

MIMC Organization Report Regarding the Coverage of Recent Neo-Nazi Scandals in the Hungarian Press

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper analyses the levels of objectivity and professionalism in the covering of recent neo-Nazi scandals in Hungarian online media during the 2022 election campaign.

Analyzed here are three admittedly liberal or left-wing news portals chosen by the large size of their readership (444.hu, Telex, 24.hu), and/or previous occurrences of anti-Israel sentiments (Mérce.hu).

Our research question was whether these news portals offered comprehensive and balanced news the latest neo-Nazi scandals of the far-right Jobbik party. These scandals involve the „Sieg Heil” salute given by Jobbik deputy president Dániel Z. Kárpát and the similar salute given by Jobbik deputy president György Szilágyi.¹

MIMC Organization has employed a tag-based search for the names of the politicians involved on these websites. We have analysed articles published between 22nd March 2022 and 29th March 2022.

1. MÉRCE

Mérce is a far-left opposition news portal which has previously published anti-Israel news and distortions.²

Suprisingly enough, Mérce has covered Z. Kárpát’s Nazi salute scandal, blasting the opposition parties for not speaking up against it.³

¹ For the original articles regarding the scandals, see <https://thejewishvoice.com/2022/03/more-of-the-same-jobbik/> and <https://thejewishvoice.com/2022/03/old-jobbik-in-a-new-bottle/> (All articles cited here were last accessed: 29th March 2022).

² <https://huilmediacenter.com/tag/merce>

³ <https://merce.hu/2022/03/14/siri-csend-honol-az-ellenzekben-z-karpat-daniel-naci-karlenditos-videojat-illetoen/>

The news portal has, however, ignored the similar scandal of Szilágyi. Our search has shown that the last article written about Szilágyi was published on Mércé three years ago.⁴

2. 444.HU

444.hu is a left-wing news portal that has previously published inaccurate articles on Israel.⁵

444 has ignored both the scandals involving Z. Kárpát and Szilágyi.⁶

3. TELEX

Telex is a left-wing news portal founded by ex-journalists of Index.

Z. Kárpát's scandal was covered by the news portal, however, they have decided to include Z. Kárpát's laughable self-defense in the title of the article: „the deputy president says he was never a Nazi” – so goes the title.⁷

The news portal has ignored Szilágyi's scandal.⁸

4. 24.HU

Of all the news portal analyzed here, 24.hu has offered the greatest distortion regarding Z. Kárpát's scandal. The title of the article covering the leaking of the Nazi salute reads: „The video of a New York newspaper supposedly shows Dániel Z. Kárpát, but he says that he has never been a Nazi”.⁹ Note that the word *supposedly* questions the authenticity of the entire video, which has never been disputed neither by Jobbik nor by any other leading opposition politicians.

24.hu has ignored Szilágyi's scandal.¹⁰

5. CONCLUSION

Having analysed the news and articles published by four leading Hungarian news portal regarding the recent neo-Nazi scandals by Jobbik, we have concluded that all four of these

⁴ <https://merce.hu/pp/2019/10/12/gyor-borkai-zsolt-ellen-tuntet-piko-andras-kampanyt-zar-jozsefvarosban-percrol-perce-a-mercen/szilagyi-gyorgy-a-jobbik-kepviseloje-szerint-gerinctelenek-a-gyori-jobbikosok-akik-kileptek-az-osszefogasbol/>

⁵ <https://www.szombat.org/velemeney/progressziv-korholas-es-machiavellista-szep-szavak>

⁶ <https://444.hu/tag/z-karpat-daniel> and <https://444.hu/tag/szilagyi-gyorgy>

⁷ <https://telex.hu/belfold/2022/03/13/elokerult-z-karpat-danielrol-egy-karlenditos-video-a-jobbik-alelnok-ugy-reagalt-sosem-volt-naci>

⁸ <https://telex.hu/cimke/szilagyi-gyorgy>

⁹ <https://24.hu/belfold/2022/03/13/z-karpat-daniel-karlendites-video/>

¹⁰ <https://24.hu/tag/szilagyi-gyorgy/>

news portals have included distorted facts, one sided reports and outright lies or mistakes in their reporting.

6. ÖSSZEFOGLALÓ

Megvizsgálva négy vezető magyar hírportál híreit a Jobbik friss neonáci botrányairól, következtetésünk, hogy mind a négy hírportál közölt eltorzított tényeket, egyoldalú riportokat és egyértelmű hazugságokat a témában.