and financial situation of the Roma is alarming in general (their **employment rate is under 30%** since the beginning of the 1990s⁴). According to another FRA-survey conducted in 2009, **32% of Roma respondents were discriminated against in the preceding 12 months when looking for work or at work.**⁵ In addition to this, a survey of TÁRKI from April 2009 showed that **Roma are more likely to lose their jobs: 27% of Roma had lost their jobs in the preceding 12 months**, while this percentage was 16% with regard to the entire population.⁶

b) Education

Segregation of Roma children is widespread: approximately one-third of them are educated in segregated classes.⁷ According to a recent study prepared for the Ministry of Education now **there are 3000 segregated Roma classes in primary schools**⁸ as opposed to 150 in 1980. **Segregation many times also means direct discrimination:** in segregated classes Roma children's **education is of lower quality**, which decreases their chances to get into higher education, and to reach a better financial and social situation. However, despite the long-known, clear evidence of educational segregation, the studies showing that segregation exists and judicial decisions stating that segregation regarding certain schools has to be terminated, the situation has remained the same, or even deteriorated. In several lawsuits launched by the Chance for Children Foundation (Esélyt a Hátrányos Helyzetű Gyerekeknek Alapítvány, CFCF⁹) against municipalities maintaining primary schools (e.g. Miskolc, Győr, Kaposvár), the court held in final and legally binding decisions that segregation was occurring. The CFCF also started a court case involving Heves county and the Expert Committee operated by the county council.¹⁰ According to the claim, **the percentage of children declared mentally disabled in Heves county is much higher than in other counties, the number of Roma children is disproportionately high among such children and almost all these children are sent to segregated remedial schools with substandard curriculum.** CFCF is asking the court to establish racial bias in the diagnosing and certifying

¹ This is the second highest rate in the European Union. See: http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/EU-MIDIS_GLANCE_EN.pdf, p. 6.

² http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/EU-MIDIS_GLANCE_EN.pdf, p. 9.

³ <http://www.marketingcentrum.hu/index.php?lang=hu&page=rezszetek&id=28>

⁴ <http://www.econ.core.hu/doc/bwp/bwp/Bwp0504.pdf>, p. 5.

⁵ http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/EU-MIDIS_ROMA_EN.pdf, p. 5.

⁶ <http://www.tarki.hu/hu/news/2009/kitekint/20090612.html>

⁷ http://econ.core.hu/file/download/zk/zoldkonyv_oktatas_05.pdf, p. 123.

⁸ http://www.budapestedu.hu/felsomenu/hirek/javitani_nem.html

⁹ <http://www.cfcf.hu>

¹⁰ Expert Committees are issuing diagnoses and certifications regarding children with disabilities and learning difficulties.



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procedure and to ban the county and its Expert Committee from the discriminatory practice. It shall be noted that in 2009 the CFCF filed a civil lawsuit against the Ministry of Education, claiming that the Ministry had omitted to take efficient steps in order to solve the problem of segregation.¹¹

c) Policing and criminal justice

Ethnic profiling

In the light of empirical sociological research, **police officers are highly biased against the Roma**,¹² which may seriously influence the way they treat victims of Roma origin and conduct investigations in racially motivated crimes. A qualitative research study carried out by TÁRKI in 2005 showed that **the Roma are indeed discriminated against in the context of ID checks by the Police**. The research concluded that **ethnic profiling** exists in Hungary, and there is an **assumption among the police officers that correlation between ethnic identity and potential criminal behaviour exists**.¹³ The findings of the Strategies of Effective Police Stop and Search (STEPSS) Project carried out by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee in 2007-2008 supported the existence of racial profiling in police practice: the research based on a six-month period of data collection by police officers themselves concluded that Roma people are three times more likely to be stopped and checked by police than non-Roma persons, while ID checks performed on the Roma are not more efficient.¹⁴

Police trade union with extreme right-wing links

It is also worth mentioning that in May 2009 **one of the police trade unions** (Tettrekész Magyar Rendőrség Szakszervezet)¹⁵ – having around 5,000 members in a police force of 45,000 – **signed an agreement of cooperation**¹⁶ **with the radical right-wing party “Jobbik”** (Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom Párt – Movement for a Better Hungary Party)¹⁷, which has 12% of the seats in the Hungarian Parliament and whose representatives frequently express racist thoughts, putting “Gypsy criminality” in the focus of their campaigns (see below in more detail). **Police leaders expressed their disapproval**,¹⁸ **and the public prosecutor’s office claimed that the leaders of the trade union breached the law when signing an agreement with a political party**,¹⁹ however, the existence of the agreement raises concerns about bias in the Hungarian police system.

Attacks against Roma and authorities’ misconduct in the course of investigations

Between January 2008 and August 2009 in different parts of the country **six Roma men, women and children were killed** in a series of similar attacks also injuring 5 victims and threatening the lives of 55 other people. In the same period, **NGOs recorded over 40 separate attacks on members of the Roma community**.²⁰ Finally, in August 2009, the Hungarian Bureau of Investigation arrested four suspects of the series of fatal

¹¹ http://www.cfcf.hu/oktatasi-es-kulturalis-miniszterium-elleni-per_hu.html

¹² Ethnic profiling is an issue of concern for the UN Human Rights Committee as well. See: Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant. Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee – Hungary. UN Human Rights Committee, October 2010, CCPR/C/HUN/CO/5. § 18.

¹³ See: Pap, A. L., Miller, J., Gounev, P., Wagman, D., Balogi, A., Bezlov, T., Simonovits, B. and Vargha, L.: Racism and Police Stops – Adapting US and British Debates to Continental Europe, In: European Journal of Criminology, 2008/5, pp. 161–191.; and Pap, A. L.: Police ethnic profiling in Hungary – Lessons from an international research, In: Regio, A review of Studies on Minorities, Politics, Society, 2007, Vol. 10., pp. 117–140.

¹⁴ <http://www.tmrsh.hu>

¹⁵ The text of the agreement of cooperation is available at: <http://www.tmrsh.hu/hirek-aktualis/466-egyuttmukodes-jobbik-090518.html>.

¹⁷ <http://www.jobbik.hu>

¹⁸ http://index.hu/belfold/2009/05/21/bencze_turhetetlen_a_jobbik-tettrekesz_megallapodas/

¹⁹ <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20090603-fel-kell-bontania-a-tettrekesz-magyar-rendorseg-szakszervezetnek-a-jobbikkal.html>,

http://www.hirszerzo.hu/cikk.befellegzett_a_jobbik-tettrekesz_paktumnak.109975.html

²⁰ For a detailed report on the attacks, see: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR27/001/2010/en/7ee79730-e23f-4f20-834a-deb8deb23464/eur270012010en.pdf>.



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attacks. The attacks against the Roma drew attention to the existence of racially motivated crimes in Hungary and to the problems of how the authorities handle hate crimes, since the actual assistance provided by the authorities in certain hate crime cases leaves much to be desired. An illustrative example for this is the Tatárszentgyörgy case that took place in February 2009. A Roma father and his four-year-old son were shot dead at night as they were trying to escape from their house that had been set on fire; other family members were also injured. The joint report of the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC²¹), the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (Társaság a Szabadságjogokért, HCLU²²) and the Legal Defence Bureau for National and Ethnic Minorities (Nemzeti és Etnikai Kisebbségi Jogvédő Iroda, NEKI²³) on the circumstances of the Tatárszentgyörgy case and the conduct of authorities²⁴ listed numerous examples of official misconduct on the part of police officers, fire fighters and emergency medical personnel.

Furthermore, on 8 September 2009, the Minister for National Security Services announced that the internal investigation carried out in relation to the role of the National Security Services in the investigation of the above outlined series of racist killings established that several serious mistakes were made by the Services as some of the perpetrators were well-known extreme-right wing activists who were also under secret surveillance which was ended only some weeks before the first offences in question were committed. The internal investigation also concluded that the cooperation between the Police and the National Security Services was highly unsatisfactory.²⁵

However, despite these conclusions, the Police have not yet devised a plan to address the problem of hate crimes in general, and upon the inquiry of HCLU, the Chief Public Prosecutor's Office claimed that it saw neither reason, not possibility for developing a special protocol for the handling of hate crimes.²⁶

Using criminal law tools designed to protect the Roma against the Roma community

In order to give a more comprehensive picture of the situation concerning hate crimes, it is worth noting that **the number of crimes potentially motivated by racism is by all probability much higher than the number of crimes identified as such.** The number of cases in which the prosecutor pressed charges for violence against the member of a national or ethnic minority was 2 in 2006, 6 in 2007 and 8 in 2008.²⁷ The cause for this is that proving the motivation in these cases is difficult, so going for the qualification that is easier to substantiate (e.g. a simple "bodily harm" instead of "violence against a member of a community", being the Hungarian term for violent hate crimes) is safer from the point of view of success rates. This is also true for the prosecutorial practice concerning indictments. **This practice has been several times criticized by human rights NGOs but no development is known to date.**

In two recent cases, however, **authorities qualified attacks committed by members of the Roma Community as racially motivated crimes in a highly controversial manner.** One of the cases took place in Miskolc, a city with high Roma population rate. In March 2009, SMS messages were circulated among the members of the Roma community, alleging that skinheads were planning to attack the local Roma people. This happened only three weeks after the Tatárszentgyörgy killings described above and after members of the extreme right-wing group called Hungarian Guard – an association closely related to Jobbik and dissolved by the Supreme Court for carrying out racist activity – were holding rallies in different Hungarian villages. These were times when the bursting out of a widespread ethnic conflict seemed possible. At around 1 a.m. two cars not familiar to the local Roma people turned up and drove along the homes of the Roma people several times. 25-40

²¹ <http://www.errc.org/>

²² <http://www.tasz.hu>

²³ <http://www.neki.hu>

²⁴ Available in English at: <http://www.errc.org/db/03/DA/m000003DA.pdf>.

²⁵ <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20090908-nbh-roma-tamadasok-komoly-hibak-voltak-a-vizsgalat-szerint.html>

²⁶ <http://tasz.hu/roma-ugyek/gyuloletbuncselekmények-az-lu-szerint-minden-nagyon-szep-minden-nagyon-jo-folytatodik-lev>

²⁷ Source: Unified Investigation, Prosecutorial and Judicial Statistics (ENYÜBS).



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Roma people attacked them assuming that people in the cars were skinheads or members of the Hungarian Guard. **The Roma had no firearms and they used wooden sticks and stones. No one was injured in the attacks, the damage caused was HUF 104,000 (approx. EUR 400).** Eleven of the attackers were caught by the Police (the others fled and were never identified) and taken into pre-trial detention by the court. In its decision the first instance court found all the perpetrators were guilty of violence against member of a community, i.e. the attack (which the Roma believed to be self-defence) was qualified by the court as a violent hate crime committed in group and armed. The highest sentence was 6 years imprisonment, **the eleven Roma perpetrators altogether were sentenced to 41 years of imprisonment.**²⁸

The decision was criticized by lawyers and human rights NGOs²⁹ saying that it is absurd to hold that under the extremely tense circumstances the crime was racially motivated against the member of the Hungarian community, which conclusion was drawn by the court from the fact that on one of the wooden sticks found in the crime scene there was an inscription "Death to Hungarians", however it was not clarified by whom the stick was prepared or used.

Another similar incident happened in Sajóbáony, a small town close to Miskolc, in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county. On 14 November 2009 a public forum was organized in the town by the Jobbik Magyarországért Mozgalom party. Roma people were not allowed to enter and after the forum some of them were threatened. The next evening three out of the approximately 100 members of the New Hungarian Guard (the illegal "successor" of the dissolved Hungarian Guard) were attacked by Roma inhabitants and one of their cars was seriously damaged with wooden sticks and axes. The Guard members claimed that their Hungarian ethnicity was the cause of the attack, while Roma perpetrators stated that they wanted to protect their families from the neo-Nazi (New) Hungarian Guard. Nine Roma suspects have been in pre-trial detention ever since and accused of violence against member of a community. The trial begins in January 2011.³⁰

d) The issue of "Gypsy criminality" and similar racist ideas in the highest level public discourse

1. **Repeated talk about "Gypsy criminality"** is increasingly common within the political class. In February 2009,³¹ **Viktor Orbán**, at that time the leader of the largest opposition party Fidesz (Alliance of Young Democrats) and **currently the prime minister of Hungary, spoke about a dramatic increase in severe criminal offences committed by Roma people,**³² while statistical evidence shows that the number of severe violent criminal offences has been decreasing in the past years, and the ethnic affiliation of perpetrators is not recorded in any statistics.

2. On 2 April 2009, **Máté Szabó, Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights** (állampolgári jogok országgyűlési biztosa), **stated in an interview** with an online news portal, **amongst other things, that criminality categorized on an ethnic basis – "Gypsy crime" – does exist, identifying it as a type of crime performed to earn a living.** He also referred to Roma as being "a collectivist, almost tribal level social group", comparing them to the individualist Hungarian society.³³ Furthermore, Szabó stated that the attention of the majority society should be drawn to the existence of this specific criminal profile; he also presented himself as the Parliamentary Commissioner of the majority in contrast with the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities – thus openly suggesting that he does not regard himself as a representative of

²⁸ <http://magyarnarancs.hu/index.php?qcPage=/public/hirek/hir.php&id=22703>

²⁹ <http://www.eselykert.hu/component/content/article/2857>

³⁰ Case description provided by one of the criminal defense counsels in the case.

³¹ This happened less than two weeks after Albert Pásztor, head of the Miskolc Police Headquarters, held the press conference detailed under section 4. of this heading.

³² http://index.hu/belfold/2009/02/11/orban_naprol_napra_no_a_cigany_bunelkovetok_aranya/

³³ http://www.fn.hu/belfold/20090401/szabo_mate_figyelmeztetni_kell/



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members of the Roma minority, and his statements indicated that he presumes a direct connection between ethnicity and criminal acts. Finally, due to the indignation caused by the interview, the Parliamentary Commissioner withdrew his statements and apologised.³⁴

3. Racist statements are not rare **among representatives of the local councils neither**: on 3 September 2009 one of the TV-channels submitted the racist and homophobic statements made by the mayor of the town Edelény at the sitting of the local council. **Oszkár Molnár stated that pregnant Roma women hit their bellies with rubber hammers and take medicines in order to give birth to children with disabilities in order to be entitled to higher sums of financial aid paid by the state.**³⁵ In the course of the same sitting the mayor also said that homosexuals "will get to know what homosexual marriage means if they happened to be in prison".³⁶ It shall be also noted with regard to the case that even though the mayor was a representative of the Fidesz, the party at the time did not take a stand on the case, arguing that in their view this was a "local issue".³⁷ However, later on at the 2010 parliamentary elections, Fidesz did not support Oszkár Molnár, and nominated another candidate in Molnár's constituency.

4. The extent of this kind of speech and the fact that even left-wing parties are prone to use such language was illustrated by the following case. **On 30 January 2009, Albert Pásztor, head of the Miskolc Police Headquarters held a press conference** concerning robberies committed in the city of Miskolc (the third biggest city of Hungary, with approximately 190,000 inhabitants). After the press conference, where he mentioned that all the robberies in the preceding two months had been committed by Roma perpetrators, he gave an interview, in which he said: **"We can conclude that the robberies perpetrated in public premises are committed by Gypsy persons.** Hungarians seem to rob banks or patrol stations, but all the other robberies are committed by Gypsies." Furthermore, he said that it is the duty of the Police to raise the awareness of the inhabitants concerning the Roma issue, and the ethnic confrontation may not be solved by remaining silent about the problem. **He also stated that Hungarians shall refrain from attending bars in certain parts of the city, since they may become victims of Roma perpetrators, and the problem is that "cute Gypsy children often become rude and cruel perpetrators"**. Later on he said to the National News Agency (MTI) that in his opinion, the ethnic affiliation of the defendants may be taken into consideration in the course of criminal proceedings.³⁸

Upon the instruction of the Minister of Justice and Law Enforcement, the National Police Headquarters initiated an inquiry into the case, and Pásztor was suspended from his position due to his racist statements.³⁹ At the same time, the local and regional branches of all the parties from left to right expressed their support for the police chief, and organized a joint demonstration in his favour. Finally, his suspension was terminated by the Head of the National Police Headquarters only two days after the press conference, and he could continue his work as head of the city police.

5. On 1 September 2010, **Csanád Szegedi, MEP of the extreme right-wing party Jobbik** held a press conference where he stated that the Jobbik would like to set up so-called **"public security camps"**, first in Miskolc and later on in other settlements as well, **and all those Roma people who are disturbing or threatening their environment would be placed there.** Camps would be surrounded by a double cordon line, people would live there under constant police supervision, after 10 p.m. a curfew would be in effect and the camp could be left during the day only after registration. Placement in such camps would be ordered by the

³⁴ <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20090404-visszavonta-ciganybunozos-nyilatkozatat-az-ombudsman.html>

³⁵ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5fv_PMLD1c

³⁶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fozP2Wd6-wY>

³⁷ <http://www.fidesz.hu/index.php?Cikk=137900>

³⁸ <http://index.hu/belfold/cigbun090130/>, <http://index.hu/belfold/miskociq0130/>

³⁹ <http://index.hu/belfold/paszt0130/>



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police or the local council, and the local council's special committee would be authorised to terminate the placement.⁴⁰

6. The website <http://kuruc.info> is a thematic radical right-wing website operating since 2006, which has specialized in publishing articles against Roma and Jewish people and also LGBT persons. The style of the website is extremely hostile and degrading, articles are constantly violating the human dignity of persons belonging to the communities mentioned and some of them may constitute incitement for hatred. The website has a separate topic devoted to "Gypsy criminality".

e) Coercive sterilisation

Coercive sterilisation remains a concern for Roma women in Hungary. To date, Hungary has failed to fully implement the recommendations formulated by the CEDAW Committee in its 2006 decision in the case of A.S.: Hungarian legal provisions regulating sterilisation do not comply with international standards as to the medical indication and the reversibility of sterilisation procedures; hospitals that perform sterilisation are not monitored.

f) Overrepresentation of Roma children in children's homes

The ERRC's research⁴¹ reveals that Roma children are overrepresented in the Hungarian child protection system: **in the sample of children in professional care institutions interviewed by the ERRC, 40% were of Roma origin and 18% were half-Roma; 58% in total. However, Roma children account for only around 13% of the child population in Hungary.** There is no official data disaggregated by ethnicity meaning it is difficult to assess the full extent of this problem. The removal of children from their families for purely economic reasons is banned by the law, but Roma children appear to be removed more frequently for economic reasons than non-Roma children.

Research found that in every age group those children who were considered Roma have a higher probability of being placed in a children's home than those who were not considered as Roma. A bigger proportion of the children who were not considered as Roma were placed into family-like care or community settings than those who were considered as Roma.

II. The LGBT community

The general climate regarding the **LGBT community** is clearly intolerant as well, and same-sex couples holding each other's hands in the street may face serious verbal or even physical attacks. Since 2007, the **The Budapest Pride March has had to face increasingly serious attacks, in 2008, radical counter-demonstrators threw stones, fire crackers and bottles at the marchers, the cultural events planned to be held after the march had to be cancelled, and some of the well-known participants were physically attacked after the march.** In 2009, the police had to completely empty the streets to guarantee the security of the marchers, but some participants were attacked after the march.⁴²

⁴⁰ http://jobbik.hu/rovatok/rolunk_irtak/a_jobbik_javaslatot_dolgozott_ki_a_hazai_es_az_europai_ciganykerdes_megoldasara

⁴¹ Dis-Interest of the Child: Roma Children in the Hungarian Child Protection System. ERRC, 2008. Available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2960>.

⁴² <http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melegb%C3%BCszkes%C3%A9g>



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It shall be noted, that **László Sólyom, the President of Hungary that time did not take a stand for the rights of the LGBT community and in 2009 refused to meet the organizers of the Budapest Pride.** The Office of the President stated that László Sólyom did not have time for the meeting, even though the organizers asked for an appointment two months before the march in order to have a conversation about the march itself and the situation of the LGBT community in general.⁴³

It may also give rise to concerns that **in one of its statements,⁴⁴ the Police stressed that participants of the Budapest Pride shall refrain from any act "violating public taste"** which may be hardly considered as a legal category. In addition to this, **a Member of the Parliament, Ilona Ékes, representative of the Fidesz, asked the head of the Budapest Police Headquarters to ban the Budapest Pride,** claiming that it gives rise to fear and violates public order.⁴⁵

In July 2010, the route of the Budapest Pride had to be shortened, since the **Police had claimed that** – due to their work related to the flood that time (!) – **they did not have enough cordons** to block the streets and ensure the safety of the Budapest Pride's participants.⁴⁶ Furthermore, the Police issued **a separate statement** again before the march **requesting the participants to refrain from acts violating public morals and public indecency.** Organizers criticized the attitude of the Police in general regarding the Pride.

For security reasons, attendees had to leave the premises in separate subway cars after the Pride was over. Incidents happened already before the march: at the opening ceremony of the LGBT festival organized along with the Budapest Pride **right-wing radicals attempted to tear down the rainbow flag from the facade of the cinema where the opening ceremony was held.** The Police stopped them, but the radicals still had the chance to hit a guest leaving the ceremony; further incidents happened on the day of the march. Prejudice against LGBT persons on behalf of police officers was also detectable: at the opening ceremony in the cinema, **a police officer told that the rainbow flag was a provocation,** and that the organizers should remove it from the facade.⁴⁷

As far as hate crimes are concerned, there are also examples for authorities reluctance to qualify hate crimes as such also in cases of a potential homophobic motivation. For example after the Budapest Pride held in September 2009, **a woman wearing a T-shirt with the symbol of the march was beaten up** by three persons. She suffered light injuries. **The Police started an investigation and qualified the case initially as "violent public behaviour",** even though it was clear that the woman was attacked because she was believed to attend the march, thus the offence should have been qualified as a violent hate crime.⁴⁸

III. Jewish people

Bias against Jewish people is also tangible on a daily basis in several forms; the UN Human Rights Committee has also expressed its concerns at indications of rising anti-Semitism in Hungary.⁴⁹ For example in June 2010, **legs of**

⁴³ <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20090713-solyom-laszlo-nem-talalkozik-a-meleg-szervezetekkel.html>

⁴⁴ http://www.police.hu/friss/BRF-20090831_23.html

⁴⁵ <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20090828-a-melegfelvonulas-betiltasat-keri-egy-fideszes-kepviselo.html>

⁴⁶ <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20100709-melegfelvonulas-a-kozerkolcs-es-kozszerem-vedelmere-szolit-fel-a-rendorseg.html>

⁴⁷ <http://budapestpride.hu/szelsojobbaldali-tamadas-a-budapest-pride-ellen>

⁴⁸ The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union turned to the National Police Headquarters, requesting the Police to qualify the incident as „violence against a member of a community”. See: <http://tasz.hu/gyulekezesi-jog/nem-garazdasag-kozosseg-tajja-elleni-eroszak-rendorseghez-fordul-tasz-megvert-no-ugy>.

⁴⁹ Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant. Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee – Hungary. UN Human Rights Committee, October 2010, CCPR/C/HUN/CO/5. § 18.



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pigs were placed in the Holocaust memorial statue forming empty shoes on the riverbank of the Danube. The statue was created in the memory of those who were shot into the Danube by the Hungarian Nazis in 1944-45.⁵⁰ Further examples include **Jewish cemeteries damaged** with clear bias motivation (e.g. Székesfehérvár – December 2009 and August 2010,⁵¹ Várpalota – May 2010,⁵² Kaposvár – February 2008 and May 2007⁵³). **The website <http://kuruc.info/>, referred to above, has a separate topic called "Jewish criminality" filled with hostile and degrading articles.**

Anti-Semitism is also detectable in the case of the **radical right-wing parliamentary party Jobbik**. For example in March 2010, the party's newspaper titled Barikád came out with a clearly anti-Semitic front page. In the picture a statue of one of the Hungarian saints on a hillside in Budapest is shown, but the cross in his hand is replaced by a menorah. The text says: "Wake up, Budapest! Is that what you want?", referring also to the article inside the newspaper discussing the assumed Jewish takeover in the real estate market in Budapest.⁵⁴

In April 2008, József Tibor Biber, at that time **the vice-president of the Jobbik, said that the whole political leadership is interested in getting Hungary under Israel's total control, and "Gypsy criminality" is a biological weapon in the hands of Zionism.**⁵⁵ The same idea was reiterated by **Lóránt Hegedűs, pastor of the Hungarian Reformed Church, in October 2009, when he said⁵⁶ that "It is Simon Peresz's intention to conquer Hungary that is behind the incitement of the Gypsies [against the Hungarian]".** In November 2009, at a public forum organized by the Jobbik, the same pastor said that Hungarians are anti-Semitic but not because they want to be but because "these" (i.e. the Jews) make them anti-Semites, and also **added that the Jews are working to exterminate the Hungarian nation.**⁵⁷

It seems that hate crimes **against Jewish people are not handled properly either.** For example in March 2010 a rabbi and his guests, including children, were celebrating Pesach in an apartment, when someone started to throw stones into the apartment through the open window. The Police started an investigation in the case, but qualified the offence as a simple abuse instead of a hate crime.⁵⁸ It has to be added that police officers arriving to the spot advised the men leaving the dinner that they should remove their kipas, since "it is not safe" to walk around in Budapest wearing them.⁵⁹

⁵⁰ http://www.nol.hu/belfold/disznolabak_a_duna-parti_cipokban

⁵¹ <http://www.stop.hu/articles/article.php?id=578050>

⁵² <http://vponline.hu/veszprem-megye/sirokat-rongaltak-varpalotai-zsido-temetoben>

⁵³ <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20080203-ismeretlen-tettesek-hetvegen-huszonnegy-sirt-rongaltak-meg-a-kaposvari-zsido.html>

⁵⁴ http://nol.hu/archivum/sunyi_uszitas_a_barikad_cimlapjan_-_miszisz_morvaival_sulyosbitva

⁵⁵ http://www.jobbsajoszentpeter.eoldal.hu/cikkek/ebredj-s-vigyazz_/a-ciganybunozes-a-cionizmus-biologiai-fegyvere

⁵⁶ http://nol.hu/belfold/fekete_tomeg_emlekezett_ciganyozva_olaszliszkan

⁵⁷ http://index.hu/belfold/2009/11/18/inkabb_zsidoztak_mint_ciganyoztak/?rnd=601

⁵⁸ See: http://index.hu/belfold/2010/03/31/kovekkel_tamadtak_egy_rabbira_es_a_vendegeire/. The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union voiced criticism again: http://index.hu/belfold/2010/04/01/tasz_nem_rongalas_kozosseg_elleni_eroszak/.

⁵⁹ http://index.hu/belfold/2010/03/31/kovekkel_tamadtak_egy_rabbira_es_a_vendegeire/