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Manifestations of Extremism and Prejudiced Hatred

Summary Situation Report 1st half of 2025

Table of Contents

1. Information on the development of the extremist scene in the first half of 2025	3
1.1. Summary	3
1.2 Right-wing extremists	3
1.3 Manifestations of prejudiced hatred and other manifestations of xenophobic populist actors ..	4
1.4. Paramilitary and militia groups	4
1.5 Anarchist movements	4
1.6. Orthodox communists	5
1.7 Hate media	5
1.8 Religiously motivated extremism	5
1.9 Other relevant events related to extremism and terrorism	6
2. Statistics	7
2.1 Hate crime in 2025	7
2.2 Hate crime in 2025 by region	8

1. Information on the development of the extremist situation in the first half of 2025

1.1. Summary

The period under review confirmed the trend of online radicalization of children and juveniles. These cases share a common element of fascination with violence and hatred toward specific social groups. As a rule, these are individuals with no ties to current extremist entities, about whom the security community may have no prior relevant information. It is such an alarming and acute problem that it requires a systematic and coordinated response from all key national government agencies.

Traditional extremist and xenophobic populist groups continued to be active in the Czech Republic. However, they mainly enjoy support among their long-term followers. They are not very successful in attracting new supporters among younger generations, as they are unable to address them in the language and tools of their culture.

Both movements pose a significant security risk. They weaken the Czech Republic, and their supporters can be exploited by foreign entities acting in a hostile manner against the Czech Republic and its allies.

1.2. Right-wing extremists

The Czech Republic continues to see incidents with right-wing extremist undertones committed by individuals. As a rule, these are various situational excesses, often influenced by alcohol, content spread through social networks, or the activities of football hooligans. Many of these cases ultimately result in convictions.

A landmark ruling was issued by the District Court for Prague 5 in the case of the publishing house Naše Vojsko, which sold items with neo-Nazi themes. For the crime of founding, supporting, and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, its director, Emerich Drtina, was sentenced to three years' probation with a five-year grace period and a fine of CZK 288,000. A fine of CZK 720,000 was also imposed on the publishing house. The Municipal Court in Brno heard the case of the publishing house Guidemedia, *Náš směr* and Pavel Kamas, as well as individuals Pavel Kamas, Vítězslav Beránek, Erik Sedláček, and Lukáš Novák, in connection with the publication of books that, according to the indictment, spread anti-Semitism and racism, deny the Holocaust, and downplay the crimes of Adolf Hitler.

The Municipal Court also issued a ruling in the case of the racist website White Media, which compiled lists of ideological enemies and disclosed their personal information. This deliberately exposed them to the risk of bullying, harassment, or assault. The Municipal Court in Brno imposed a fine of CZK 200,000 on Igor Mižák, the founder and administrator of the White Media website.

However, online radicalization of juveniles, and unfortunately also children, poses a far greater risk. Such cases occur and will undoubtedly continue to occur. The new "online generation"

is exposed to neo-Nazism in isolation, consuming carefully crafted ideological motivational content and finding it difficult to resist manipulation.

An example of such online radicalization may be the case of a teenage boy who was sentenced by the Olomouc Regional Court to sixteen months in prison for founding, supporting, and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, supporting and promoting terrorism, illegal armament, and dangerous threats. The teenager called for violence against minorities on social media and posted content featuring Nazi symbolism.

1.3. Manifestations of prejudiced hatred and other manifestations by xenophobic populist actors

There were also a number of xenophobic incidents during the period under review. The trend of attacks against Ukrainians continued. Some politicians, conspirators, and disinformers contribute to the increase in these acts by deliberately inciting hatred against this minority and creating an atmosphere of fear. This trend obviously suits the Kremlin regime, and it can be assumed that Russian security forces support the spread of these sentiments under the false guise of Czech patriotism.

Criminal proceedings are underway against the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement and its chairman Tomio Okamura in connection with a controversial campaign for the 2024 regional elections, which, according to the police, met the criteria for the criminal offense of inciting hatred against a group of people or restricting their rights and freedoms. The Chamber of Deputies agreed to Okamura's extradition for criminal prosecution. The public prosecutor subsequently rejected his complaint against the initiation of criminal proceedings.

1.4. Paramilitary and militia groups

Only individuals operating in regions across the republic remained active in the militia community.

In April, charges were filed with the Municipal Court in Prague against five individuals and one legal entity in the case of Czechoslovak reserve soldiers. Specifically, the indictment concerns the crime of supporting and promoting terrorism committed in favor of an organized criminal group, the crime of participating in a terrorist group, and the crime of financing terrorism in favor of an organized criminal group. It also includes two acts of illegal armament. One of the individuals faces charges of committing the crime of producing and otherwise handling child pornography.

1.5. Anarchist movement

The fragmented anarchist movement organized a series of happenings, but they only caught the attention of the anarchist community.

The Supreme Administrative Court ruled on the case of Russian anarchist Igor Shevtsov, who had been charged with arson attacks on the house of former Foreign Minister Martin Stropnický. However, his guilt was not proven. The Supreme Administrative Court upheld the

decision of the Municipal Court in Prague that the man is a security risk and should remain on the list of unwanted persons in the Czech Republic and the Schengen area.

1.6. Orthodox communists

Throughout the period under review, some orthodox communists continued to glorify figures and events associated with communist history and echoed Kremlin propaganda. These activities typically intensify around the commemoration of the end of World War II, when the collective West is portrayed as a corrupt, belligerent, and fascist civilization, while Russia is portrayed as a peacemaker and defender of human rights.

Traditionally, Czech authorities have been concerned with redressing injustices committed in the past by officials of the communist regime. The Municipal Court in Prague reversed the acquittal issued by the District Court for Prague 1 in the case of Col. Jan Muzikář, a former Border Guard official. Muzikář faced charges of abuse of authority in connection with the death or injury of persons who wanted to cross the Czechoslovak border without violence.

1.7. Hate Media

The quasi-media scene continued its xenophobic reporting, targeting Ukrainians, Jews, migrants, and Muslims in particular.

Established portals reflect the trend toward fast and brief news reporting, therefore they are placing their content on social media more and more frequently.

1.8. Religiously motivated extremism

During the period under review, the Czech Republic resonated with events in the Middle East. There is growing evidence that Islamist propaganda is finding potential supporters in the Czech Republic as well.

Police, in cooperation with the Security Information Service, arrested five young people as part of the international MERDA operation who promoted Islamic State and other terrorist groups on social media, and spread hatred towards the LGBT+ community, Jews, and other minorities. Members of the group did not know each other before, but they shared fascination with violence and quickly became radicalized on the internet. According to the Security Information Service, they had no ties to the Muslim community in the Czech Republic; they succumbed to the ideology of Islamic State on the internet. One of the individuals also recruited people to participate in the fighting in Syria. According to the National Center for Combating Terrorism, Extremism, and Cybercrime, the group operated from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, and the United Kingdom. Two persons were charged with attempting to set fire to the Brno synagogue in January 2024 using an improvised device. Most of the detained persons are under 18 years of age, some are under 15 years of age. Police confiscated cold weapons, gas pistols, and military equipment from their possession. The case is under the supervision of the High Public Prosecutor's Office in Olomouc.

The Regional Court in Ústí nad Labem – Liberec branch confirmed a plea bargain with a man from the Liberec region who wanted to join the terrorist organization Islamic State. The man

was recruited through the Telegram platform after conversion to Islam. Police eventually prevented him from leaving.

The Liberec court also sentenced another convert, Artur Simon, to three years in prison for supporting and promoting terrorism. Simon wanted to join the military wing of the Lebanese militant movement Hezbollah, or alternatively Hamas, to fight against Israel. He was arrested in August 2024 at the airport in Beirut, Lebanon.

Police continue to register and warn against the activities of various sects and quasi-religious groups.

1.9. Other relevant events related to extremism and terrorism

The mobilization potential of the so-called anti-system movement has significantly decreased. Its representatives are now only able to address a very small segment of the public. Criminal proceedings continued against certain individuals from this spectrum whose activities exceeded the limits defined by the Criminal Code.

Law enforcement authorities also dealt with cases involving the approval or trivialization of crimes related to Russian aggression against Ukraine. The most closely watched case was that of Martina Bednářová, a teacher at a Prague elementary school who misinformed her students about the war in Ukraine. The District Court for Prague 6 sentenced her to seven months' suspension with a probation period of twenty months. The teacher is also banned from teaching for three years and must undergo a media literacy course. It was the third time the district court had ruled on this case. Bednářová was acquitted twice, but the acquittals were reversed by the Supreme Court in January 2025.

The Czech Republic continued to be the target of a wide range of Russian hybrid activities. More information on this topic is provided by the Center Against Hybrid Threats, e.g. here: <https://mv.gov.cz/chh/clanek/priklady-kauz-spojenych-s-ruskym-vlivovym-pusobenim-v-cr-za-posledni-dekadu.aspx>.

The Municipal Court in Prague imposed an eight-year sentence on Colombian national Andres Alfons de la Hoz de la Cruz in connection with an arson attack on the Klíčov bus depot in June 2024, based on a plea bargain agreement. The Colombian national had been preparing a further attack. He was also ordered to pay damages of approximately CZK 115,000.

The High Court in Prague has imposed a stricter prison sentence on Filip Siman, who was accused of looting while serving as a volunteer in Ukraine. In addition to the crime of looting in a war zone, the High Court has now also found him guilty of the misdemeanor of serving in foreign armed forces without the consent of the President of the Republic. One year was added to the original seven-year prison sentence imposed by the Municipal Court in Prague. Siman subsequently lost his appeal to the Supreme Court. The Municipal Court in Prague dealt with the case of Lukáš Paškuliak, who, like Siman, joined the Ukrainian volunteer battalion Karpatská Sič. According to the indictment, he had previously attempted to join the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) or the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Lukáš Paškuliak was conditionally sentenced to three years' imprisonment with a five-year probation period and supervision. Czech diplomats dealt with the case of a Czech man who joined the Russian army and is now seeking help from the Czech

authorities. The police later stated that the man had been legally convicted in the Czech Republic in the past.

Czech police continued to be overwhelmed with cases involving various threats, false alarms, and approval of violent crimes. These phenomena are increasingly affecting Czech schools. Online radicalization has become an everyday reality. The cases share common fascination with violence and hatred towards minorities. Specific ideology is secondary and represents only a supplementary motivating factor.

The revised terrorism threat level system, approved by the government on February 5, 2025, introduces four levels labeled A through D. The aim of the revision is to improve transparency and increase the preparedness of security forces for potential threats. In view of the current situation in the Czech Republic and around the world, threat level "B" has been declared in the Czech Republic since February 5, 2025. The level is in effect until the end of 2025.

2. Statistics

2.1. Hate crime in 2025

Number of offences

Tactical and statistical classification	period 1.1.-30.6.2025	
	registered	cleared
Intentional bodily harm (§ 145 - 146a)	4	1
Violence and threat against a group of people and individuals (§ 352)	15	7
Dangerous threats (§ 353)	8	5
Damage to another's property (§ 228)	2	0
Disorderly conduct at sports and public events (§ 358)	0	0
Spraying (§ 228/2)	5	0
Defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group (§ 355)	10	4
Inciting national and racial hatred (§ 356)	16	5
Support and promotion of a movement (§§ 403, 404, 405)	0	0
TOTAL	60	22

Number of prosecuted persons

Tactical and statistical classification	period 1.1.-30.6.2025
	number
Intentional bodily harm (§ 145 - 146a)	1
Violence and threat against a group of people and individuals (§ 352)	7
Dangerous threats (§ 353)	5
Damage to another's property (§ 228)	0
Disorderly conduct at sports and public events (§ 358)	0
Spraying (§ 228/2)	0
Defamation of a nation, race, ethnic and other group (§ 355)	4

Inciting national and racial hatred (§ 356)	6
Support and promotion of a movement (§§ 403, 404, 405)	0
TOTAL	37

In the first half of 2025, **60 hate-motivated crimes** were registered. Of these, **22** were solved. The most common crime during this period was incitement to hatred against a group of people or to restrict their rights and freedoms, with 16 cases registered.

The Czech Police registered a total of **37 persons prosecuted** for hate-motivated crimes in the first half of 2025. The most common crime was violence against a group of people or individuals, with 7 persons prosecuted.

Number of offences by victim (victim of assault)

Group	period 1.1.-31.12.2024
	registered
Jews	23
LGBT+	4
Ukrainians	32

2.2. Hate crime in 2025 by region

Number of offences

Committed in the region	period 1.1.-30.6.2025	
	registered	cleared
Prague	21	7
Central Bohemia	3	0
South Bohemia	1	1
Pilsen Region	4	0
Ústí Region	2	1
Hradec Králové Region	1	0
South Moravia	9	1
Moravia-Silesia	2	1
Olomouc Region	5	4
Zlín Region	1	0
The Highlands	4	3
Pardubice Region	5	3
Liberec Region	1	0
Karlovy Vary Region	1	1
CZ TOTAL	60	22

Number of prosecuted persons

Committed in the region	Period
	1.1.-30.6.2025 number
Prague	14
Central Bohemia	1
South Bohemia	1
Pilsen Region	1
Ústí Region	1
Hradec Králové Region	1
South Moravia	1
Moravia-Silesia	2
Olomouc Region	6
Zlín Region	0
The Highlands	3
Pardubice Region	4
Liberec Region	1
Karlovy Vary Region	1
CZ TOTAL	37

In the first half of 2025, most hate crimes were registered in Prague (21), followed by the South Moravian Region (9). Most prosecuted hate crimes were registered in Prague (14), followed by the Olomouc Region (6).