

## **Attacks against Roma in Hungary: January 2008-September 2012**

The following is a list of 61 attacks against Roma and/or their property in Hungary between January 2008 and September 2012. It was last updated: 1 October 2012.

This list of attacks is not exhaustive and does not address the State response to the attacks. Information on the State response to a selection of these incidents can be found in the ERRC report “Imperfect Justice: Anti-Roma Violence and Impunity”.

**This information is compiled from media and NGO reports. The ERRC has not independently verified all of the information contained in these reports and does not take any position as to the potential bias motivation of these attacks.**

Important facts:

- the attacks took a total of nine lives, including two minors;
- the attacks left dozens of people with injuries, ten of which were life-threatening;
- At least twelve cases Molotov cocktails were used against Romani people and/or their property, in two cases hand grenades;
- in at least 16 cases shots were fired; and
- in at least 19 cases Romani property was vandalised.

## 61. Police harassment against Romani community

**Location:** Tura, Pest county

**Date:** From the middle of  
September 2012

**Source:** <http://atlatszo.hu/2012/10/10/rendorveres-utan-zaklatasra-panaszkodnak-a-turai-ciganyok/>

Romani people were subjected to disproportionate police action and harassment in Tura, according to reports by the Roma Press Center. According to this report, the harassment started after a policeman was attacked on 5 September 2012 as he apparently interrupted a burglary. The incident was widely reported in the media as an attack by a Romani man against the policeman, although the details of what happened are unclear. After the incident 240 police were sent to the town of Tura. Approximately 8000 people live there, including approximately 2000 Roma.

According to the reports made by local Roma to the Roma Press Center, a number of incidents took place. According to a non-Romani eye witness, in one case the police slapped and punched a Romani man in the stomach, saying “why are you smoking during an identity check, you dirty gypsy?”

## 60. Romani teenagers attacked

**Location:** Eger, Heves county

**Date:** 27 September 2012

**Source:** <http://www.nepszava.hu/articles/article.php?id=588157>

A group of Romani teenagers between the ages of 14 and 16 were attacked on 27 September 2012 in Eger, Heves county. According to media reports, the teens were first assaulted in the morning when they took the train to school. They managed to escape from their attackers, who threatened them with knives. In the afternoon, the same group assaulted them on the way home on the train. This time the teenagers had to lock themselves in the train cabin for protection, while the perpetrators shouted ‘we are going to kill you’. The teenagers phoned relatives to ask for help, who called the police. The attackers were arrested at one of the train stations. The local Roma community leader told the media that the attackers “were dressed as members of Jobbik.”

**59. Pregnant Romani Woman Attacked**

<b>Location:</b>	Sárrétudvari, Hajdú-Bihar county	<b>Date of incident</b>	7 September 2012
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://www.romnet.hu/hirek/2012/09/07/thaibokszolo_mentotiszt_tamadt_egy_terhes_roma_lanyra">http://www.romnet.hu/hirek/2012/09/07/thaibokszolo_mentotiszt_tamadt_egy_terhes_roma_lanyra</a> <a href="http://index.hu/belfold/2012/09/07/sarretudvari_konfliktus/">http://index.hu/belfold/2012/09/07/sarretudvari_konfliktus/</a>		
<p>A 16-year-old pregnant Romani girl and her companion got into a conflict with their neighbour on their way to a shop. The events are unclear, but according to the victims' report to the media, the attacker first tried to run them over with his car. After this failed attempt, he got out of his car and kicked the girl's partner. The girl tried to record the events with her telephone, but the perpetrator twisted her arm and pushed her to the ground. According to the police the girl didn't have any external injuries, but she was taken to a hospital for tests. The perpetrator claimed that he was attacked first. According to him, the girl hit his car while he was passing by and when he got out of the car, the girl's partner attacked him.</p>			

**58. Far right groups gathered in Cegléd**

<b>Location:</b>	Cegléd, Pest county	<b>Date of incident</b>	19 August 2012
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://index.hu/belfold/2012/08/20/fokozott_rendori_jelenlet_cegleden/">http://index.hu/belfold/2012/08/20/fokozott_rendori_jelenlet_cegleden/</a> <a href="http://www.community.eu/2012/08/19/szelsoseges-provokacio-cegleden/">http://www.community.eu/2012/08/19/szelsoseges-provokacio-cegleden/</a> <a href="http://index.hu/belfold/2012/08/20/cegledi_konfliktus_felfujt_akcio/">http://index.hu/belfold/2012/08/20/cegledi_konfliktus_felfujt_akcio/</a>		

Approximately 400 people from various extreme-right groups gathered in Cegléd where a conflict took place with the local Roma. The event was organised by Szebb Jövőért Polgárőr Egyesület (Civil Guard Association for a Better Future), but members of other far right organisations were also present. The Mayor of Cegléd stated that he saw several Jobbik representatives as well. The event started with a patrol near the Romani settlement in Cegléd. Later, this event escalated to a conflict between the local Roma and the far-right groups who were marching. A local activist who works with the Romani community reported to the Roma Press Center that at least one person was injured and that the Roma were very frightened. The police were alerted and the authorities arrived in time to stop the events from escalating.



Photo by: MTI – János Bugány

### 57. Rocks thrown at Roma house during anti-Roma march in Devecser

<b>Location:</b>	Devecser, Veszprém County	<b>Date of incident</b>	5 August 2012
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://www.economist.com/blogs/easternapproaches/2012/08/hungarian-anti-roma-marches">http://www.economist.com/blogs/easternapproaches/2012/08/hungarian-anti-roma-marches</a> <a href="http://index.hu/belfold/2012/08/06/kovel_dobtak_meg_a_jobbikost_betondarabbal_az_lm_p-st/">http://index.hu/belfold/2012/08/06/kovel_dobtak_meg_a_jobbikost_betondarabbal_az_lm_p-st/</a> <a href="http://atv.hu/belfold/20120807_az_atv_kideritette_o_dobta_fejbe_a_jobbikos_honatyat">http://atv.hu/belfold/20120807_az_atv_kideritette_o_dobta_fejbe_a_jobbikos_honatyat</a> <a href="http://index.hu/belfold/2012/10/04/a_rendorok_nem_lattak_okot_az_oszlatasra_devecser_ben/">http://index.hu/belfold/2012/10/04/a_rendorok_nem_lattak_okot_az_oszlatasra_devecser_ben/</a>		
<p>Outlaw Army (Betyársereg), Jobbik and other extreme right groups organised an anti-Roma march on 5 August 2012 that escalated to violence. According to media reports about 1000 individuals from different far right groups marched in Devecser through the sections of the town mainly inhabited by Roma. An activist from the LMP (Politics Can Be Different) party, who regularly visits the local Roma community, reported that pieces of concrete were thrown at him by the demonstrators. He took refuge in the house of a Romani family he was visiting. The house was continuously targeted by individuals throwing rocks. A Jobbik MP, one of the organisers of the march, received a head injury from a rock being thrown. The MP claimed the Roma attacked him; however video footage showed that the rock had in fact been thrown by a far-right supporter. The police were present at the scene but did not intervene. Later, several NGOs sent an open letter to the Ministry of Interior raising concerns about the passive behaviour of the police. The authorities responded that the demonstration had retained its “peaceful nature”, so there was no need for police intervention.</p>			



Photo: MTI – Lajos Nagy

**56. Romani house set on fire**

<b>Location:</b>	Nemesvid, Somogy county	<b>Date of incident</b>	27 July 2012
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://www.romnet.hu/hirek/2012/07/27/harom_honapja_feleleben_egy_nemesvidi_rom_a_csalad">http://www.romnet.hu/hirek/2012/07/27/harom_honapja_feleleben_egy_nemesvidi_rom_a_csalad</a>		

A Romani family contacted the media after harassment by unknown individuals. In one incident a piece of burning paper was thrown through their window, causing a fire. They told the media that the harassments started three months earlier after a bridge on the family's property was forcibly taken down by the local municipality, because locals claimed the family regularly used it as a route to go out and steal. After this event, unknown perpetrators threw a brick through their window, injuring the family's relatives.

**55. Romani Man beaten by bouncers**

<b>Location</b>	Debrecen, Hajdú-Bihar county	<b>Date of incident</b>	27 May 2012
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://www.haon.hu/mar-az-nni-nyomozza-a-home-os-verest/2001002">http://www.haon.hu/mar-az-nni-nyomozza-a-home-os-verest/2001002</a> <a href="http://index.hu/belfold/2012/06/07/megverték_egy_ferfit_a_debreceni_home_diszkonal/">http://index.hu/belfold/2012/06/07/megverték_egy_ferfit_a_debreceni_home_diszkonal/</a> <a href="http://index.hu/belfold/2012/06/14/elfogtak_a_debrecenben_megvert_roma_ferfi_tamadoit/">http://index.hu/belfold/2012/06/14/elfogtak_a_debrecenben_megvert_roma_ferfi_tamadoit/</a>		

A Romani man was beaten by security guards at a disco in Debrecen. According to the victim's report to the media, he tried to enter the club, but the guards told him that he was not allowed in because he is a 'gypsy'. When the Romani individual asked the bouncers why, they pushed him into a side ally where they brutally beat him. According to media reports, his eye was injured and he received multiple fractures to his nose. He was taken to a local hospital for treatment, and was discharged the next day. He fainted later that day and was rehospitalised. Later, the media reported that the perpetrators were arrested and charged with assault.

**54. Romani family threatened with gun**

<b>Location:</b>	Nyíregyháza, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county	<b>Date of incident</b>	18 April 2012
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://www.romnet.hu/hirek/2012/04/18/fegyverrel_tamadt_egy_kisgyermekes_roma_haz_asparra_nyiregyhazan">http://www.romnet.hu/hirek/2012/04/18/fegyverrel_tamadt_egy_kisgyermekes_roma_haz_asparra_nyiregyhazan</a>		
<p>On 18 April 2012, a Romani family with a four-year-old child was assaulted by a man with a gun in the downtown area of Nyíregyháza. According to the media the perpetrator shouted, 'why are you here dirty gypsies? You are going to die'. The father tried to protect his family and the perpetrator escaped into a nearby building. The police arrived with significant force and captured the attacker. The father told the Roma Press Center that after the capture of the attacker the police found several guns in the perpetrator's home. Later, the police told the Press Center that there is no evidence of any racial motivation in the attack and it is likely that the attack happened because the perpetrator was drunk.</p>			

**53. Famous Romani Singer attacked**

<b>Location:</b>	Budapest	<b>Date of incident</b>	21 December 2011
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://www.blikk.hu/blikk_sztarvilag/feladta-magat-olah-ibolya-tamadoja-2075431">http://www.blikk.hu/blikk_sztarvilag/feladta-magat-olah-ibolya-tamadoja-2075431</a> <a href="http://www.hir24.hu/szines/2011/12/21/friss-hirek-a-megtamadott-olah-ibolyarol-%E2%80%93-bortonviselt-a-tamadoja/~~bulvar">http://www.hir24.hu/szines/2011/12/21/friss-hirek-a-megtamadott-olah-ibolyarol-%E2%80%93-bortonviselt-a-tamadoja/~~bulvar</a>		
<p>On 21 December 2011, a well-known singer, Ibolya Oláh was attacked in a bar in Budapest. According to media reports, the perpetrator attacked the singer and her company with a barstool while shouting racist language. Ms Olah's friend, who tried to protect her, received injuries to her mouth and nose. The bar owner told the media that the person seemed drunk and after the incident left the scene. Later, the media also reported that the perpetrator gave himself up.</p>			

**52. Romani boy assaulted during action by Hungarian extremist group**

<b>Location:</b>	Gyöngyöspata (Heves county)	<b>Date of incident</b>	26 April 2011
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&amp;detail=2007_2385">http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&amp;detail=2007_2385</a> <a href="http://gyongyospatasolidarity.wordpress.com/">http://gyongyospatasolidarity.wordpress.com/</a> <a href="http://index.hu/belfold/2011/04/26/verekedes_gyongyospatan/">http://index.hu/belfold/2011/04/26/verekedes_gyongyospatan/</a>		

During tensions between supporters of extreme right group, Véderő, and the local Romani community in Gyöngyöspata, Hungary, a Romani boy was assaulted on the night of 26 April 2011. According to the testimonies of local Roma to the media, tensions grew throughout the day as uniformed members of Véderő gathered in the centre of the town and verbally provoked local Roma. Véderő members also reportedly threatened local Roma with a gun and some threw stones at one of the houses in the Romani neighbourhood. They then assaulted a 14-year-old Romani boy, after which a fight between the two groups broke out in which several people were injured.

**51. Romani house attacked**

<b>Location:</b>	Gyöngyöspata (Heves county)	<b>Date of incident</b>	16 April 2011
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://fmh.hu/belfoldi/20110417_gyongyospata">http://fmh.hu/belfoldi/20110417_gyongyospata</a>		

Unknown perpetrators attacked a Romani house in Gyöngyöspata. The incident took place while the far right paramilitary group Szebb Jövőért Polgárőr Egyesület (Civil Guard Association for a Better Future) was occupying Gyöngyöspata, patrolling Romani neighbourhoods and intimidating the residents. A window of the house was broken with a stone on the night of 16 April 2011. No one was injured during the incident. Police reportedly opened an investigation into the matter.



**50. Pregnant Romani woman threatened**

<b>Location:</b>	Gyöngyöspata	<b>Date of incident</b>	4 March 2011
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://tasz.hu/romaprogram/rendorseg-szerint-nem-gyulolet-buncselekmeny">http://tasz.hu/romaprogram/rendorseg-szerint-nem-gyulolet-buncselekmeny</a> <a href="http://hvg.hu/itthon/20110601_gyongyospata_rendorseg_tasz">http://hvg.hu/itthon/20110601_gyongyospata_rendorseg_tasz</a>		

According to several news reports and the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU), a pregnant Romani woman was assaulted by masked men dressed in black uniforms. According to the report by HCLU, the perpetrators were carrying whips and followed the woman, who was eight months pregnant, spitting on her. The victim ran away and shortly after went into labour, which may have been brought on by the stress of the attack. By the time the ambulance arrived she had given birth. The HCLU took her case and submitted an official report on the attack. Police authorities stated that they did not find racial motivation in the attack.

**49. Outhouse destroyed by fire and death threat on the wall of a Romani home**

<b>Location:</b>	Jászapáti, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county	<b>Date of incident</b>	4 September 2010
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://www.szoljon.hu/jasz-nagykun-szolnok/kozelet/meghaltok-ciganyok-allt-a-hazon-kigyulladt-a-mellekepulet-325869">http://www.szoljon.hu/jasz-nagykun-szolnok/kozelet/meghaltok-ciganyok-allt-a-hazon-kigyulladt-a-mellekepulet-325869</a>		

A Romani family's outhouse was burnt down on 4 September 2010 in Jászapáti after a death threat was painted in red on their home. The writing said: "You will die gypsies!" The cause of the fire is unclear, but the investigator's report did not rule out that the fire was started on purpose. No personal injuries occurred, and an investigation was opened to find any link between the sign and the fire. According to the media report, this was not the first incident at this property and the victims had observed several suspicious events before the fire. They told the media that unknown perpetrators had tried to burn the house down before.



Photo source: szoljon.hu

<b>48. Shots fired at a Romani family's house</b>			
<b>Location:</b>	Olaszliszka (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county )	<b>Date:</b>	4 July 2010
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">MTI</a>		
<p>Unknown perpetrators attacked a Romani house late in the evening on Sunday 4 July 2010. Three shots were fired at the house leaving bullet holes in the front wall. When the attack occurred, the mother and children were sleeping in the house. No injuries were reported.</p>			

<b>47. Molotov cocktail attack</b>			
<b>Location:</b>	Hatvan (Heves county)	<b>Date:</b>	22 May 2010
<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">168 Óra Online</a>		
<p>In the early morning of 22 May, another arson attack occurred in Hatvan. Unknown perpetrators threw several bottles filled with gas at a house inhabited by Romani people. The residents of the house woke up when the bottles were thrown through the window and broke. They called the fire brigade, which managed to put out the fire.</p> <p>Damage was estimated at 5,000 HUF and no injuries were reported. According to the Hatvan Police Spokesperson Soltész Bálint, police are investigating racial motivation.</p>			

**46. Deputy of the National Roma Minority Self-Government attacked**

<b>Location:</b>	Elek (Békés county)	<b>Date:</b>	15 April 2010
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://Metropol.hu">Metropol.hu</a>
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One of the deputies of the National Roma Minority Self-Government was attacked on 15 April 2010. According to his statements in the media two “active members of an extremist part and organisation” were demolishing the pub he owned and as he approached them they started kicking and hitting him in the face.

**45. Molotov cocktail attack**

<b>Location:</b>	Siofok (Somogyi county)	<b>Date:</b>	18 March 2010
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="http://Nepszabadsag.hu">Népszabadság</a>
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During the night of 18 March 2010, a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the house of a Romani family in Siofok. Police found Molotov cocktails in three other houses in the area, each of which caused minor damage. There were no personal injuries.

Bence Jozsef, Head of police in Siofok, was quoted in the media stating that there is no connection to previous attacks or the upcoming elections. Németh Zsolt, President of the Roma Minority Self-Government of Siofok, stated that this was an obvious attack against Romani people, as four Romani houses in three different streets were targeted.

#### 44. Clash between Roma and Non-Roma in Sajóbábony

**Location:** Sajóbábony (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county)      **Date:** 14-15 November 2009

**Source:** [Népszabadság](#), ERRC, NEKI.

In November 2009, there was a clash between local Roma and members of the banned far right group Hungarian Guard in the town of Sajóbábony (NE Hungary) after a local politician called the far right political party Jobbik to visit the town to “make some order”.

On 14 November, Jobbik held a “public hearing” in the town where members of the banned Hungarian Guard also participated and several police officers were present to ensure security. When Romani residents of the town arrived at the public hearing, they were barred from entering. The police intervened to avoid physical clash between the parties, however during their intervention they defended members of Jobbik and the Hungarian Guard.

Next day, a convoy of vehicles carrying members of the Hungarian Guard approached Sajóbábony Romani neighbourhood. Roma from the neighbourhood gathered and watched as the convoy approached them. The lead vehicle drove off road and into the group gathered; in response some of the Roma began to hit the car with sticks, axes, etc.

The police intervened and arrested several Roma on the spot. Others were arrested in the week following the incident, accused of committing a hate crime and causing damage.



*Photo: (Népszabadság) Police is closing the street leading to Sajóbábony.*

### 43. Romani mother murdered, daughter injured in their home

**Location:** Kisléta (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county) **Date:** 03 August 2009

**Source:** [Népszabadság](#)

On the night of 3 August 2009, 45-year-old Mária B. and her daughter were attacked by strangers in their home.

The mother died after being shot while in her bed and her daughter survived but was badly injured.



*Photo: (Népszabadság) Locals debate what might have triggered the tragedy*

### 42. Man attacks Romani family with razor blade

**Location:** Abádszalók (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok county) **Date:** 27 May 2009

**Source:** [Népszabadság](#)

A man broke into a house at 3:00 AM and attacked the Romani family inside with a razor blade. He entered the house through a window and injured the father by cutting into his neck and chest and harmed the mother by cutting into her legs. The family managed to overtake the perpetrator, who was also armed with a gun. He was then arrested by the police.

Four people were injured in the attack. The parents were later taken to the hospital. Their child, sleeping in the bed with them at the time of the attack was not injured (Announcement by Rostas László, the vice-president of the Roma Minority Self-Government).

The perpetrator was known for making harassing statements towards Roma and for connections to the Magyar Garda, whose press-office denounced this attack.



*Photo: (MTI): One of the victims.*

#### 41. Shots reached Romani house

**Location:** Táska (Somogy county) **Date:** 5 May 2009

**Source:** [Népszabadság](#)

On 5 May 2009 unknown perpetrators shot at a house inhabited by a Romani family. The shots were fired late at night while the family was sleeping in their house. There were no personal injuries.



Photo (népszabadság): bullet-holes.

#### 40. Police shot at a Romani man who failed to stop for a document check

**Location:** Érd (Pest county) **Date:** 25 April 2009

**Source:** [168 Óra Online](#)

Police shot at a Romani driver when he failed to stop for a check. According to the police, road police wanted to stop the man for a documents check. Instead, the man allegedly swept the policemen away with his vehicle. After a warning shot the police officer shot at the vehicle. The bullet hit the man in his back.

#### 39. Romani man shot to death in front of his house

**Location:** Tiszalök (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county) **Date:** 22 April 2009

**Source:** [Népszabadság](#)

Late in the evening as he was leaving to work the night shift, Kóka Jenő, a 54-year-old Romani father, was shot to death in front of his house. At the crime scene, a witness saw a black Land Rover belonging to the unknown perpetrator(s), and a tall man stepping out of it.

According to the official police website, murder investigations against unknown suspect(s) have begun. They also reported that, after an exhaustive investigation overnight, similarities between this case and earlier attacks towards Roma in Hungary cannot be overlooked.



Photo (index.hu): crime scene.

**38. Roma beaten up in front of Keleti**

<b>Location:</b>	Budapest (Capital)	<b>Date:</b>	15 April 2009
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<b>Source:</b>	Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)
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Three Romani minors and an 18-year-old Romani man were waiting for the 86 trolley in front of the Keleti Train Station when they were attacked by a group of people in hoods. They were beaten so severely that they were comatose by the time the ambulance arrived. The police are investigating the crime as an assault on members of an ethnic community.

**37. Shots fired at a Romani house**

<b>Location:</b>	Old (Baranya county)	<b>Date:</b>	15 April 2009
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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On 15 April 2009 at about 7:00 PM, a shot was fired at a house inhabited by Roma located in the Romani settlement in Old. The bullet went through the window and hit a painting. None of the 5 family members-were in the house at the time.

**36. Houses burned down to prevent Romani family from moving in**

<b>Location:</b>	Fadd (Tolna county)	<b>Date:</b>	13 April 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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Molotov cocktails were thrown at a house of a Romani family (Balogh) who were about to move in. The fire destroyed all their belongings. The family had to look for a new house. The new vendor allegedly was verbally threatened by a member of the local self-government and forced to withdraw the purchase transaction. However, she ignored the threat and sold her house to the family. On 18 April 2009, this house was also set on fire with Molotov bombs. The local self-government, the Hungarian Guard and the Nationalist Motor Bikers organised a demonstration on 21 June in the village against the "Gypsy criminality".



### 35. House of Romani politician set on fire

**Location:** Tatárszentgyörgy (Pest county)

**Date:**

7 April 2009

**Source:** [Népszabadság](#)

On 7 April 2009 the house of Lidia Horvath, the vice-president of the local Roma Minority Self-Government, was set on fire. There was no one at home at the time as Horvath was on duty in a local Romani community guard set up following a February murder. Horvath told the state news agency MTI that the Romani community in her village was living in a state of constant fear. The investigation has not excluded the possibility of self-interest in the incident, along with possible revenge or racial motivation.



*Photo (Népszabadság): Police investigating.*

### 34. Romani families have fled their hometown

**Location:** Jánoshalma (Bács-Kiskun county)

**Date:**

April 2009

**Source:** Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)

Several Romani families, approximately 38 people in total, spent several weeks living in the forests surrounding Jánoshalma, fleeing the harassment of the Magyar Garda. The mayor of Jánoshalma then asked them to leave the village and the country. The families fled to Strasbourg and where they considered seeking asylum in France.

### 33. Neighbour physically abused a Romani woman

**Location:** Budapest (Pest county)

**Date:**

19 March 2009

**Source:** [Index.hu](#)

A non-Romani neighbour both verbally and physically abused a Romani woman and her children in Budapest. The neighbour, who became upset because allegedly the Romani woman did not greet him, said: "I will teach you how to behave, stinky Gypsies". Then he physically abused the woman, broke into her home and terrorised the family until the police arrived.



### 32. Molotov firebomb placed under the window of a Romani family

**Location:** Kecskemét (Bács-Kiskun county) **Date:** 13 March 2009

**Source:** [Index.hu](http://index.hu)

Early in the morning, three unidentified men placed a Molotov cocktail under the window of a home that belonged to a Romani family. It was only later in the morning that the family discovered the bottle containing petrol. The bomb did not explode.

### 31. Bus belonging to Romani entrepreneur blown up

**Location:** Szabadszállás (Bács-Kiskun county) **Date:** 7 March 2009

**Source:** Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)

A bus that belonged to a Romani entrepreneur was blown up in a garage in Szabadszállás, Bács-Kiskun county. The authorities excluded the possibility that it was caused by a technical problem. Altogether, 7 buses were damaged, estimated to total about 100 million HUF.

### 30. Molotov cocktail thrown into Romani house

**Location:** Bocfölde (Zala county) **Date:** 6 March 2009

**Source:** [Népszabadság](http://nepszabadsag.hu)

Early in the morning of 6 March, a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the house of a Romani family in Bocfölde, in Zala-county.

The explosive was thrown through the glass-window of a door and landed on the floor. One man staying in the room threw the bomb back out of the window before a fire started. No one was injured.



*Photo:  
(Népszabadság)  
Damage from  
Molotov Cocktail*

**29. Another arson attack**

<b>Location:</b>	Gic (Veszprém county)	<b>Date:</b>	5 March, 2009
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<b>Source:</b>	Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)
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A Molotov firebomb was thrown at an uninhabited building in the village of Gic, Veszprém county. The bomb caused a fire in the house, but nobody was injured and the damage incurred was not significant. The police stated that the attack was not associated with other attacks targeting Roma.

**28. Stone attack on Romani house**

<b>Location:</b>	Zalaegerszeg (Zala county)	<b>Date:</b>	4 March 2009
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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On the night of 4 March 2009 at around 2:00 AM, the house of a 7-member Romani family was attacked. The family woke up to stones being thrown through the window. Some stones landed right next to sleeping children. No one was injured. This was the last inhabited house at the edge of a predominantly Romani settlement.

## 27. House set on fire, fleeing father and son fatally shot

**Location:** Tatárszentgyörgy (Pest county) **Date:** 23 February 2009

**Source:** [Népszabadság](#)

At about 1:00 AM on 23 February 2009, the house of a Romani family in Tatárszentgyörgy was set on fire by Molotov cocktails. Then the perpetrator(s) shot and killed two family members, a father (27) and son (5), as they fled the burning home. Two other children were wounded and the mother escaped without injury.

The on-duty police officer and a forensic expert at the crime scene both failed to recognise the victims' gunshot wounds. The police also classified the attack and murders as result of a domestic fire. Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány instructed the relevant ministries to conduct an internal inquiry. Police have already closed their own inquiry and launched disciplinary proceedings against two sub-commanders. Pest county police chief Sándor Ármós said that if the on-site inspection had been carried out in accordance with standard procedure, the murders of the 27-year-old Roma man and his five-year-old son would have emerged, despite the mistaken medical opinion.

Petőfi Attila, manager of the National Bureau of Investigation (NNI), noted clear similarities between this attack and several cases since summer 2008, which also involved Molotov cocktails, shotguns, and targeted houses on the outskirts of the settlement. He discussed serial murders but did not confirm a racist motive, and kept open the possibility of personal revenge. A reward of ten million Forints was offered for information leading to an arrest.



Photo (PESTER LLOYD): burned house

## 26. Romani boy abused by a civil guard member

**Location:** Ófehértó (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county) **Date:** 15 January 2009

**Source:** Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)

An 11-year-old Romani boy was abused by a member of the civil guard. The guard was called by the classmate of the Romani boy following a childish argument. As a result of the physical assault by the civil guard, the boy sustained light bodily injuries.

## 25. Shooting injured Romani man

<b>Location:</b>	Alsózsolca (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county)	<b>Date:</b>	15 December 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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On 15 December 2008 a 19-year old Romani man went to chop wood in his yard when he was shot two times. His injuries were life-threatening. His partner suffered minor injuries.

## 24. Tensions and violence in Kiskunlacháza

<b>Location:</b>	Kiskunlacháza (Pest county)	<b>Date:</b>	28 November 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">index.hu</a>
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On 28 November 2008, over 3,000 people joined a candlelight march in Kiskunlacháza to protest against violence after the murder of a 14-year-old local girl a week before. The town's mayor József Répás addressed the gathering, lamenting the decline in public safety in the settlement. Although the murderer or murderers have not been identified, Répás allegedly said: "Kiskunlacháza has had enough of Romani violence!" He also said that police were often branded "racist" if they tried to act. Participants in the march were not all locals. Some came from nearby Ráckeve, others came from more distant towns. A 200-300-person contingent from the Hungarian Guard attended, as did some members of a motorcycle group known as the Goy Motorcyclists. There was a heavy police presence and searches of some of the marchers yielded knives and daggers.

Nepszabadsag reported increased tension in Kiskunlachaza between local Roma and non-Roma (Nepszabadsag, 15 May). Following a recent incident involving the attack of a local girl by Romani youngsters, 5 non-Romani adults attacked two Romani children. The children stated that they were riding bicycles in the street when a jeep passed by. The people jumped out of the car and pushed them off their bikes. One of the attackers also threatened them.



*Photo (index.hu): funeral of the 14-year old victim*

### 23. Roma threatened in the Borsod-Abajúj-Zemplén county

**Location:** Sajóhidvég (Borsod-Abajúj-Zemplén county) **Date:** 25 November 2008

**Source:** Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)

Unidentified individuals intended to attack the Romani settlement in Sajóhidvég, Borsod-Abajúj-Zemplén county, but the local Romani patrol service informed the police in time and the would-be perpetrators fled. Somebody wrote on a lamp post "You will die". The head of the local Roma Minority Self-Government informed the press that local Roma were scared.

### 22. Threatening of Romani family

**Location:** Pusztadobos (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county) **Date:** 20 November 2008

**Source:** [Budapester Zeitung](#)

On the morning of 20 November 2008, unknown perpetrators threw a Molotov cocktail at a Romani house. There were four adults and eight children in the house, but because the bomb exploded outside no one was injured. The tenants found a printed cartoon attached to the fence that stated, "You are going to die!" The family had moved to Pusztadobos one year earlier from Nyirmada where they were also attacked (the windows of their house were broken). Based on recent media information the investigation was closed because police could not confirm the Romani family's story.



Photo (index.hu): crime scene

### 21. Non-Roma attack a Romani woman and her daughter

**Location:** Szigetvár (Baranya county) **Date:** 18 November 2008

**Source:** Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)

In the town of Szigetvár, Baranya county, 5 young non-Roma from Barch attacked 2 Romani women. The perpetrators, who were between 18 and 23 years of age, attacked the mother and her daughter as they returned home from a cinema in the main square of the town. The suspects were taken into custody and proceedings were initiated. At the court hearing, the men denied any racial motivation.

## 20. Handgrenade kills Romani parents

**Location:** Pécs (Baranya county) **Date:** 18 November 2008

**Source:** [Népszabadság](#)

On the night of 18 November 2008 a hand grenade was thrown at the house of a Romani family in Pécs. Two adults were killed instantly. Two children (aged 3 and 5) were taken to hospital in a state of shock and with minor injuries.

The police eliminated a racist motive after investigating the crime scene. They assume a revenge motive or possible mafia conflict.

Kovács István from the Mohácsi Roma Minority Self-Government noted many similarities between this murder and recent incidents in Hungary. He speculated that this was a racist attack.



Photo: (kleinezeitung.at) crime scene

## 19. Molotov cocktail attack

**Location:** Debrecen (Hajdú Bihar county) **Date:** 4 November 2008

**Source:** Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)

On 4 November 2008, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a Romani house in Debrecen. No one was injured.

## 18. Two persons killed in a firebomb and shooting attack

**Location:** Nagycsécs (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplé county) **Date:** 3 November 2008

**Source:** [Népszabadság](#)

Two Romani people (a man of 43 and a woman of 40) were shot dead following a firebomb attack on two houses in the village of Nagycsécs. The perpetrators shot the members of the Romani family after they were awakened by the sound of the firebomb and tried to escape from the house. A bomb thrown at another Romani house did not explode.



Photo(index.hu): crime scene



**17. Vandalism**

<b>Location:</b>	Kaposvár (Somogyi county)	<b>Date:</b>	30 October 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)
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On 30 October 2008 in Kaposvár the office of the Napkerék Egyesület – an association dealing with the education of Roma – was vandalised. The police found a bullet casing inside of the building.

**16. Arson attack**

<b>Location:</b>	Kőszárhegy (Fejér county)	<b>Date:</b>	15 October 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)
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On 15 October 2008, unknown perpetrators threw a Molotov cocktail at a family house.

**15. Shootings and Molotov cocktails at Romani houses**

<b>Location:</b>	Tarnabod (Heves county)	<b>Date:</b>	29 September 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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On 29 September, Molotov cocktails were thrown and shots were fired at four Romani homes in Tarnabod. No one was injured. Three local people were interrogated as suspects.

**14. Hand grenade attack**

<b>Location:</b>	Siófok (Somogyi county)	<b>Date:</b>	17 September 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)
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At dawn on 17 September 2008 a hand grenade was thrown into the yard of a Romani house. The house was damaged but no one was injured.

**13. Shootings reached Romani house**

<b>Location:</b>	Nyíradony-Tamásipusztá (Hajdú-Bihar county)	<b>Date:</b>	5 September 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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On the night of 5 September 2008 unknown perpetrators shot at a Romani home. No one was injured.

**12. Romani girl injured during attack on Romani house**

<b>Location:</b>	Székesfehérvár (Fejér county)	<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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On 19 August in Székesfehérvár, a group of teens threw several stones at a Romani home, seriously injuring a 12-year-old Roma girl. The perpetrators, self-declared “skinheads”, were captured by police.

**11. Molotov cocktail and shooting attack**

<b>Location:</b>	Piricse (Szabolc-Szatmár county)	<b>Date:</b>	8 August 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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Molotov cocktails were thrown at two Romani houses. One woman was shot in the leg when she stepped out of the house.

**10. Shooting reached Romani houses**

<b>Location:</b>	Galgagyörk (Pest county)	<b>Date:</b>	21 July 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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Shortly after midnight 10 to 15 shots were fired at three Romani houses in Galgagyörk, a village near Budapest. No one was injured.



### 9. 40-year-old stabbed 14-year-old Romani boy to death

<b>Location:</b>	Fényeslitke (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county)	<b>Date:</b>	15 June 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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A 14-year-old Romani boy was stabbed to death by a local 40-year-old person following a verbal argument in front of a pub; the perpetrator was reportedly intoxicated. The boy's brother was seriously injured. The perpetrator shouted that he would kill all Roma in the village.

### 8. Fire bombing of Romani houses

<b>Location:</b>	Pátka (Fejér county)	<b>Date:</b>	3 June 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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Three members of the volunteer police guard threw 6 Molotov bombs at 3 Romani houses in the village of Pátka. The police closed the investigation and recommended an indictment for attempted murder.

On 13 June 2008 the Hungarian Guard marched in the village to "protect" non-Romani residents. Special police forces were in the village to control the tension between Roma and non-Roma. The mayor and the majority of the village signed a petition in support of "innocent special constables." The mayor prepared a "code on the norms of peaceful co-existence for the Roma of the village".

### 7. Vandalism

<b>Location:</b>	Szihalom (Heves county)	<b>Date:</b>	27 March 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)
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On 27 March 2008, unknown perpetrators vandalised an uninhabited house owned by a Romani family.

#### 6. Romani man beaten up

<b>Location:</b>	Tapolca (Veszprém county)	<b>Date:</b>	15 March 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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Two 17-year-olds severely beat and kicked a Romani man on the street without cause. The 32-year-old Romani man slipped into a coma and was taken to the hospital in critical condition.

#### 5. House of Romani official set on fire

<b>Location:</b>	Tiszaroff (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok)	<b>Date:</b>	1 March 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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The house of the Roma Minority Self-Government representative of Kunmadaras was set on fire. Racial epithets had been painted on the walls prior to the arson.

#### 4. Romani house vandalised

<b>Location:</b>	Putnok (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county)	<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)
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The house of a Romani family in Putnok was vandalised and threatening statements were painted on the walls. The family was not at home during the incident.

### 3. Romani women beaten up by racists

<b>Location:</b>	Szigetvár (Branya county)	<b>Date:</b>	22 January 2008
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<b>Source:</b>	<a href="#">Népszabadság</a>
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On 22 January 2008 5 young people (aged 19-24) under the influence of alcohol boarded a train from Barcs to Pécs. Because they did not have tickets, the conductor ordered them to leave the train in Szigetvár. They got off, covered their faces and attacked a Romani woman and her daughter who were crossing a park on their way home. The assailants beat and kicked the mother while her daughter managed to get away and call for help.

When the attackers were captured by the police, they admitted that they assaulted the woman and child specifically because of their ethnicity but later withdrew their statements, instead claiming that alcohol caused them to act aggressively. On 27 November 2008 the Pécs City Court jailed four of the young men for an "attempt to assault" a Romani woman and her daughter (garazdasag). Although the youths had been charged with assault on an ethnic minority, the judge ruled that there was reasonable doubt on whether the assault was racially motivated.

### 2. Stones and bottles thrown at Romani homes

<b>Location:</b>	Dombóvár (Tolna county)	<b>Date:</b>	
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<b>Source:</b>	Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)
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Stones and bottles were thrown at the windows of a Romani house. The police reportedly did not investigate the incident but intensified the patrol service in the neighbourhood.

### 1. Shooting at a Romani house

<b>Location:</b>	Kál (Heves county)	<b>Date:</b>	
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<b>Source:</b>	Mozgalom a Deszegregációért Alapítvány (MAD) research (on file with ERRC)
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Shots were fired at a house inhabited by Roma in the village of Kál, Heves county.