

Attacks against Roma in Hungary January 2008-June 2009

The following is a (non-exhaustive) list of 23 attacks against Roma in Hungary between January 2008 and June 2009.

There were (at least)

- nine arson attacks
- eight attacks involving shooting
- two attacks involving hand grenades
- three incidents of mob violence
- four cases of other violent attacks

The attacks

- took a combined total of eight lives
- left nineteen people with injuries, nine of which were life-threatening.

Man attacks Roma family with razor blade

Location Abádszalók

Date, Time 27 May 2009, 3 AM

A man broke into a house at night and attacked the 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 two adults, whose child was sleeping in the same bed at the time of the attack but was not injured, were later taken to hospital.

(Announcement by Rostas László, the vice-president of OCÖ)

The aggressor 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

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Romani man shot to death in front of his house

Location Tiszalök

Date 22 April 2009

Late in the evening, as he was leaving to work the night shift, 54-year-old father Kóka Jenő 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. A reward of ten million Forints has been offered for information leading to an arrest.



Photo (index.hu): crime scene

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Roma beaten up in front of Keleti

Location Budapest

Date, Time 15 April 2009

Three Roma minors and an 18-year-old Roma 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 slipped into comas by the time the ambulance arrived. The police are investigating the crime as an assault on members of an ethnic community.

Sources

House of Roma politician set on fire

Location Tatarszentgyörgy

**Date,
Time** 7 April 2009

On 7 April 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 Roma community guard set up following a February murder. Horvath told the state news agency MTI that the Roma 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 (origo): crime scene

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Molotov cocktail thrown into Romani house

Location Bocfölde

Date 6 March 2009

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 of the residents threw the bomb back out of the window before a fire started. No one was injured.



Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Stone attack on Romani house

Location Zalaegerszeg

Date, Time 4 March 2009

On the night of 4 March, around 2 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 of a predominantly Roma settlement.

Sources

House set on fire, fleeing family members shot

Location Tatarszentgyörgy

Date, Time 23 February 2009, 1 AM

The house of a Roma family in Tatarszentgyörgy 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 affected 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 has been offered for information leading to an arrest.

For a detailed report on this case please follow:

<http://www.errc.org/db/03/DA/m000003DA.pdf>



Photo (PESTER LLOYD): burned house

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Threatening of Romani family

Location Pusztadobos

**Date,
Time** 20 November 2008

In the morning of 20 November, 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 is closed because police could not confirm the Roma family's story.



Photo (index.hu): crime scene

Sources

Handgrenade killed Romani parents

Location Pécs

Date 18 November 2009

On the night of 18 November 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 local Roma self-government of Mohácsi noted many similarities between this murder and recent incidents in Hungary. He speculated that this was a racist attack.

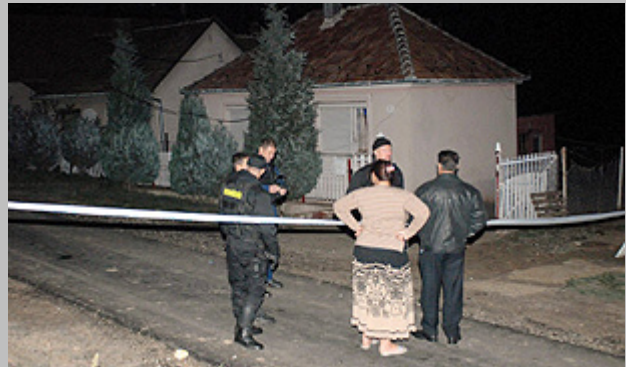


Photo (kleinezeitung.at): crime scene

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Shooting injured Romani man

Location Alsózsolca

Date, Time 15 December 2009

On 15 December 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.

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Two persons killed in firebomb- and shooting-attack

Location Nagycsécs

Date, Time 3 November 2008

Two Roma 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 Roma family after they were awakened by the sound of the firebomb and tried to escape from the house. The bomb thrown at the other Romani house did not explode.



Photo(index.hu): crime scene

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Shootings and Molotov cocktails at Romani houses	
Location	Tarnabod
Date, Time	29 September 2008
<p>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.</p>	
Sources	Népszabadság

Hand grenade attack	
Location	Siófok
Date, Time	17 September 2008
<p>At dawn on 17 September a hand grenade was thrown into the yard of a Romani house. The house was damaged, but no one was injured.</p>	
Sources	

Shootings reached Romani house	
Location	Nyíradony-Tamásipuszta
Date, Time	5 September 2008
<p>On the night of 5 September 2008 unknown perpetrators shot at a Roma home. No one was injured.</p>	
Sources	Népszabadság

Shootings reached Romani house	
Location	Székesfehérvár
Date, Time	19 August 2008
<p>On 19 August in Székesfehérvár, a group of teens threw several stones at a Roma home, fatally injuring a 12-year-old Roma girl. The perpetrators, self-declared "skinheads", were captured by police.</p>	
Sources	

Molotov cocktail and shooting attack	
Location	Piricse
Date	8 August 2008
<p>Molotov cocktails were thrown at two Roma houses. One woman was shot in the leg when she stepped out of the house.</p>	
Sources	Népszabadság

Shooting reached Roma houses	
Location	Galgagyörk
Date, Time	21 July 2008
<p>Shortly after midnight ten to 15 shots were fired at three Roma houses in Galgagyörk, a village near Budapest. No one was injured.</p>	
Sources	Népszabadság

40-year-old drunk stabbed 14-year old Roma to death

Location Fényeslitke

Date, Time 15 June 2008

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 boy's brother was seriously injured. The perpetrator shouted that he would kill all the Roma in the village.

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Fire bombing of Romani houses

Location Pátka

Date, Time 3 June 2008

Three members of the volunteer police guard threw six Molotov bombs on three houses of Romani families in the village of Pátka. The police closed the investigation and recommended an indictment for attempted murder.

On 13 June the Hungarian Guard marched in the village to protect the non-Roma residents. The 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".

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

Romani man beaten up

Location Tapolca

Date, Time 15 March 2008

Two 17-year-olds severely beat and kicked a Roma man on the street without any previous argument. The 32-year-old Roma man slipped into a coma and was taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Sources [Népszabadság](#)

House of Roma-official set on fire	
Location	Tiszaroff
Date, Time	1 March 2008
<p>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.</p>	
Sources	Népszabadság

Romani house vandalised	
Location	Putnok
Date, Time	22 February 2008
<p>The house of a Roma family in Putnok was vandalised and threatening statements were painted on the walls. The family was not at home during the incident.</p>	
Sources	Népszabadság

Roma women beaten up by racists

Location Szigetvár

Date, Time 22 January 2008

On 22 January 2008 five 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 Roma woman and her daughter (garazdaság). 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.

However, in April 2009, the second-instance court – led by Judge Bela Wirth - ruled that a racial motivation was proven because the attackers wore masks and had racist symbols on their clothes and as tattoos. The perpetrators received prison sentences ranging from 1 year to 2 years 6 months (two of them being suspended).

Sources [Népszabadság](#)