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Manifestations of Extremism and Prejudiced Hatred

Summary Situation Report 2nd half of 2024

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1. Information on the development of the extremist situation in the second half of 2024

1.1. Summary

In the period under review, xenophobic, populist and extremist entities frequently spread prejudice. A significant part of this spectrum also expressed support for the Kremlin regime. Most of these statements were online.

Online radicalisation remains a persistent risk, and it can occur in virtually all of the groups mentioned below, as well as among individuals who have not previously declared a member of any of these groups.

The majority of extremist and xenophobic populist groups through their activities facilitate hybrid operations by foreign countries against the Czech Republic.

Despite the fact that we do not witness frequent manifestations of physical violence and mass gatherings breaching public order, there is a gradual increase of security risks associated with long-term and continuously intensified attacks on the pillars of the democratic system and its institutions. The underestimation or downplaying of these risks, together with the idea that democracy and security are exclusively a matter of entitlement which someone else has to provide for the local society, may have fatal consequences for the Czech Republic.

1.2. Right-wing extremists

The biggest risk from the perspective of right-wing extremism remains online platforms where young people are radicalised through updated concepts of neo-Nazi ideas, especially so-called accelerationism.¹ The recipients of these messages find themselves in an international environment where they communicate in English, use short and punchy audiovisual content, especially memes, new terminology and other cultural attributes. Their users often use technical means that make monitoring difficult. They are very flexible, able to dynamically change digital platforms or switch to closed communication channels. The potential for the spread of these ideological concepts is also multiplied by the fact that their protagonists have managed to effectively infiltrate the so-called videogaming community.

There have been reports about manifestations of radicalization or sympathy for right-wing extremism in Czech schools. Due to new propaganda content on the Internet, Nazism, neo-Nazism and its protagonists can find their admirers even among children and young people with no connection to the Czech neo-Nazi scene.

Traditional neo-Nazis continued to meet only at private events and did not organise their own public events. In response to the weakening local scene, some of them focus their attention more on the activities of their foreign counterparts. The police continued to deal

with isolated violations by individuals who claimed affiliation to the neo-Nazi movement or expressed sympathy for the Nazi regime.

The Workers' Social Justice Party announced that it intended to cease its activities by the end of 2024.

In July, the police began to prosecute a Moravian young man for the crimes of founding, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms and supporting and promoting terrorism, who, influenced by neo-Nazi ideology, was supposed to incite violent attacks against members of minorities. The charges against him were further extended to include unlawful possession of weapons and dangerous threats. The young man is alleged to have printed two firearms on a 3D printer. He then threatened to kill another person with these weapons.

The District Public Prosecutor's Office in Prague 5 has charged Pavel Matějný, a long-time neo-Nazi and leader of the National Revival group, with unlawful arming, incitement to a criminal act, violence against a group of people and against an individual, defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons, and founding, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. On the social network, a neo-Nazi veteran threatened to join a farmers' protest outside the Government Office with a machine gun. During a search of his home, the police found a functional and illegally possessed assault rifle with bullets. The indictment also takes into account his hateful and racist posts on the internet.

The Brno Municipal Prosecutor's Office has charged one person with violating the confidentiality of documents and other documents kept private in connection with the production of the neo-Nazi website White Media².

The Municipal Court in Brno has begun hearing the case of the publishing house Guidemedia, *Náš směr* and Pavel Kamas and the physical entities Pavel Kamas, Vítězslav Beránek, Erik Sedláček and Lukáš Novák in connection with the publication of books which, according to the indictment, are supposed to spread anti-Semitism and racism, deny the Holocaust or denigrate the crimes of Adolf Hitler.

The District Court in Karviná has conditionally released the third of the Vítkov arsonists, Jaromír Lukeš.³

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

In the second half of 2024, continuous attacks against Ukrainians were recorded. Anti-Ukrainian manifestations outnumbered incidents involving antigypsyism, anti-Semitism or homophobia.

Various xenophobic-populist subjects purposefully incite social tensions. For example, the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement did so in its poster campaign for the regional elections. The Regional Court in Brno stated that "in this case, the campaign was simply stupid, morally decadent, with its xenophobic, racist and discriminatory elements exceeding the limits of elementary decency and ultimately underestimating the level of

intelligence of the voters it was supposed to target, which, on the other hand, says a lot about the party using such a campaign in an electoral contest, its relationship to the basic principles of political competition in a democratic society and its misunderstanding of the fundamental role of political parties, which serve primarily to aggregate and articulate the relevant interests in society, rather than to hypertrophise perceived threats, instil a sense of fear and stir up hatred in society. The Court points out that the electoral court's options are rather limited. "

The Freedom and Direct Democracy movement has also joined a new faction in the European Parliament called Europe of Sovereign Nations. This faction was initiated by MEPs from the German Alternative für Deutschland (Alternative for Germany). Alternative für Deutschland had previously been excluded from another European faction, Identity and Democracy. The reasons for this included the activities of its leader Maximilian Krah, namely suspicions of accepting bribes for the dissemination of Russian propaganda, downplaying the crimes of the SS and suspicions that his assistant was spying for China. The Sachsen youth organisation Alternative für Deutschland (Junge Alternative - Young Alternative) was invited to Prague by the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement. Tomio Okamura presented his activities, including the aforementioned xenophobic election campaign, to the German guests in the Chamber of Deputies. The German Office for the Protection of the Constitution considers Junge Alternative to be a right-wing extremist organisation.

1.4. Paramilitary and militia groups

Of the paramilitary groups, only individuals remained active. Information obtained by the security forces from their past activities proves that they posed a real security risk. Their potential importance would undoubtedly increase if Russian security forces managed to incorporate them into a long-term hybrid operation against the Czech Republic.

The police have again filed a motion with the High Public Prosecutor's Office in Prague to bring charges of terrorist offences in the case of the Czechoslovak Soldiers in Reserve for Peace group⁴.

On appeal, the Regional Court in Ostrava upheld an eight-month suspended sentence with a two-year probation period against former National Militia representative Nela Liskova for the crime of inciting hatred against a group of people or restricting their rights and freedoms in a case involving hateful and misleading posts on social media..⁵

1.5. Anarchist movement

The innumerable Anarchist Movement continued to be fragmented into several groups that were unable to organize any significant public action. As a rule, these groups therefore focused on organising happenings with limited participation in community centres.

The diffuse nature of the movement is also reflected in its disorganised and internally fractured external presentation. Attention was primarily focused to the events in the Middle East, in particular the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and then to the developments in Syria, where anarchists express sympathy for the Kurds inhabiting the Rojava region. Supporters of

the anarchist movement also addressed environmental issues and expressions of solidarity with foreign colleagues.

Several anarchist groups reacted to internal disagreements within the movement by publishing statements against "sectarian aggression". In it, they protested alleged arson threats from their militant colleagues. However, so-called insurgent anarchism is quite marginal in the country.

1.6. Orthodox communists

The orthodox communist scene has long framed its themes in an anti-Western and anti-democratic context. Its representatives purposely choose historical and contemporary events as their topics in order to confront the Western democratic community using a dogmatic ideological view of them. In a situation where the so-called fifth colony has been established in the Czech Republic supported by the Russian security forces, the orthodox communists represent its stable, long-term and ideologically unwavering component.

Glorification of figures and events associated with communist regimes contrasts sharply with the incidents of crime and general bullying directed against their opponents. During the reporting period, the authorities dealt with a number of cases that documented unlawful actions by the security apparatus in communist-era Czechoslovakia. These included, for example, rehabilitation proceedings against persecuted persons or criminal proceedings against members of the former State Security who participated in the Asanace operation. The aim of this operation was to force people who were inconvenient to the regime to leave Czechoslovakia. Suspended sentences for abuse of official authority were thus imposed on Josef Nevečeřal, and subsequently on Aleš Pluháček and Michal Ulbrich.⁶

As for foreign events, the war in Ukraine and the Palestinian conflict in particular resonated among orthodox communists. The world's partial events presented through a communist prism are meant to demonstrate the global and universal validity of the entire ideological dogma, often in an attempt to manipulatively portray the collective West as an aggressive and hateful entity.

The Communist Youth Union held a congress in December, supported by the leaders of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia. The Communists reviewed "35 years since the defeat of socialism in Czechoslovakia".

The Constitutional Court rejected a complaint by Josef Skála and Vladimír Kapal, who were sentenced to eight-month suspended sentences for questioning historical facts about the so-called Katyn massacre.⁷ "In the case under examination, the plaintiffs, entirely in the spirit of Communist propaganda doctrine, subordinated the truth to ideological purposes, with the aim of spreading sympathy for the former Soviet Union, while disguising their denial of the proven events with 'scientific opinion' and hiding behind alleged absolute freedom of speech."

1.7. Hate media

The quasi-media scene uses local real or fictional incidents to reinforce generalizing prejudices against specific ethnic, national, religious or sexual minorities. The dogmas thus created are no longer limited to specific regions or countries, but are embedded in a global framework. As much as the quasi-media scene covers itself with words about the need for peace, in reality it presents world events as an irreconcilable and long-lasting conflict of several cultural or civilisational entities determined, in particular, by the national and religious identity. In this global conflict, according to the quasi-media, no consensus can be reached. There is only a final victory or defeat.

The Regional Court of Appeal in Ostrava, like the court of first instance, imposed on Radek Velička a two-year suspended sentence with a three-year probationary period and a fine for several criminal offences related to threats and hate content published on the website Vlastenecké noviny. In agreement with the District Court in Ostrava, the court also confirmed the cancellation of the Central Information Agency, which was the owner of the domain vlasteneckenoviny.cz.

More information on this scene is available at the Centre against Hybrid Threats at: <https://mv.gov.cz/chh/>.

1.8. Religiously motivated extremism

The Czech Muslim community remains generally moderate. It does not present its views much in public. However, the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the spread of Islamist propaganda online are major risks for the possible radicalisation of individuals. The situation in the Middle East region echoes in various propaganda audiovisual casts. At the same time, there may be situations where people living in the Czech Republic may have relatives, friends, colleagues, etc. in the Middle East who have died, suffered health, property or other harm as a result of the conflict. It cannot be ruled out that the complex dynamics of Middle East relations will also be reflected in the Czech Republic.

Cases of expressions of support for radical or terrorist organisations and their representatives have been registered in the Czech Republic. The Regional Court in Ostrava imposed a three-year suspended sentence with a five-year probation period on Mehdi Sariah Filipiak for supporting and promoting terrorism. The Czech convert from Havířov expressed support for the Islamic State on the internet. Police investigated the case of a bistro in Teplice whose owner had put up a banner expressing support for slain Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

The unfolding developments raise considerable concern within the Jewish community. Jewish communal facilities therefore require special protection.

The Police have arrested a man in Karlovy Vary who is the subject of a European Arrest Warrant on suspicion of terrorist offences. The Regional Court in Plzeň subsequently decided to extradite him to Belgium.

The US Treasury Department has placed Hamid Abdullah Hussein Al-Ahmar, who does business in the Czech Republic, on a sanctions list for financial, material and technological support for Hamas.

1.9. Other relevant events related to extremism and terrorism

In the period under review, there was a decline in some activities of the so-called anti-system movement, i.e., entities that either directly deny the legitimacy and existence of the Czech Republic or continuously present various conspiracy theories. Some of its representatives had to face criminal proceedings for their past activities. The prosecution of several protagonists has set limits for the movement's supporters. The so-called anti-system movement was unable to organise a major public event in the second half of 2024. Its protagonists are gradually losing relevance.

In the Czech Republic, various threats and alarmist messages have been disseminated on an ongoing basis, keeping the police busy and paralysing the work of some institutions. However, the police have managed to clarify some of these cases, and the perpetrators are then punished accordingly by the courts.

Law enforcement authorities continued to deal with cases of approval of Russian aggression in Ukraine.

The Supreme Court has upheld a 21-year prison sentence for participation in a terrorist group and for a terrorist attack against Aloiz Polák, who joined the conflict in Donbas on the side of the self-proclaimed separatist republics (Case No. 3 Tdo 506/2024).

The Municipal Court in Prague imposed a five-year sentence on Alexander Franchetti for participation in an organized crime group that contributed to the annexation of Crimea by Russia through subversive actions. The High Court in Prague raised his sentence to ten years and expelled him indefinitely. However, Franchetti fled the Czech Republic and was tried as a fugitive.

The anti-system movement, as well as a significant number of extremist and xenophobic populist groups, have long expressed admiration and support for the current Russian regime and spread its propaganda. As much as these entities describe themselves as 'patriotic', they are in fact helping to pursue Russia's great power ambitions in Central and Eastern Europe. The Russian security forces can consider the task of supporting the establishment of the so-called fifth colony to be accomplished. With relatively little resources, they have managed to exploit the weaknesses of democracy and can now focus on the next and rougher stages of the hybrid war.

A man accused of a terrorist attack in connection with the arson attack at the Klíčov bus depot filed a complaint against his detention at the District Court for Prague 9, which was rejected by the city court.

Terrorism threat level 1 remained in force.⁹

¹Violent accelerationism promotes acceleration of social change through violent direct action.

²Among other things, White Media compiled lists of enemies about whom they published personal information. The creators of the website wanted to purposely expose them to the risk of harassment, threats or violence from other neo-Nazis.

³Lukeš was sentenced to 22 years in prison for the crime of murder. Two of his accomplices, Václav Cojocar and Ivo Müller, have already been released.

⁴For example, police say the group arranged for one person to be sent to fight on the side of pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. This person was supposed to use the combat experience he gained after returning to the Czech Republic to train other members of the group.

⁵Liskova was first given a suspended sentence by the District Court in Ostrava. The longtime pro-Kremlin activist has called on social media for the de-Ukrainization and de-Nazification of the Czech Republic. In the past, she appointed herself "honorary consul" of the self-proclaimed Representative Centre of the Donetsk People's Republic.

⁶On appeal, the Municipal Court in Prague punished Nevečeřal for harassing journalist Jiří Lederer and Pluháček and Ulbrich for similar activities against Karel Šling, the son of Otto Šling, who was executed in 1952 in the Rudolf Slánský trial.

⁷Case No. II ÚS 1593/24. The Katyň massacre consisted of the murder of Polish officers and members of the intelligentsia by the Soviet NKVD. Communist propaganda later blamed this crime on Nazi Germany.

⁸The District Court in Náchod, for example, imposed a suspended sentence on Kateřina Včelišová of the group Legitimate Creditors for the crimes of inciting hatred against a group of persons or restricting their rights and freedoms and spreading a threatening message. The woman used the Internet to call on citizens to establish patrols to "flush out the crooks" from the authorities and on soldiers to take over the power in the state.

⁹<https://www.mvcr.cz/cthh/clanek/stupne-ohrozeni-terorismem.aspx>

2. Statistics

2.1. Hate crime in 2024

Number of offences

Tactical and statistical classification	Period 1.1.-31.12.2024	
	registered	cleared
Intentional bodily harm (§ 145 - 146a)	7	5
Violence and threats against a group of people and individuals (§ 352)	54	32
Dangerous threats (§ 353)	13	4
Damage to another's property (§ 228)	7	4
Disorderly conduct at sports and public events (§ 358)	2	1
Spraying (§ 228/2)	11	3
Defamation of a racial, ethnic or other group (§ 355)	19	14
Inciting national and racial hatred (§ 356)	46	25
Support and promotion of a movement (§§ 403, 404, 405)	0	0
TOTAL	159	88

Number of prosecuted persons

Tactical and statistical. classification	Period 1.1.-31.12.2024
Intentional bodily harm (§ 145 - 146a)	8
Violence and threats against a group of people and individuals (§ 352)	32
Dangerous threats (§ 353)	4
Damage to another's property (§ 228)	2
Disorderly conduct at sports and public events (§ 358)	2
Spraying (§ 228/2)	5
Defamation of a racial, ethnic or other group (§ 355)	20
Inciting national and racial hatred (§ 356)	26
Support and promotion of a movement (§§ 403, 404, 405)	0
TOTAL	119

There are 159 hate crimes recorded for 2024. Of these, 88 were cleared. The most frequent crimes in the reported period were violence against a group of citizens and violence against an individual with 54 offences.

In 2024, the Police recorded a total of 119 prosecutions for hate-motivated offences. The most frequent crimes involved violence against a group of persons and violence against an individual totalling 32 persons.

Number of offences by victim (victim of assault)

Group	Period 1.1.-31.12.2024 registered
Jews	33
Roma	17
LGBT+	14
Ukrainians	71

2.2. Hate crime in 2024 by region

Number of offences

Committed in the region	Period 1.1.-31.12.2024	
	registered	cleared
Prague	72	25
Central Bohemia	10	8
South Bohemia	1	1
Pilsen Region	10	8
Ústí Region	8	4
Hradec Králové Region	6	5
South Moravia	12	10
Moravia-Silesia	4	3
Olomouc Region	7	4
Zlín Region	7	4
The Highlands	4	3
Pardubice Region	4	3
Liberec Region	9	7
Karlovy Vary Region	5	3
CZ TOTAL	159	88

Number of prosecuted persons

Committed in the region	Period 1.1.-31.12.2024
	number
Prague	29
Central Bohemia	13
South Bohemia	2
Pilsen Region	9
Ústí Region	14
Hradec Králové Region	4
South Moravia	13
Moravia-Silesia	5
Olomouc Region	5
Zlín Region	4
The Highlands	4
Pardubice Region	3
Liberec Region	10

Karlovy Vary Region	4
CZ TOTAL	119

In 2024, most hate crimes were registered in Prague (72), followed by the South Moravian Region (12). Most prosecuted hate crimes were registered in Prague (29), followed by Ústí nad Labem (14) and Central Bohemia (13).