

MINISTERSTVO VNITRA
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

**REPORT ON MANIFESTATIONS OF
EXTREMISM AND PREJUDICIAL HATRED IN
THE TERRITORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
IN 2019**

**Ministry of the Interior
Security Policy Department
Prague 2020**

Report on Manifestations of Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in the Territory of the Czech Republic was approved by the Government Resolution No. 730 on 13 July 2020.

The text has not undergone any linguistic or stylistic editing.

LIST OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	4
2. Definition of terms	5
3. Report on Extremism in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2019	7
3.1. Summary	7
3.2. Right-wing extremists.....	8
3.3. Manifestations of prejudicial hatred.....	9
3.4. Paramilitary and domestic militia.....	11
3.5. Anarchist scene.....	12
3.6. Dogmatic communists	13
3.7. Media spreading prejudicial hatred	13
3.8. Religiously motivated extremism.....	14
3.9 Other relevant events associated with extremism and terrorism.....	15
4. Significant court decisions and other interesting cases	16
5. Statistics of criminal activity motivated by hatred.....	21
5.1. Introduction.....	21
5.2. National police statistics	23
5.3. Police statistics by acts	24
5.4. Police regional statistics.....	25
5.5. Crimes motivated by hatred against selected groups.....	26
5.6. Criminal offences committed by members of Security Forces.....	27
5.7. Criminal offences committed by members of the Army of the Czech Republic	27
5.8. Court statistics	27
5.9. Statistics of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office.....	29
5.10. Statistics of the Probation and Mediation Service.....	31

1. Introduction

The Report on Manifestations of Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2019 („the Report“) is submitted under the Government Resolution No. 286 of 29 April 2019. The Evaluation of the Conception on Combating Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in 2019 and the Conception on Combating Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in 2020 are submitted as separate documents.

The Report does not address all racist and xenophobic manifestations registered in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2019. Alongside members and sympathizers or extremist movements, the Report also addresses other hateful entities and phenomena that do not fulfil the criteria of the definition of extremism as used by the Ministry of the Interior. The political science perspective is not essential for the Ministry of the Interior. The MOI is interested in the hateful element, which is based on a prejudice concerning certain social groups.

The Report is written by the Ministry of the Interior. Representatives of the intelligence services, the Police of the Czech Republic, other state administration bodies – specifically the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, and the Supreme Public Prosecutor’s Office contributed to the source material.

Spectator violence, also known as hooliganism, is addressed independently within the Ministry of the Interior.

The Report is written annually. New measures are adopted based on its findings.

The first section on the domestic scene is based on data provided by the Security Information Service and the Police of the Czech Republic, particularly experts on extremism from the National Centre against Organized Crime of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service, and Regional Directorates of the Police of the Czech Republic.

The statistics in the following section were provided by the Police of the Czech Republic, the Supreme Public Prosecutor’s Office, the Ministry of Justice, and the Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic.

2. Definition of terms

In this document, the definition of the term „**extremism**“ is identical to that of previous annual reports. The full definition was last published in the Report on Extremism in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2002, approved by the Government Resolution No. 669 of 9 July 2003.¹ In this context, it is also relevant to refer to established case law as regards the interpretation of the term „movement“.² The full wording of the definition of extremism is available at <http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/co-je-extremismus.aspx> (in Czech only).

Not all entities mentioned in the Report engaged in illegal activities in 2019. From a long-term perspective, they nevertheless fulfil the criteria to be described as extremist, as defined in previous annual documents.

In addition to the concept of extremism, the Report introduces a concept of „**prejudicial hatred**“. It responds to the fact that the influence of traditional extremist entities is weakening. Their rhetoric and activities are gradually being taken over by other entities that cannot be unequivocally described as extremist.

Manifestations of prejudicial hatred refer to a behaviour that is motivated by intolerance and social biases against a particular population. In general, these are groups defined by race, nationality, ethnicity, religious, sexual orientation, political or other thinking, social origin etc. It does not have to concern a real affiliation to a particular group, but it can refer to an alleged affiliation (e.g., if a person is mistaken for a Roma for their darker skin tone). Such manifestations do not necessarily imply a criminal offence. It can be physical violence, verbal attacks, or the use of offensive symbols. Manifestations of prejudicial hatred differ from the extremist ones, particularly by the fact that they do not have to be associated with any of the totalitarian ideologies. Persons who engage in such manifestations do not necessarily have to be members or supporters of extremist movements. They also lack a clear call to overthrow the system of pluralist democracy and replace it with a totalitarian regime.

The risks of manifestations of prejudicial hatred are in many areas similar to the dangers posed by extremists. They are listed below. Entities that engage in such risks:

- Do not seek the immediate destruction of the democratic system but gradually weaken it.
- Do not respect the concept of fundamental human rights.
- Incite others to hate activities.
- Spread fear in society.
- Split society causing antagonisms.
- Lighten the fate of victims of totalitarian regimes and victims of hate crime.
- Use disinformation and conspiracy theories to communicate with the public.
- Become an instrument of influence of countries and groups that do not respect the principles of pluralist democracy.

¹ See <http://www.mvcr.cz> (section „Security threats“, subsection „Extremism“ – „Strategy for combating extremism and Annual reports on extremism“).

² In particular the opinion of the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court Tpjn 302/2005 (No. 11/2007 Coll.), and also the Supreme Court Resolutions 5 Tdo 79/2006, 5 Tdo 337/2002, 3 Tdo 1174/2004, and Resolution 4 T 98/2009 of the Regional Court in Brno. The case law of the Supreme Court is available at www.nsoud.cz.

Manifestations of prejudicial hatred can be traced to members or supporters of a wide range of political or other social entities. However, the Report mentions only those entities for whom such manifestations represent the dominant component of their rhetoric and activities. In practice, for example, there are groups where intolerant attacks against Roma, immigrants, Muslims, or homosexuals prevail. Another ideological program may be absent or only represent a complementary component.

In particular, individuals who have been the subject of criminal proceedings in connection with hate-motivated crime are mentioned in the Report.

Political categories (e.g., whether it is a neo-Nazi or neo-fascist entity) are not significant for the Ministry of the Interior. A crucial aspect is the spread of hatred arising from prejudice. It is the manifestations of hatred that pose an immediate threat for certain groups of people.

Two other groups are closely related to hate-expressing entities, namely **paramilitary and domestic militia groups, and media spreading prejudicial hatred**. There is a symbiosis between them. Domestic militia entities took over the ideological starting points motivated by hatred and intolerance from the part of their xenophobically motivated personnel substrate. Media spreading prejudicial hatred, in turn, provide xenophobic-oriented individuals and entities with ample space. In some cases, they produce targeted reports based on disinformation and conspiracy theories for their xenophobic audience.

By introducing the concept of prejudicial hatred, the Ministry of the Interior also responds to the recommendations made by partner state institutions, academic experts, and the civilian sector.

The anarchist and radically communist groups are included in the left-wing extremist spectrum.

A chapter dedicated to **religiously motivated extremism** addresses a hate speech ideologically based on **extremist interpretations** of different religions.

3. Report on Extremism in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2019

3.1. Summary

The spread of hatred has ceased to be the domain of traditional extremists alone. They were supplemented effectively by populist xenophobic groups, disinformation media, and a little less significantly by domestic militia entities. It was possible to observe further polarization of society as well as a further escalation of animosity. Increase in aggressiveness and vulgarity of hate speech was evident, particularly in the virtual environment. An increasingly wider range of social groups is the target of attacks and threats. This trend was also reflected by the law enforcement agencies. There are communities whose members have complete confidence in the disinformation media and refuse different information. This situation is in favour of possible radicalization of both individuals and groups. Experience from other European countries shows that it is absolutely necessary, that not only law enforcement agencies pay increased attention to the spread of hatred. There are legitimate concerns about the escalation of Internet hostility into physical violence. At the same time, statements by certain social groups about their members feeling intensely threatened by certain expressions of hatred are increasingly being registered. The spread of hatred towards other social groups fits right into the scenarios of influential operations of other countries directed against the Czech Republic.

An increase in the activities of some dogmatic neo-Nazis, who definitively distanced themselves from the Workers' Party of Social Justice and the National Democracy, was registered within the traditional right-wing extremist scene. However, in the field of the spread of hatred, these traditional players were completely overshadowed by xenophobic groups that began to profile themselves in the context of the migration crisis. These were clearly dominated by the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement.

Some **disinformation media** have become a very influential tool for spreading hatred. They deliberately generated controversial topics and passed them on to xenophobic entities. They also provided them with space to comment on these topics.

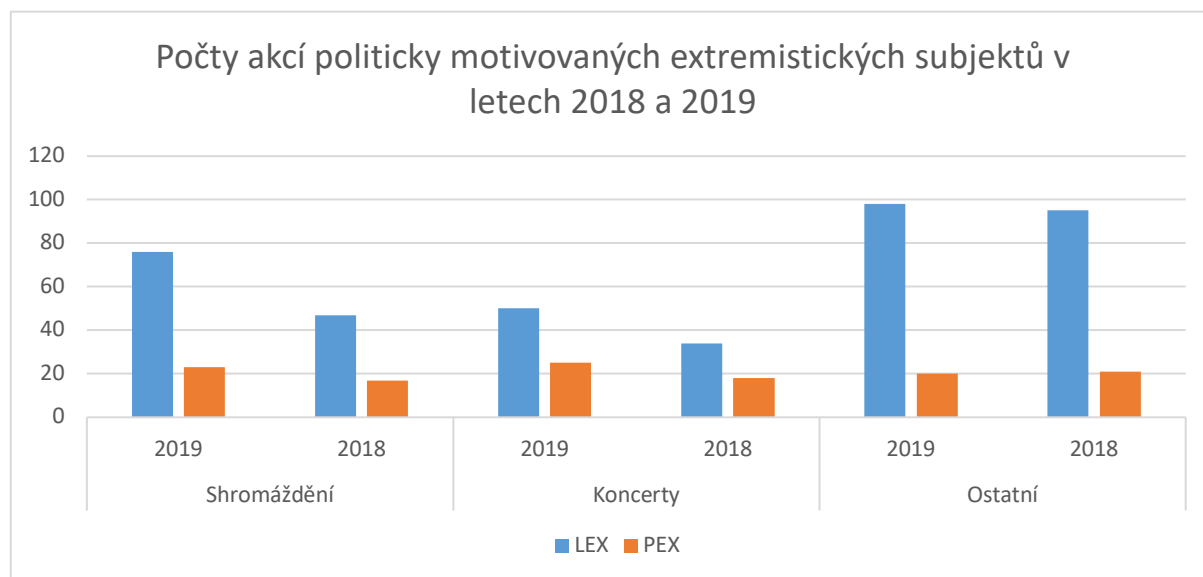
Anarchists, dogmatic communists, as well as domestic militia groups, stagnated in the monitored period.

Criminal proceedings with a religious context pointed to the **isolation of the local Muslim community** and also to the fact that the risk of religious radicalization cannot be avoided even in the Czech Republic.

A novelty was the criminal proceedings against persons facing **charges of involvement in the conflict in eastern Ukraine**. Law enforcement agencies have also dealt with several cases of support of terrorism.

In 2019, the Police of the Czech Republic **detected 170 criminal offences with a hate subtext**. In 2019, the police registered a total of **122 prosecuted persons** for acts involving hate speech. A total of **144 persons were charged** for criminal offences with racial, national, and other hateful motives. A total of **49 people were sentenced**.

In 2019, a total of 292 events organized by extremists or with their participation were recorded. Out of these, 224 belonged to the extreme left spectrum and 68 to the extreme right spectrum. Compared to 2018, a year-on-year increase can be observed (a total of 232 events in 2018, 176 left-wing and 56 right-wing).



3.2. Right-wing extremists

In 2019, the neo-Nazi movement was revived. The **National and Social Front** („NSF“) played a significant role in this revival. This group also brings together experienced activists who have been active on the extremist scene for several years. NSF quickly established and strengthened friendly relations with its foreign counterparts. The main activities of the NSF were the organization of a May Day protest gathering in Brno and an international gathering in Horice in August. Well-known White Power bands were invited to the event in Eastern Bohemia. Fans of this entity also attracted attention by painting over the monuments of the Red Army in Ostrava and Brno.

In addition to the NSF, there were **several smaller, more or less coordinated groups of neo-Nazis** in the Czech Republic, which were characterized by the absence of a broader awareness of Nazi ideology, aggressive behaviours and a penchant for alcohol. These groups posed a risk mainly in the form of isolated physical attacks on more or less randomly selected victims. Their members often mingle with hooligan fighting groups. They often also commit other than hate crimes (eg. extortion, theft, robbery, domestic violence etc.). These militant neo-Nazis were organized only during protests against the LGBT community.

The activities of neo-Nazis are watched with concern by representatives of various minorities, especially the Jewish and Roma communities. On the one hand, they still remember various excesses from previous years from the Czech Republic, and at the same time, they are concerned about the activities of right-wing extremists in other European

countries. The creation of various lists of enemies is reflected very negatively, as well as statements or publications aimed at trivializing the Holocaust.

In cooperation with the Office for Personal Data Protection, the American company DreamHost **disabled access to the neo-Nazi website White Media**, which has long maintained a database of ideological enemies.

The **Workers' Party of Social Justice** („DSSS“) lost its importance after the departure of some neo-Nazi activists. It increasingly functioned as a community of several independent local organizations that cooperated freely with each other. With a few exceptions, it resigned to organizing its own events. The **Workers' Youth** tried to impress with their patrols, which were very emotionally promoted on social networks. In reality, however, this group did not gain much acclaim and became the target of ridicule among older neo-Nazis and hooligans. Therefore, the strongly weakened and internally divided DSSS was looking for new partners within the domestic militia, consumers of pro-Kremlin-oriented websites or generally in a wide range of dissatisfied and nationalistically oriented citizens. The participation of its members in the gathering for the preservation of the monument of Marshal Konev in Prague did not bring them sympathies of previously related neo-Nazis. The party of Tomáš Vandas tried to disguise its own failure by pointing to the partnership with more successful foreign counterparts, especially with the People's Party Our Slovakia of Marian Kotleba. The DSSS was no longer able to impress with their efforts to stir up tensions between the majority and the Roma minority.

Similarly to DSSS, the **National Democracy** („ND“) was not very successful. Its chairman Adam B. Bartoš sharply opposed the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement. The party also signed a declaration of cooperation with the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. Bartoš published an autobiographical book for its chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Friendly relations broke down after Zhirinovskiy publicly stated that Soviet troops were not supposed to be withdrawn from Eastern Europe and that Joseph Stalin was supposed to send a „real occupying army“ to Eastern Europe and „shut up“ everyone.

The marginality of both parties was confirmed by the results of the European Parliament elections:

Party	Percentage	Number of votes
DSSS	0,18	4.363
Reasonable and ND	0,78	18.715

3.3. Manifestations of prejudicial hatred

The work of xenophobic politicians, activists and „journalists“, who cannot be linked to the traditional extremist scene, can be described as very successful³. This category includes those formed against the background of anti-Muslim sentiments related to the migration crisis, self-proclaimed racist domestic militia and media spreading hate prejudices. In addition to the

³ These entities are able to push their topics into the public space so effectively that they resonate for a long time often for several weeks and months. In the case of the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement, repeated election results are the reflection of successful performance. Some disinformation servers show relatively high traffic and some readers are also willing to support them financially.

emphasized strong „patriotism“, they are also United by a positive attitude towards the official policy of the Russian Federation.

These entities were able to bring **controversial topics, provoke an emotional discussion around them and to a large extent artificially divide the Czech society**⁴. Although these groups distance themselves from extremists and neo-Nazis, they tend to borrow a range of opinions and activities from them. By formally distancing themselves from neo-Nazism or racism, previously taboo views thus become more acceptable to a part of the public. These ideas are very effectively disseminated through social networks.

In the virtual space, there was a significant **increase in the radicality of opinions**. In addition to traditional offensive and racist statements, it was also possible to register the spread of racially biological pseudo theories about „parasites“, „invasive species“, „developmentally retarded races or ethnicities“ or „natural tendencies to criminal behaviour“. There were also records of statements trivializing certain historical events, including the Holocaust. Statements celebrating racially motivated terrorist crimes or statements calling for the application of racially, ethnically or religiously motivated physical violence in the Czech Republic were also registered. **Threats, including threats against family members or other close persons**, are also part of the communication of hate groups and individuals. Targets of hateful prejudice are no longer only the representatives of national, ethnic, religious or sexual minorities, homeless people, members of various subcultures, human rights activists, but also politicians of non-extremist parties. Threats and insults are also directed against journalists who write about xenophobic entities.

The vast majority of aggressive behaviour takes place on the Internet, but physical incidents are also registered. In this regard, **there is a well-founded fear that, due to the actions of hate-oriented entities, dangerous attacks will begin to occur, such as those recorded on an ongoing basis in Germany**. For this reason, the fight against hatred on the Internet has become a priority for both the police and Public Prosecutors Offices. However, it needs to be further emphasized that members of extremist movements are not the only ones who are criminally responsible for hate crime on the Internet.

Law enforcement agencies have, therefore, dealt with a number of hate incidents. It is necessary to mention a four-year prison sentence imposed on **Jaromír Bald**, a supporter of the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement, for a terrorist offence and threats of a terrorist act. In 2017, Balda cut down trees on a railway line in Central Bohemia in two cases in order to derail a train. He then tried to attribute responsibility for these attacks to Muslim immigrants through leaflets he left on the spot. In various places of the Czech Republic, the senior also distributed leaflets with threatening texts, which were supposed to give the impression that they were written by an immigrant supporting an extremist form of Islam. Fortunately, none of these terrorist attacks had fatal consequences. **The case involving threats addressed to the singer Radoslav Banga** in connection with his protest during the presentation of the Czech Nightingale 2016 music awards also resonated in the courtrooms.

⁴ In addition to the „maladaptive“, migration and Islam, these entities managed to bring the topic of „threat to the nation“ by the so-called „homosexuality“, human rights activists, NGOs, public media. They were also able to initiate public debates concerning a variety of individual events. Without seeking a solution within the limits of a democratic state governed by the rule of law, they stir up a hostile atmosphere by artificially dividing the Czech society into irreconcilable camps of „sunshine people“, „welcomers“, „deviants“ or „traitors“ on the one hand and „patriots of traditional values“ on the other.

Groups whose members began to emphasize acute „patriotism“ and who otherwise did not have another relevant political agenda were managed to form short-term alliances. The August „patriotic gathering“ in Příčovy hosted anti-Islamic activists, domestic militia representatives or journalists from the disinformation media. DSSS chairman Tomáš Vandas also attended this event. At the same time, this scene intensively defends the official policy of the Russian Federation and speaks of Russia as the only bastion of the real nationalism and traditional values. This is well illustrated by the case of the monument of Marshal Konev in Prague, where dogmatic communists, domestic militia members, representatives of disinformation media spreading hate prejudices, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim activists and former neo-Nazis jointly protested against the removal of the statue.

The **Freedom and Direct Democracy** movement first faced internal disagreements, which resulted in the dissolution of the formerly important North Moravian organization. Eventually, there was a disagreement with the conspiracy website Aeronet, which began publishing texts critical of its leaders. Despite these difficulties, the movement remained the most influential entity in inciting xenophobic sentiments in society. In the elections to the European Parliament, it gained 216.718 votes (9,14 %), and two seats in the European Parliament.

Other politicians and political groups also presented themselves to gain points through the spread of hatred and heightened nationalism. In this context, we can cite the resolution of the Constitutional Court on the complaint about the controversial campaign of Mostečané Mostu Association (Citizens of Most for Most) before the municipal elections. It states: „It is morally and socially reprehensible for the electoral entity to be trying to gain voters by inciting fear and acting on the lowest instincts of the voters, however, it is not in the competence of the courts to correct this behaviour under current legislation.“

3.4. Paramilitary and domestic militia

Some pro-Kremlin disinformation media have tried to suggest to the public that the domestic militia groups represent an important pillar of the national defence strategy and can defend traditional Czech values against immigrants and Muslims. In reality, the members' base of these entities consisted of about 200 individuals or retirement and pre-retirement age. However, these groups were paralyzed by personal animosities and the inability to coordinate more logistically demanding activities. The number of their members rather decreased during the year. Information about a large number of battle groups and their exercises are greatly exaggerated. Over time, some members of the domestic militia officially relaxed their positions to participate in grant projects of the Ministries of the Interior and Defence. However, both ministries unequivocally reject any cooperation with these groups, distance themselves from such entities and consider them a security risk.

Domestic militia groups, especially the **Czechoslovak Soldiers in the Reserve for Piece, National Domestic Militia and Provincial Domestic Militia**, have long expressed support for the Russian Federation, especially in the context of disputes with Ukraine.

There are no records of attempts by these domestic militia members to engage in illegal armaments or to use violence to advance their goals.

In the second half of 2019, an effort for closer cooperation between the National Domestic Militia and Provincial Domestic Militia was registered. The departure of some of the front leaders of both entities contributed to it.

Towards the end of the year, these groups vigorously protested against the proposal of the Act on the Disposal of Weapons in Certain Cases Affecting the Internal Order or Security of the Czech Republic, which prohibits and punishes the formation of armed groups such as domestic militias, or similar armed forces that want their political, religious or other similar armed units, which aim to promote their political, religious or other similar goals in an armed way. The Provincial Domestic Militia has ended its activity as a result of this proposal.

3.5. Anarchist scene

The Antifascist action closed down and presented only a few articles on its website in 2019. Other **anarchist collectives**, such as the Anarchist Federation, Kolektiv 115, or the Anarchist Black Cross, **rather stagnated** and were unable to leave the environment of their subculture.

Anarchists sympathized with some environmental initiatives and tried to participate in them. Most anarchists view their environmental activities as participating in protest gatherings or direct actions.

An important event for the squatter movement was the **evacuation of the Autonomous Social Centre Klinika**. The systematic procedure of the executor who consistently demanded payment of the costs of the execution of the squat in Prague's Žižkov was a novelty for this community. The use of financial sanctions has hit the activists hard. In Prague, there was no further occupation of a larger building.

At the District Court in Most, a trial began with five activists in the Fénix II case. All five activists faced charges of the criminal offence of the establishment, support and promotion of a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. Lukáš Borl was also charged with the criminal offences of damaging a thing of another, extortion and forgery and alteration of public documents. The activist Markéta Juřicová received a two-month suspended sentence from the District Court in Karviná with a one-year probation period for a banner reading „Fuck gender. Take the Molotov, burn the police“ that she carried at the Prague Pride parade in 2018. Both cases were closely monitored and their actors were expressed support by fellow activists. Solidarity actions for prosecuted or imprisoned colleagues abroad also took place.

Czech texts celebrating and supporting the violent actions of foreign anarchists have appeared on some websites on an ongoing basis.

Czech anarchists also actively commented on events abroad. In particular, they **supported the Kurds** from the Syrian region of Rojava and their Greek colleagues from the Exarchia district of Athens, who opposed the action of the local authorities against them.

3.6. Dogmatic communists

Young radical communists represent a small subculture that does not fit in with their peers in terms of values, attitudes, rhetoric, but also their visage. They maintain contacts only with supporters of communism of retirement and pre-retirement age. They are united by admiration for communist dictators and totalitarian regimes. Dogmatic communists focused on commenting on events abroad. They could not come up with a relevant current topic. In 2019, the topic of monuments and memorials resonated the most in this community.

Some members of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia also identify with the views of dogmatic communists. Radical communists on the candidate list of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia failed in the elections to the European Parliament.

The ties of some dogmatic communists to pro-Russian entities in the Czech Republic were recorded. Some of them repeatedly attended various commemorative events in Russia. Publishing individuals wrote tendentious articles adoring the Russian Federation and criticizing developments in Ukraine as well as the US and NATO foreign policy. **Some were, therefore, able to support the influential actions of the Russian Federation with their approach.**

3.7. Media spreading prejudicial hatred

Carefully monitored criminal proceedings with Jaromír Balda mapped in detail the consequences of the influence of media spreading prejudicial hatred. Increasingly, representatives of the security community and academia spoke of them as a **tool for radicalization**. Detailed analyses and comments about the authors of xenophobic content began to appear, and their media products were more verified by the so-called fact-checking entities.

As in other European countries that have experience with terrorism or other violent attacks, the Czech Republic has developed a debate on combating hate content online. However, this only happened at a time when **this media scene was already well** developed. There is a wide range of websites that offer more or less sophisticated hate speech aimed at a wide range of social groups to their potential listeners. Thus, it is possible to find websites that publish well-thought-out conspiracy theories as well as media that are based on primitive offensive racism.

This media scene offers space for various extremist and xenophobic politicians and activists. In some cases, for further use by these politicians and activists, they **deliberately produce hate speeches** about minorities, immigrants, human rights activists, or the public media. Over the years, the scene has also generated several „commentators“, „journalists“ and „experts“ who work with unsubstantiated, false or misleading information and whose opinions are highly valued by extremist and hate oriented groups. Among the „celebrities“ of this media scene, **disseminators of various conspiracy, occult or esoteric theories** can also be found.

The long-term presence of these media on the Internet has created a subculture of people who absolutely trust their messages and refuse to work with the messages of serious

media in any way. Serious media following various conspiracy theories are allegedly manipulated and controlled by forces hostile to the Czech nation.

European as well as domestic experience proves that these media are radicalizing people who were not tied to extremist groups in the past. At the same time, a number of case studies show that the radicalization can only take a few months.

The importance of these media is also evidenced by the **split between Aeronet and SPD**. A website with a completely anonymous ownership structure with anonymous „journalists“ was able to generate a case through offensive texts on representatives of the Okamura’s movement that resonated throughout the extremist and hate-motivated scene.

In October, the **Municipal Court in Prague dismissed the indictment filed by Our Media, the Publisher of Parlamentní Listy, on Forum 24** for a comment with a title „Senator Valenta’s problém is not just a conflict of interest, but a Russian cesspool called Parlamentní Listy“, published in December 2018. Our Media appealed against the verdict.

3.8. Religiously motivated extremism

During the year, a **trial** with the Slovak convert to Islam, **Dominik Kobulnický**, who was facing an indictment for the preparation of a terrorist attack and for a criminal offence of establishing, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. In November, he was sentenced to six and a half years in prison for crimes representing public safety threats and for supporting the Islamic State and the Emirate of the Caucasus. According to the judge, the suspicion that he was planning a terrorist attack in Prague could not be proved. Both the public prosecutor and Kobulnický decided to use the period for a possible appeal. However, Kobulnický admitted that he sympathized with the Islamic State in the past, and was preparing a terrorist attack in Prešov. He further stated that he was taught by the former Prague Imam Samer Shehadeh in the past.

Samer Shehadeh, his brother Omar and Omar’s wife Fatima (formerly Kristýna) Hudková were accused by the police and the public prosecutor subsequently charged them with a criminal offence of the participation in a terrorist group and financing terrorism. Samer was escorted from Jordan to the Czech Republic in November 2018. An international arrest warrant was issued for Omar and the Czech convert to Islam Hudková who are facing charges for the membership in the terrorist organization Jabhat Fatah al-Sham (the Front for the Conquest of the Levant).

The Supreme Court rejected the appeal of the Supreme Public Prosecutor in the case of Vladimír Sáňka, who, as the former chairman of the Muslim community in Prague, was supposed to organize the translation, publishing and distribution of the controversial book by Bilal Philips the Basics of Tauhid. The charges for the criminal offence of the establishment, support and promotion of a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms were first acquitted by the District Court for Prague 1, and the verdict was later upheld by the Municipal Court in Prague.

The District Court in Louny **rejected the conditional release of Jan Silovský** from imprisonment. The decision was also confirmed by the Regional Court in Ústí nad Labem. In

2016, this man from Pilsen wanted to join the Islamic State in the Syrian territory. Turkish authorities detained him at the Istanbul airport.

The Central of Muslim communities cancelled the membership of the chairman of the Muslim community in Prague Leonid Kushnarenko, for his controversial statements about the need for armaments in response to the terrorist attack on Muslims in New Zealand.

The speech of the President of the Muslim Union, **Mohamed Abbas**, in an online television where he presented controversial statements against women and homosexuals provoked very sharp reactions.

The Czech Republic has not avoided the process of **isolating diverse Muslim communities** either. The work of various Islamophobic groups, of which some Muslims are afraid, also contributes to the isolation. Proponents of extremist interpretations of Islam, on the other hand, cause the majority to distance itself from Muslims. Extremists from both the majority and the Muslim minority contribute to the fact that whole groups are a priori perceived as risky, dangerous and extremist. The environment of mistrust, which is strengthened through hateful content on social networks, is a breeding ground for radicalization. Encounters with foreign clerics who spread hateful religious ideas can also be perceived as risky.

3.9 Other relevant events associated with extremism and terrorism

The so-called **foreign fighters** who **took part in the conflict in Eastern Ukraine** are considered a significant security risk. The security forces have information on more people who have gained real military experience in the region, and if they return, there are concerns that they could apply it in practice, or pass it on to others.

In 2019, the law enforcement agencies dealt with persons who were involved in the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. A member of the Army of the Czech Republic Erik Eštu was charged with a criminal offence of a terrorist attack he was supposed to commit by his involvement in the Republican Guard of the Donetsk People's Republic. The Regional Court in Pardubice changed the legal qualification to a criminal offence of participation in an organized criminal group and sentenced him to three years' imprisonment with a postponement of four years and loss of military rank. According to the court, it was not proved that Ešta was directly involved in combat, but only in keeping a guard, digging trenches and weapon service. According to the court, his motivation was not sympathy for the goals of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, but rather a desire for adventure, which he could then present. The High Court in Prague subsequently changed the qualification again, this time from participation in an organized criminal group to the criminal offence of service in foreign armed forces. This court sentenced him to conditional two-year imprisonment with a three-year probation period. This is the first verdict against a person involved in the conflict in Ukraine.

In July, detectives from the National Centre against Organized Crime began with **criminal proceedings of a foreign national for his alleged involvement in an armed conflict in Ukraine**. Criminal proceedings for alleged participation in the combat against the organized Ukrainian army was also **initiated against a man from the Carlsbad region**.

Detectives from Zlín have also charged a 21-year-old person who threatened to **shoot people** on social networks with violence against a group of people and individuals, incitement to hatred against a group of people and individuals, or suppressing their rights and freedoms, approval of a criminal offence and expression of sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing their rights and freedoms. In his contributions, he spoke of **inspiration from Anders Breivik**, and also spoke admirably of representatives of the Nazi Third Reich. The case resulted in a conditional sentence of eight months' imprisonment with an eighteen-month probationary period. Criminal proceedings of another man who was supposed to **approve of the criminal offences** of the above-mentioned **Norwegian terrorist** was also commenced by Prague detectives.

Police officers from the Prague anti-extremist department handed over a motion to the public prosecutor to file an indictment for the crime of supporting and promoting terrorism against a man who was allegedly pasting leaflets **approving a suicide attack against Czech soldiers in Afghanistan**. They also prosecuted nine people who allegedly **approved of a terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand**.

In May, the traditional ride of the controversial **Night Wolves** Motorcycle Club took place. On the route between Moscow and Berlin, they also passed through the Czech Republic. Some bikers who are also of interest to the security forces of not only European countries are admired by some activists from the extreme right, dogmatic communists, alternative media scene and domestic militia groups.

4. Significant court decisions and other interesting cases

As regards extremist and hate crimes, it can be stated that the most common offences in 2019, were expressions of sympathy for the Nazi movement, especially in the form of hailing while verbally stating „Sieg heil“ or „Heil Hitler“. Further, common forms of these offences were „illicit“ tattoos or symbols on clothing or distribution of such clothing or other items with Nazi symbolism. However, there have also been cases of the impugnation of the Holocaust that mainly took place on the Internet. In general, the number of hate crimes committed via a publicly accessible computer network is continuously increasing (especially in the form of comments on social networks). The most numerous target group of hate speech were Roma citizens, or dark-skinned foreigners, and Muslims. However, the number of physical attacks by Roma citizens on members of the „majority ethnic group“, as well as verbal (exceptionally physical) attacks on Jews, homosexuals and other groups of people (eg. Vietnamese or „economic migrants“) increased significantly. Even in 2019, however, there were no racially motivated attacks resulting in death.

Significant decisions of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court

The judgment of the Constitutional Court of 9 April 2019, file No III ÚS 3439/17 decided on a media-familiar case of the complainant RB, who **claimed the role of the victim in criminal proceedings** for the offence of expressing sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Section 404 of the Criminal Code which was committed by the perpetrator **by publishing a hateful comment on RB's Facebook profile as a reaction to his departure from the 2015 Czech Nightingale Awards** after the award for Ortel band and its singer Tomáš Hnídek [(cit.) „Yes, so Nazism was applauded, now it remains to spread it as much as possible, because such dickheads, blacks, Jews etc. have to

leave our country, our white country, Europe, and go to hell, or even better, to gas chambers like in the past -:)]. The Constitutional Court did not agree with the decision of the finding court not to admit the complainant as a damaged party to the main trial under Section 206 paragraph 3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on the grounds that the status of „a damaged party“ „probably does not belong to him“. In that regard, the court stated that the provision in question reflected the principle of the *presumption of recognition of the status of the damaged party*, which therefore belonged to anyone, as the damaged party, sought to enter criminal proceedings until the court withdrew that status by a negative decision. The resolution made on the basis of Section 206 paragraph 3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure must therefore be based on unquestionable factual or legal obstacles to the admission of the damaged party to the main trial, and in case of doubt, the person claiming the rights of the damaged party must be admitted to the main court hearing. The Constitutional Court also noted that the special nature and variability of so-called hate crimes obliges courts to assess the nature of each such attack from the perspective of its potential victims.

In the resolution of the Supreme Court of 31 January 2019, file No. 6 Tdo 72/2019, a case which was originally referred to the administrative body by the first instance court with the view that the case could be considered as a minor offence against public order. This was a case of a defendant, who commented on a Facebook post entitled „Updated + video: refugee families were crammed among the cargo of goods in trucks“, with words (cit.) „And we will pay for them ... why didn't they rather burn those buses ...“, and it was clear from the overall context of the article and the relevant discussion that this meant the **ignition of the buses in which the refugees were placed** after they were found in the trucks. The Supreme Court annulled the verdicts by the appeal of the Supreme Public Prosecutor, as it disagreed with the first instance court's argument on the appropriateness of applying the principle of subsidiarity of criminal repression under Section 12 paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code, or with the opinion of the court of appeal on non-fulfilment of the objective aspect of the offence of Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of People of Suppression their Rights and Freedoms under Section 356 of the Criminal Code. Regarding the principle of subsidiarity of criminal repression, it stated that in the case of an offence under Section 356 of the Criminal Code, this cannot be justified by circumstances such as committing only one act, failure to manifest the intention to cause the ignition of the bus by others, missing previous planning, failure to identify a specific motive, intent or goal by the defendant (who was judicially innocent, unrelated to neo-Nazi or similar groups), as their existence is not necessary to fulfil the formal features of the offence, and their absence, therefore, does not significantly affect the assessment of harmfulness, respectively its material aspects relevant from the point of view of guilt. As regards the conclusions of the second instance court on non-fulfilment of the aspect „instigate“ in the sense of Section 356 of the Criminal Code, it emphasized that the offence in question is already completed by its manifestation, the content of which is instigation, so hatred does not have to be evoked.

Last but not least, the resolution of the Supreme Court of 24 July 2019, file No. 6 Tdo 674/2019, which confirmed the decisions of lower degree courts, by which the defendant was lawfully found guilty of Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of People under Section 355 of the Criminal Code, Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of People of Suppression their Rights and Freedoms under Section 356 of the Criminal Code, and Denial, Impugnation, Approval and Justification of Genocide under Section 405 of the Criminal Code, by **presenting negative views of Jews and immigrants of predominantly Muslim faith in his published speeches and books, questioning the Holocaust** and commenting positively on the death of Elie Wiesel, whose work was closely linked to the Holocaust. In

response to the defendant's appeals, the Supreme Court came to the conclusion that the interference with his right to freedom of speech had occurred in a legitimate manner, respectively, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 10 (2) of the Convention for the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms. The court emphasized that the European Court of Human Rights had repeatedly ruled that protections of freedom of speech generally do not include expressions that incite or justify violence, hatred or intolerance (eg. anti-Semitic expression or denial of the Holocaust). The Supreme Court also recalled the Court of Appeal's argument according to which (cit.) „the defendant is not penalized for the fact that his views conflict with the „official“ or, in the opinion of the current establishment, the only correct views (there is no such thing anyway), he is not punished for that he is a critic of the current political establishment of his homeland or the European Union and its asylum policy (...), not even for being anti-Semitic and Islamophobic. He is rightly punished for the fact and a manner in which he manifested his extreme animosity, especially towards Jews and Muslims, i.e. in intensely hateful and vulgar diction, far beyond what is permissible in civilized society, while at the same time acting through various channels in a very active and offensive manner.“

Selected significant or typical cases in which criminal prosecution was initiated in 2019, or a final decision on the merits was issued:

Of the interesting cases resolved in 2019, it is possible to point out a case in which the former **secretary of the SPD** was tried for an offence concerning his behaviour when he made statements in front of several present persons in a restaurant of the **Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic** (cit.) „faggots and lesbians are an illness, they should be shot right after they are born“ and „faggots, Jews, Gypsies, all into gas“, for which he was found guilty under Section 356 paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code and Section 405 of the Criminal Code and sentenced to a total sentence of one-year imprisonment with a conditional postponement for two years, as well as a fine in the total amount of CZK 70.000. The acquittal, on the other hand, was issued in the case of a defendant, who published a comment on the photograph of pupils of the Primary School on the street called Plynářská (Gas street) in Teplice, among whom children of Roma and Arab origin predominated (cit.) „Thank god they are from the Plynářská primary school. The solution is offered directly. Don't say that it didn't occur to you!!!“ (in addition, he was tried for publishing his photos with Nazi chiefs or symbolism on his Facebook profile). The acquittal of the finding court, which was based on the argument that it was not proved that the defendant was the author of the cited statements, was in the meantime overturned by a decision of the second instance court, which criticized the finding court, among other things, for not respecting Section 2 paragraphs 5, 6 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and returned the case to it for a new hearing and verdict. In other cases, in which authors of similar hateful comments were prosecuted (relating, in addition to the photograph of pupils at the mentioned primary school in Teplice, such as the photograph of a mixed race newborn I. K. or the above-mentioned departure of R. B. from the Czech Nightingale Awards 2015), lawful convictions or conditional suspensions of criminal prosecutions were achieved (see below).

On 11 September 2019, the Public Prosecutor of the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Přerov filed an indictment against spouses S. P. and P. P. for offences under Section 146 paragraphs 1, 2 point b) Section 355 paragraph 1 point b), and Section 358 paragraph 2 (eventually, paragraph 2 point a)) of the Criminal Code, which they committed by **attacking a group of seven Roma children** in the castle part in Lipník nad Bečvou in a relatively

serious manner (fists to head, kicking in the back, etc.), insulting them with terms such as „black mouths“, and caused injuries to four of them under Section 122 paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code.

On 19 December 2019, the public prosecutor of the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Hradec Králové filed an indictment against the defendant M. S., a member of the Police of the Czech Republic, for behaviours showing signs of a criminal offence under Section 355 paragraph 1 point b, paragraph 2 point b) and Section 356 paragraphs 1, 3 point a) of the Criminal Code, which he committed by **insulting Muslims** on his Facebook profile during the period from November 2015 to June 2018 (he called them, for example, „Islamic dirt“, „Muslim shitters“, etc.) and incited hatred towards Islam, while also defaming people fighting for the rights of Muslims or quoted from the Qur'an, for example, (cit.) „Austria is slowly approaching the limit of 10% Muslims in the population. When they break it, they can lose the shop. Because: (Sura 8:65, Prey): „O Prophet! Rouse the believers to fighting. If they be twenty of you who persevere they shall vanquish two hundred; and if there be of you a hundred, they shall vanquish a thousand of those who disbelieve, for they are a people who lack understanding.“

By the resolution of the Public Prosecutor of the District Public Prosecutor's Office for Prague 5 of 10 September 2019 (which came into force on 25 September 2019), the criminal prosecution of the defendant M. S. was **conditionally stopped**, while a probationary period of eighteen months was set. The defendant was prosecuted for his behaviour that in response to a **photograph of a mixed-race newborn he published a post on his Facebook profile** stating (cit.) „Yuck, I would throw that piece of shit to the bin“, which was perceived as a criminal offence under Section 356 paragraphs 1, 3 point a) of the Criminal Code. The case in question was originally handed over by a resolution of the police authority under Section 159 paragraph a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure to hear as case as a minor offence; however, based on the supervision exercised over this procedure by the supervisory public prosecutor on the initiative of the public prosecutor of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, criminal proceedings were initiated in which the decision was made as stated above.

The resolution of the District Court in Ostrava of 8 February 2019 (in conjunction with the resolution of the District Court in Ostrava of 28 March 2019, which rejected the complaint of the damaged R. B.) conditionally stopped the criminal prosecution under Section 307 paragraphs 1, 2 point b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure of W. M. conducted for the criminal offence under Section 352 paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code, which he committed by **posting a comment on the Facebook profile of R. B. in response to his departure from the Czech Nightingale Awards 2015** (cit.) „You black swine, this is a compliment, you are only disgusting dirt, fucker, and gas, too easy, cut your throat in the style of a snail!!“. He was given a probationary period of two years and an obligation to pay the sum of 8.000 CZK to help victims of crimes, and reimburse the costs to the victim, that were incurred in connection with his claim for non-pecuniary damage (he paid non-pecuniary damage of 5.000 CZK voluntarily). The statement of reasons for the decision of the first instance court is as follows: „It is common knowledge that discussions on the Internet, including social media posts, contain a large number of hateful, degrading, defamatory and other comments often directed against a specific person, which in no way means that their placement in the Internet environment can be tolerated. On the contrary, it is appropriate for users of various platforms in the Internet environment to be criminally liable for the content they place on such platforms if in some way the factual nature of a criminal offence is fulfilled. In the case under review, it is a comment placed on the social network Facebook addressed to a specific person, whose

only possible goal was to try to act intimidatingly on the addressee and show him that his opinion on the Czech Nightingale Awards 2015 will not be tolerated by a certain group of users. In any case, it is not a question of expressing an opinion on the damaged party's conduct, which could be included under the protection of freedom of expression. The commentary represents a threat of physical liquidation, which is exacerbated by the reference to gas killing by reference to one of the darkest episodes of human civilization when groups of people in concentration camps were liquidated. The given statement of the defendant must, therefore, be regarded as so socially harmful that even with regard to the principle of ultima ratio, it is appropriate to use the means of criminal law“.

In connection with the **reactions to the departure of R. B. from the Czech Nightingale Awards 2015**, a lawful judgment was issued in three other cases in 2019:

- In the first of these cases, a lawful resolution of the District Court in Domažlice of 20 February 2019 stated a **conditional cessation** of criminal proceedings against the defendant L. K. with a probationary period of two years. He was prosecuted for criminal offences under Section 355 paragraph 1 point a), b), paragraph 2 point b and Section 356 paragraph 1, 3 point a) of the Criminal Code that were committed, inter alia, by a statement (cit.) „A negro that should try cyclone B“ (and other statements that the Czech Republic should be „white“, etc.).
- In the second case, by the **judgment** of the Supreme Court in Kladno of 25 June 2019 (which came into force on 9 November 2019), the defendant V. Š. was found guilty of two offences under Section 352 paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code, which he committed by sending two private messages to R. B. via Facebook, in which he threatened to physically liquidate him and stated, among other things (cit.) „You black swine, we are already preparing a rope for you, you will hang“. He was sentenced to 16 months of imprisonment that was conditionally postponed for a probationary period of four years.
- In the last of the above-mentioned cases, the defendant J. P. was found guilty by a criminal order of the Supreme Court in Teplice of 30 May 2019 (which came into force on 22 June 2019) under Section 356 paragraph a) of the Criminal Code and sentenced to imprisonment of six months with a conditional postponement of eighteen months, for a comment (cit.) „SHOT, HANG! LET THEM FUCKING KNOW WHAT USA RACISM IS“.

The following three cases concern the statements by which the defendants **commented** on a video published on the Facebook profile of I. P., which depicted the **incident** of July 28, 2018, **between Czech and Muslim visitors to the part in Teplice**:

- In the first case, the **criminal order** of the District Court of Jindřichův Hradec of 31 January 2019 (which came into force on 8 March 2019) stated that the defendant D. H. was found guilty of a criminal offence under Section 356 paragraph 1, 2 point a) of the Criminal Code, which he committed by a commentary calling on citizens of the Czech nation to awaken the Hussite blood and expel (cit.) „fucking Muslim maladapted monkeys“, „stinking rubbish“, or „sleazes“ from the Czech Republic, which he concluded with words (cit.) „OUR COUNTRY, OUR HABITS, OUR GIRLS AND BEERS!! DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING TO THEM!!“. He was sentenced to a fine of 8.000 CZK and a substitute sentence of imprisonment for a period of two months.
- In the second case, the resolution of the District Court in Karviná – a branch in Havířov of 23 April 2019 (which came into force on 10 May 2019) conditionally stopped the criminal prosecution of the accused M. S. with a probationary period of twelve months. The

defendant was prosecuted for a criminal offence under Section 356 paragraphs 1, 3 point a) of the Criminal Code, which she was supposed to have committed by commenting on the above-mentioned video with the words (cit.) „This is unbelievable, swine are expanding in our country, beat them head-on so they return where they came from“.

- In the last case, the defendant E. K. was found guilty by a **criminal order** of the District Court in Chomutov of 1 July 2019 (which came into force on 27 July 2019) of a criminal offence under Section 355 paragraph 1 point b), paragraph 2 point b) of the Criminal Code, which she committed by publishing a comment in the following wording (cit.) „I keep saying this over and over, this animal race does not belong to Europe“. She was sentenced to three months of imprisonment, which was conditionally postponed for a probationary period of one year.

By a criminal order of the Municipal Court in Brno of 29 May 2019 (came into force on 25 June 2019), the accused R. M. was found guilty of a criminal offence under Section 355 paragraph 1 point a), paragraph 2 point b) of the Criminal Code, which he committed during the live broadcast of the semifinals of the Hockey Tipsport Extra League in DRFG Arena in Brno on 7 April 2019, as the so-called **speaker in the cauldron of domestic fans. He shouted via megaphone addressing one hockey player of the visiting team** (cit.) „Lakatoš is Gypsy, Lakatoš is fucking Gypsy“, after which the crowd of fans repeatedly chanted this slogan and applauded to the beat. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, the execution of which was conditionally suspended for eighteen months.

By a simplified **judgment** of the District Court for Prague 5 of 20 September, the accused T. N. was found guilty of criminal offences under Section 352 paragraph 2, Section 358 paragraph 1, 2 point a, Section 404 of the Criminal Code, committed by **hailing** in a bar in the presence of guests and staff, while repeatedly taking a hat of the victim's head while calling loudly „Jude“ and then directed his **short firearms** at him and his companions and to space. He was sentenced to a cumulative sentence of imprisonment of twenty-eight months with conditional postponement and a probationary period of four years, while under the supervision and a reasonable obligation to refrain from the consumption of alcohol or any other addictive substances, as well as testing for their presence in his organism.

The charged J. K. was found guilty of a criminal offence under Section 356 paragraph 1, 3 point a) of the Criminal Code by the **criminal order of the Municipal Court** of Prague-West of 24 July 2019 (came into force on 16 August 2019), which he committed by **commenting on his Facebook profile a picture depicting the feeding of a dark-skinned little boy** with the words (cit.) „It would suit him more if he was lying on the ground with worms crawling from him“. For this conduct, he was sentenced to ten-month imprisonment with a conditional probationary period of 18 months.

5. Statistics of criminal activity motivated by hatred

5.1. Introduction

Police statistics are processed on the basis of the **Statistical Recording System of Crime of the Police Presidium** (Evidenčně statistický systém kriminality Policejního prezidia, ESSK). **Statistical data of the Ministry of Justice, which also form the basis for the statistics of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, are processed on a different**

timeframe than police statistics. For them, the decisive element is not the time when a crime has been committed, but rather the time when a public prosecutor prepared the indictment, decided on the cessation of the prosecution, etc. The absence of any interconnectedness of these three statistics is a significant handicap; however, it is technically impossible to solve this issue at present.

Before 2009, police statistics were governed by Act No. 36/1960 Coll., on the Territorial Division of the State, as amended. Therefore, statistics formerly distinguished between 7 regions and Prague. Since 1 January 2010, statistics are broken down identically to higher territorial units, and therefore distinguish between 14 regions. This change complicates year on year comparisons of regional data before and after 2009.

The Statistical Recording System of Crime was developed in the 1970s. Recently, many of its indicators have been found obsolete and inadequate. Therefore, **a major reconstruction of this system was initiated** in 2016. The reconstruction aims to bring the data up to date with current conditions, refine them, simplify their calculation, and make them accessible to the general public in a more comprehensible and approachable form.

This reconstruction involves a **transition to different software. The manner of data flow from the information system of Evidence of Criminal Proceedings to the ESSK is also being changed.** Algorithms calculating statistical numbers are also being reviewed. The reconstruction, assessment, and modification of the system are taking place during its full operation and are continuously fine-tuned. The result of this reconstruction in its final form will be the incompatibility of the data with the previous period, especially as regards the indicators of the number of prosecuted persons and criminal offences committed by them.

There has been a fundamental change in the counting system of prosecuted persons. In the past, only the most serious criminal activity was attributed to the prosecuted person. If under one reference number, the perpetrator committed murder as well as negligence of mandatory support, they were counted only as a person prosecuted for murder. Currently, all criminal activities will be taken into account when counting the number of prosecuted persons. Statistically, this will manifest as a difference between the number of offenders for the total number of criminal offences, and the sum of the number of offenders by individual types of criminal offences. **One perpetrator will be counted as many times as the number of criminal offences they committed.**

In the past, statistics on crimes committed by police officers were processed by the Inspectorate of the Police of the Czech Republic, which was replaced by the General Inspectorate of Security Forces as of 1 January 2012. Therefore, data from 2011 is provided by General Inspectorate.

Within the non-standard statistical outcomes, the Police of the Czech Republic have been processing statistics related to detected criminal offences with anti-Semitic subtext since 2005⁵. As of 1 January 2005, the classification of extremist criminal offences in the Statistical Recording System of Crime was extended to include codes allowing for the identification of crimes motivated by religious and ethnic hatred against Jews and the Jewish fate, including attacks against Jewish Community edifices and their facilities, synagogues, and Jewish cemeteries.

⁵ Prior to this extension of statistics, there was an increase in crimes with an anti-Semitic context throughout Europe. Anti-Semitism has become a priority topic for both the European Union and international organizations.

Since 2011, the reports include several criminal offences motivated by hatred against the Roma. It is necessary to add an explanatory commentary to these statistics. Police statistics do not distinguish victims of crime according to their ethnicity or nationality. It is only possible to detect that the victim was a foreigner. On the other hand, criminal offences motivated by racial hatred or hatred against Bohemians, Moravians, and Silesians, Polish, Germans, Ukrainians, Vietnamese, Hungarians, Russians and Ruthenians, Roma, Jews, Arabs, Chinese, and other nationalities, are recorded in the Statistical Recording System of Crime. For a criminal offence motivated by hatred against Roma to be recorded in the police statistics, the following conditions must be met: 1) the police officers must evaluate the act as a criminal offence with an extremist subtext when filling out the relevant form, 2) victims must clearly state that they are a Roma or that the criminal offence was committed against an object with apparent ties to the Roma ethnicity (e.g., spraying of a racist inscription on a Roma Holocaust memorial, or a museum of Roma culture, etc.). Therefore, crimes against the Roma are not included in police statistics when an anti-Roma subtext has not been proven (e.g., a car-theft when the perpetrator does not know the ethnic origins of its owner). Besides, many Roma individuals do not avow their Roma ethnicity in the Czech Republic. These statistics are, therefore, only indicative and have limited predictive value.

Police statistics are built solely for year-on-year comparison, not a month-on-month one. The calculations and comparisons are always carried out from 1 January until the end of the monitored period. Therefore, it is not possible to obtain the numbers for individual months. Given that the criminal proceedings are an ongoing process, a simple subtraction of consecutive periods would produce an imaginary number which could, under certain circumstances, have a negative value.

The total number of prosecuted persons does not represent the sum of values since one person may commit criminal offences in several regions, as well as several offences, and would be counted several times. This practice is valid as of 2016.

5.2. National police statistics

For the following statistical evaluation, acts with an extremist subtext included cases of selected tactical-statistical classifications marked as having signs of extremism.

There were 199.221 criminal offences committed in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2019. Offences with extremist subtext accounted for 0.09% of the total. In 2019, the Police of the Czech Republic **detected 170 criminal offences with criminal subtext**. In a **year-on-year comparison**, the number of detected extremist offences **decreased by 9**.

Of the above-mentioned criminal offences, **56.5% were solved, i.e., 96** (59.8% in 2018, i.e., 102 criminal offences).

In 2019, there was a total of **122 persons prosecuted** for offences with extremist subtext.

The total amount of criminal offences with extremist subtext recorded in the territory of the Czech Republic between 2006 and 2019

Year	Recorded Criminal Offences	Share in Total Crime Figures	Solved Criminal Offences	Prosecuted and Investigated Persons
2006	248	0,07	196	242
2007	196	0,05	119	181
2008	217	0,06	126	195
2009	265	0,08	186	293
2010	252	0,08	168	231
2011	238	0,08	157	246
2012	173	0,06	116	208
2013	211	0,06	144	198
2014	201	0,07	132	157
2015	175	0,07	114	154
2016	143	0,07	99	X
2017	153	0,08	102	132
2018	179	0,09	107	136
2019	170	0,09	96	122

Source: PCR, 2019

5.3. Police statistics by acts

Tactical-statistical classification	period 1.1.-31.12.2019	
	registered	solved
Intended Bodily Harm (Sections 145 - 146a)	5	3
Violence and Threats Against Group of People and Individuals (Section 352)	27	16
Dangerous Threatening (Section 353)	1	1
Damage to a Thing of Another (Section 228)	0	0
Disorderly Conduct at sports and public events (Section 358)	3	2
Spraying (Section 228/2)	6	0
Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or Other Group of People (Section 355)	26	18
Instigation of Ethnic and Racial Hatred (Section 356)	41	19
Support and Promotion of a Movement (Sections 403, 404, 405)	61	37
TOTAL	170	96

Tactical-statistical classification	period 1.1.-31.12.2019
	number
Intended Bodily Harm (Sections 145 - 146a)	2
Violence and Threats Against Group of People and Individuals (Section 352)	15
Dangerous Threatening (Section 353)	1
Damage to a Thing of Another (Section 228)	0
Disorderly Conduct at sports and public events (Section 358)	2
Spraying (Section 228/2)	0
Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or Other Group of People (Section 355)	17
Instigation of Ethnic and Racial Hatred (Section 356)	19
Support and Promotion of a Movement (Sections 403, 404, 405)	37
TOTAL	122

In 2019, the most frequent criminal offences in the tactical-statistical group were „support and promotion of a movement“ (Sections 403, 404, 405), i.e., 61 acts.

The most prosecuted persons, i.e., 37, were recorded in the tactical-statistical group „support and promotion of a movement“ (Sections 403, 404, 405).

5.4. Police regional statistics

Number of criminal offences

Region	period 1.1.-31.12.2019	
	registered	solved
Prague	43	18
Central Bohemian	8	3
Southern Bohemian	14	11
Pilsen	13	9
Ústí nad Labem	24	16
Hradec Králové	5	3
Southern Moravian	11	4
Moravian-Silesian	19	11
Olomouc	15	8
Zlín	2	2
Vysočina	2	1
Pardubice	6	4
Liberec	7	5
Carlsbad	1	1
TOTAL	170	96

Number of prosecuted persons

Region	period 1.1.-31.12.2019
	number
Prague	20
Central Bohemian	8
Southern Bohemian	11
Pilsen	12
Ústí nad Labem	24
Hradec Králové	3
Southern Moravian	4
Moravian-Silesian	11
Olomouc	10
Zlín	1
Vysočina	1
Pardubice	4
Liberec	12
Carlsbad	1
TOTAL	122

In 2019, the most offences with extremist subtext were registered in Prague (43), Ústí nad Labem region (24), and Moravian-Silesian region (19). The most prosecuted persons for offences with extremist subtext were recorded in the Ústí nad Labem region (24) and Prague (20).

5.5. Crimes motivated by hatred against selected groups

In 2019, there were 23 crimes with anti-Semitic subtext registered. Compared to 2018, there was an increase of eight acts. Crimes with an anti-Semitic subtext in 2019 accounted for 13.5% of the total number of crimes having an extremist subtext. In 2018, it was 8.4%.

In 2019, a total of 43 crimes motivated by hatred against Roma was recorded. It is an increase of seven acts compared to last year. These crimes accounted for 25.3% of the total number of crimes with an extremist subtext in 2019.

In 2019, the Police of the Czech Republic recorded 11 crimes motivated by hatred towards Muslims. In 2018, they registered eight. In 2019, the Police of the Czech Republic also recorded eight crimes motivated by hatred towards the Arabs. Compared to 2018, it is an increase of one act.

5.6. Criminal offences committed by members of Security Forces

In 2019, there were criminal cases having signs of extremism investigated that involved two members of the security forces. Both were suspected of committing a criminal offence of Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of People under Section 355 paragraph 1 point b), paragraph 2 point b) of the Criminal Code, and Instigation of Ethnic and Racial Hatred towards Group of People or Individuals or Suppressing their Rights and Freedoms under Section 356 paragraphs 1 and 3 point A) of the Criminal Code.

5.7. Criminal offences committed by members of the Army of the Czech Republic

In 2019, the Military Intelligence did not record such actions of members of the Army of the Czech Republic and employees of the Ministry of Defence that would indicate an increase in activities in the field of extremism.

The Military Police did not investigate any findings, criminal reports or complaints based on a suspicion of committing a hate crime by a member of the armed forces. The Army of the Czech Republic did not make redundant any soldier from service due to support, propaganda or sympathy with a movement aiming at suppressing human rights and freedoms or proclaims ethnic or religious hatred, or hatred against another group of people.

5.8. Court statistics

In 2019, the Czech courts sentenced a total of 55.486 persons (54.488 in 2018, 55.069 in 2017, 61.399 in 2016, 65.569 in 2015, 72.854 in 2014, 77.976 in 2013, 71.471 in 2012, 70.160, in 2011, 69.953 in 2010, 73.752 in 2009), which represents an increase of 998 persons, i.e. 1,83 %, compared to 2018. A total of **49 persons were convicted** for criminal offences with a **racial subtext** in 2019. This figure represents only 0,088 % of the total number of convicted persons this year.

Compared to 2018, we have seen a decrease in the number of convicted offenders for offences with a racial subtext (by 5 persons, i.e. by approximately 9%, 54 persons in 2018, 47 persons in 2017, 77 persons in 2016, 54 persons in 2015, 52 persons in 2014, 71 persons in 2013, 83 persons in 2012, 111 persons in 2011, 96 persons in 2010, 103 persons in 2009). From the given data, it is clear that the proportion of these offences in the total number of convicted persons in the Czech Republic remains very low. In absolute numbers, between 50 and 100 perpetrators have been oscillating in recent years.

Offenders were convicted of the following crimes in 2019⁶:

Criminal Offence	Provision of the Criminal Code (CC)	Number of Persons
		2019, (CC 40/2009)
Bodily Harm	Section 146	6
Robbery	Section 173	1
Extortion	Section 175	2
Breaking and Entering	Section 178	2
Unauthorised Interfering with a Right to a House, Apartment or Non-residential Premises	Section 208	1
Damage to a Thing of Another	Section 228	2
Violence against Public Official	Section 325	1
Threatening with Intention to Affect Public Official	Section 326	1
False Accusation	Section 345	1
Violence Against Group of People and Individuals	Section 352	13
Dangerous Threatening	Section 353	2
Dangerous Pursuing	Section 354	2
Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of People	Section 355	16
Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of People of Suppression their Rights and Freedoms	Section 356	9
Disorderly Conduct	Section 358	17
Approval of Criminal Offence	Section 365	1
Establishment, Support and Promotion of Movements Aimed at Suppression of Human Rights and Freedoms	Section 403	2
Expressing Sympathies for Movements Seeking to Suppress Human Rights and Freedoms	Section 404	16
Denial, Impugnation, Approval and Justification of Genocide	Section 405	2

In 2019, the perpetrators of these offences were most often sentenced for a criminal offence of disorderly conduct with a racial subtext under Section 358 CC – a total of 17 persons. They are followed by convictions for a criminal offence under Section 355CC – defamation of a nation, ethnic group, race, and belief – a total of 16 persons, and for expressing sympathies for movements seeking to suppress human rights and freedoms under Section 404 CC – a total of 16 persons.

For the given criminal offences with a racial subtext, three persons were sentenced to an unconditional sentence of imprisonment. Of the convicted persons for crimes with racial subtext, none was identified by courts as a recidivist. In 2019, 36 persons were sentenced to

⁶ The sum is greater than 49 because one person can (and often is) be convicted of multiple crimes.

imprisonment with a conditional postponement. The punishment of community service was imposed in 1 case. Two juvenile offenders and seven women were convicted.

5.9. Statistics of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office

Overview of criminal offences motivated by racial, ethnic, and other hatred between 2008 and 2019

Criminal Offences Motivated by Racial, Ethnic, and Other Hatred	Persons Prosecuted (figures in brackets indicate shortened preliminary criminal proceedings)	Persons Accused (figures in brackets indicate shortened preliminary criminal proceedings)
2008	200 (+41)	185 (+40)
2009	194 (+34)	183 (+32)
2010	225 (+63)	213 (+58)
2011	218 (+66)	209 (+59)
2012	224 (+65)	213 (+61)
2013	120 (+81)	115 (+77)
2014	139 (+45)	129 (+43)
2015	130 (+29)	115 (+22)
2016	82 (+33)	79 (+30)
2017	98 (+31)	90 (+29)
2018	144 (+33)	128 (+31)
2019	129 (+28)	117 (+27)

In 2019, a total of 37,305 persons were prosecuted in the Czech Republic (40,006 persons in the case of shortened preliminary proceedings). A total of 32,965 persons were charged in 2019 (37,614 motions for punishment filed). The proportion of prosecuted persons (+ shortened preliminary proceedings) for crimes committed on the basis of racial, ethnic and other hate motives on the total number of prosecuted persons (+ shortened preliminary proceedings) was 0.203%. In the case of charged persons (+ motions for punishment filed) for crimes committed on the basis of racial, ethnic and other hate motives to the total number of charged persons (+ motions for punishment filed), the proportion was 0.2014%. The proportion of crimes committed on the basis of racial, ethnic and other hate motives in the total volume of crime was still minimal in 2019.

Compared to 2018, there was a decrease in the number of persons prosecuted for crimes committed on the basis of racial, ethnic and other hate motives, in the total number of 157 persons, including shortened preliminary proceedings (-20 in comparison to 2018, +28 in comparison to 2017). **A total of 144 persons was charged for these crimes (including filed motions for punishment) in 2019 (-15 in comparison to 2018, +25 in comparison to 2017).**

Persons prosecuted and accused of having committed offences motivated by racial, ethnic, and other hatred between 2008 and 2019

CZ	Sec. 196/2 old CC Sec 352/2 CC		Sec 196/3 old CC Sec 352/3 CC		Sec 198 old CC Sec 355 CC		Sec 198a old CC Sec 356 CC		Sec 219/2g old CC Sec 140/3g CC		Sec 221/2b old CC Sec 146/2e CC	
	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused
	2008	31	30	0	0	36	35	7	7	1	1	5
2009	33	32	6	6	19	19	7	4	0	0	19	19
2010	46	44	40	37	39	38	6	4	0	0	7	7
2011	41	39	38	37	35	35	5	5	1	1	17	16
2012	41	40	29	28	34	31	8	7	0	0	23	22
2013	15	15	5	5	27	25	2	2	0	0	21	21
2014	13	12	3	3	23	18	6	6	2	2	8	8
2015	17	15	5	5	25	24	4	3	0	0	6	5
2016	17	17	19	19	17	17	7	5	0	0	3	3
2017	10	8	3	3	10	9	6	5	0	0	13	12
2018	20	18	11	11	26	23	27	20	0	0	8	8
2019	26	26	8	7	22	19	20	15	0	0	4	4
CZ	Sec 222/2b old CC Sec 145/2f CC		Sec 235/2f old CC Sec 175/2f CC		Sec 257/2b old CC Sec 228/3b CC		Sec 260 old CC Sec 403 CC		Sec 261 old CC Sec 404 CC		Sec 261a old CC Sec 405 CC	
	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused	Prosecuted	Accused
	2008	9	9	0	0	2	2	29	29	72	61	8
2009	21	21	0	0	1	1	25	24	66	60	4	4
2010	1	1	1	0	1	1	39	38	42	40	2	2
2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	62	57	4	4
2012	2	2	2	2	1	0	27	27	52	49	5	5
2013	3	3	0	0	1	1	18	18	27	24	1	1
2014	3	3	1	1	3	3	15	15	57	53	5	5
2015	2	2	0	0	3	3	8	8	57	47	3	3
2016	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	27	26	1	1
2017	1	1	0	0	5	5	2	0	44	43	4	4
2018	1	1	3	3	2	2	6	6	31	28	9	8
2019	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	42	9	8

In 2019, there was a decrease in the number of persons prosecuted and accused of criminal offences committed on the grounds of racial, ethnic and other hate motives (see table above). The criminal offence of Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of People of Suppression their Rights and Freedoms under Section 356 of the Criminal Code (-6 prosecuted persons compared to 2018 and -5 accused persons compared to 2018; a shortened preliminary proceeding was conducted in a case of 1 person and a motion for punishment was filed), Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of People under Section 355 of the Criminal Code (-3 prosecuted persons compared to 2018 and -4 accused persons compared to 2018, a shortened preliminary proceedings were conducted in cases of 10 persons and motions for punishments were filed), Bodily Harm under Section 146 paragraph 2 point e) of

the Criminal Code (-4 prosecuted persons compared to 2018 and -4 accused persons compared to 2018), and Violence Against Group of People and Individuals under Section 352 paragraph 3 of the Criminal Code (-4 prosecuted persons compared to 2018 and -4 accused persons compared to 2018) contributed on the decrease in the total numbers the most.

The following criminal offences also contributed to the decrease of prosecuted and accused persons. In 2019, no person was prosecuted and accused of a criminal offence of Extortion under Section 175 paragraph f) of the Criminal Code (-3 prosecuted persons compared to 2018 and -3 accused persons compared to 2018), Damage to a Thing of Another under Section 228 paragraph 3 point b) of the Criminal Code (-2 prosecuted persons compared to 2018 and -2 accused persons compared to 2018), Establishment, Support and Promotion of Movements Aimed at Suppression of Human Rights and Freedoms under Section 403 (-6 prosecuted persons compared to 2018 and -6 accused persons compared to 2018), and Homicide under Section 140 paragraph 3 point a) of the Criminal Code (since 2015).

The criminal offence of Expressing Sympathies for Movements Seeking to Suppress Human Rights and Freedoms under Section 404 of the Criminal Code was again one of the most common criminal offences in the monitored category in 2019 (45 prosecuted persons in 2019, 42 accused persons in 2019). This criminal offence is also recorded in the statistics of shortened preliminary proceedings (6 persons in respect to whom this form of preliminary proceedings took place and 6 persons in respect of whom a motion for punishment was filed). In comparison to 2018, when a decrease in prosecuted and accused persons for this type of a criminal offence was recorded, there was an increase in the number of prosecuted persons (+14) and accused persons (+14) in 2019. This data is only relevant for the standard preliminary proceedings. In 2019, the recorded numbers of prosecuted and accused persons for this criminal offence were almost identical to 2017 (+1 prosecuted person in 2017 and +1 accused person in 2017). In 2019, there was also an increase of the criminal offence of Violence Against Group of People and Individuals under Section 352 paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code (+6 prosecuted persons compared to 2018 and +8 accused persons compared to 2018).

The same values as in 2018, were recorded as regards the criminal offence of Grievous Bodily Harm under Section 145 paragraph 2 point f) of the Criminal Code (in 2019, one person was prosecuted and one person was charged), and the criminal offence of Denial, Impugnation, Approval and Justification of Genocide under Section 405 of the Criminal Code (in 2019, nine persons were prosecuted and 8 persons were charged).

5.10. Statistics of the Probation and Mediation Service

The number of cases related to extremist-motivated crimes has long been very low in the Probation and Mediation Service. **In 2019, there were 54 new cases throughout the Czech Republic.** Since 2002, the share of these crimes has ranged from 0.2% to 0.7% of newly registered cases per year. In 2019, this share also reached 0.2% of newly registered cases (25 122 cases). In a year-on-year comparison, the share of cases with an extremist subtext remains at the same level.

Offences with an extremist subtext in individual judicial regions between 2015 and 2019

Regional courts	2015			2016			2017			2018			2019		
	Extremist subtext	(%)	Total	Extremist subtext	(%)	Total	Extremist subtext	(%)	Total	Extremist subtext	(%)	Total	Extremist subtext	(%)	Total
Prague	13	0,5	2872	8	0,3	2733	6	0,2	2514	8	0,3	2564	12	0,5	2463
Central Bohemian	6	0,2	3489	6	0,2	3384	4	0,1	3112	8	0,3	3008	8	0,2	3298
Southern Bohemian	7	0,3	2192	4	0,2	1976	4	0,2	1780	1	0,1	1666	2	0,1	1796
Western Bohemian	5	0,2	2888	3	0,1	2728	4	0,2	2494	10	0,4	2500	8	0,3	2712
Northern Bohemian	7	0,1	5263	19	0,4	5202	9	0,2	4850	12	0,3	4535	13	0,3	4738
Eastern Bohemian	0	0,0	2711	1	0,0	2615	7	0,3	2562	3	0,1	2410	5	0,2	2616
Southern Moravian	5	0,1	4717	13	0,3	4400	4	0,1	3955	9	0,2	3638	3	0,1	3549
Northern Moravian	11	0,2	5811	4	0,1	5634	7	0,1	5293	9	0,2	4893	7	0,1	5208
Czech Republic	54	0,2	28981	55	0,2	27548	44	0,2	25403	59	0,2	24047	54	0,2	25122

Source: data export, probational register AIS PMS 12/2019

Note: Given values are cleared of transferred files between individual regions and the PMS centres in comparison with the data from previous years.

From the point of view of the structure of criminal offences, the group of cases with an extremist subtext consisted mainly of the perpetrators of the criminal offence of Violence against Group of People and Individuals under Section 352, Act No 40/2009 Coll. (27% of criminal offences). Other extremist-motivated crimes also included the numerous criminal offence of Expressing Sympathies for Movements Seeking to Suppress Human Rights and Freedoms under Section 404, Act No 40/2009 Coll. (18% of criminal offences). Other criminal offences with an extremist subtext (Sections 355, 356, 401 – 403, 405, Act No 40/2009 Coll.) occurred only in single-digit cases. An extremist subtext was also recorded in connection with or in combination with other crimes. It was mostly associated with the criminal offence of Disorderly Conduct under Section 358, Act No 40/2009 Coll. (21% of criminal offences).