



MINISTERSTVO VNITRA
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

REPORT ON EXTREMISM AND PREJUDICIAL HATRED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2021

**Ministry of the Interior
Security Policy Department
Prague 2022**

Report on Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in the Czech Republic in 2021 was approved by the Government Resolution No. 483 on June 8, 2022.

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 and Prejudicial Hatred in the Czech Republic in 2021	8
3.1. Summary	8
3.2. Right-wing extremists	9
3.3. Manifestations of prejudicial hatred.....	10
3.4. Paramilitary and domestic militia	10
3.5. Anarchist scene	11
3.6. Orthodox communists	11
3.7. Media spreading prejudicial hatred	12
3.8. Religiously motivated extremism.....	13
3.9 Other relevant events associated with extremism and terrorism.....	13
4. Significant court decisions and other interesting cases	15
5. Statistics of criminal activity motivated by hatred.....	17
5.1. National police statistics.....	17
5.2. Police statistics by acts	18
5.3. Police regional statistics	19
5.4. Crimes motivated by hatred against selected groups	20
5.5. Criminal offences committed by members of Security Forces	20
5.6. Criminal offences committed by members of the Army of the Czech Republic	20
5.7. Court Statistics	21
5.8. Statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office	22
5.9. Statistics of the Probation and Mediation Service	25

1. Introduction

The Report on Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in the Czech Republic in 2021 (“the Report“) is submitted under the Government Resolution No. 563 of 21 June 2021.

The Report does not address all racist and xenophobic manifestations registered in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2021. 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 Ministry is interested in the hateful element, which is based on a prejudice concerning certain social groups. Reporting is based on an established methodology. The document uses the definitions of the terms mentioned below and has a clearly defined process for drafting and approval.

The Report is written by the Ministry of the Interior. Representatives of the intelligence services, the Police, Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence, the Prosecutor General’s Office, and the General Inspectorate of the Security Forces 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, particularly experts on extremism from the National Centre against Organized Crime of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service, and Regional Directorates of the Police. The chapter on important court decisions and other interesting cases is based on data from the Prosecutor General’s Office.

Statistical data were provided by the Police, the General Inspectorate of the Security Forces, the Ministry of Defence, the Prosecutor General’s Office, the Ministry of Justice, and the Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic.

2. Definition of terms

According to the Ministry of the Interior, the term **extremism** refers to distinct ideological positions that deviate from constitutional and legal norms, are characterized by elements of intolerance, and attack the basic democratic constitutional principles as defined in the Czech constitutional order. These principles include:

- respect for human and civil rights and freedoms (Article 1 of the Constitution),
- a sovereign, unitary and democratic state governed by the rule of law (Article 1 of the Constitution),
- the immutability of the essential elements of a democratic state governed by the rule of law (Article 9(2) of the Constitution),
- the sovereignty of the people (Article 2 of the Constitution),
- free competition between political parties respecting fundamental democratic principles and rejecting violence as a mean of asserting their interests (Article 5 of the Constitution),
- the protection of minorities in the decision-making of the majority (Article 6 of the Constitution),
- the freedom and equality of people in dignity and rights, the inherence, inalienability, illimitability and irreparability of fundamental rights and freedoms without distinction of sex, race, colour of skin, language, faith, and religion, political or other conviction, national or social origin, membership of a nationality or ethnic minority, property, birth, or other status (Article 1, Article 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms).

Extremist attitudes can develop into activities that have a destructive effect, either directly or in the long term, on the existing democratic political-economic system - they seek to replace the democratic system with a non-democratic one (totalitarian or authoritarian regime, dictatorship, anarchy). This type of activity is dealt with by the Security Information Service based on Act No. 153/1994 Coll., pursuant to Section 5(a).

The Ministry of the Interior documents are therefore based on a uniform concept of extremism as a breeding ground for activities against the constitutional establishment and the values protected by it. Extremism usually uses the following instruments: historical revisionism, social demagogy, activism, the promotion of verbal to physical violence against opponents and against a priori defined social groups, and conspiracy theories. In the global political science literature, a distinction is usually made between left-wing and right-wing extremism, as well as religious, ecological and (in some cases) nationalist (regionalist) extremism. The last three forms of extremism occur only sporadically, or not at all, in the Czech Republic, so the Report focuses mainly on right-wing extremists (inspired by and using primarily national, racial, and ethnic resentment, sympathising with historical fascism or Nazism) and left-wing extremists (motivated primarily by social, class and anti-cultural resentment, sympathising with historical communism or anarchism).

Although in the ideal right-left political sciences models, left-wing and right-wing extremism form the opposites, the reality is more complicated because of the role of the socio-cultural and historical context against which these ideal types manifest themselves. This leads to the fact that these counterpoints can manifest in different areas of unconstitutional action with very different intensities, and to different sensitivities of their social danger.

In law, the concept of extremism is not defined in any way. Particularly in the context of racially motivated crime, we may encounter the term **extremist crime** or **crime with extremist subtext**. Under this term, the Ministry of the Interior understands those forms of criminal activity which there is reason to believe have been motivated or influenced by extremist attitudes. Alternatively, the term “**crime motivated by racial, national or other social hatred**” may also be used. These are actions, which fulfil the elements of a criminal offence or misdemeanour and are motivated by an a priori hatred arising from the victim’s membership to a race, nationality, religion, class, or other social group. Attacks against symbols or representatives of an existing social system, if motivated by an a priori hatred of that system, are also a specific type of crime that can be classified in this category.¹

Not all entities mentioned in the Report engaged in illegal activities in 2021. From a long-term perspective, they nevertheless fulfil the criteria to be described as extremist, as defined by the Ministry of the Interior.

In addition to the concept of extremism, the Report uses the concept of “**prejudicial hatred**“. This responds to the fact that the influence of traditional extremist entities is weakening, and 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 persuasion, 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 anti-democratic or unconstitutional 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 for the overthrow of the system of pluralist democracy and its replacement by a non-democratic system.

¹ The full wording of the definition of extremism is available at <http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/co-je-extremismus.aspx>.

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 manifestations:

- 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.
- Fragmentise society causing antagonisms.
- Downplay 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.

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, these are for example groups in which intolerant attacks against Roma, immigrants, Muslims, or homosexuals continually prevail. Other ideological agendas may be completely absent or only represent a complementary component.

Political categories (e.g., whether it is a neo-Nazi or neo-fascist entity) are not that significant for the Ministry of the Interior. A crucial aspect is the spread of hatred arising from prejudice as 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.

Anarchist and orthodox communist groups are included in the left-wing extremist spectrum.

The chapter dedicated to religiously motivated extremism addresses hate speech ideologically based on extremist interpretations of various religious concepts.

3. Report on Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in the Czech Republic in 2021

3.1. Summary

Extremist and xenophobic groups are a constant and intense threat to the security and quality of life of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic. Their activities can have fatal consequences not only for certain groups of the population, against whom these groups explicitly oppose, but also for the society as a whole. In addition to the previously often mentioned risks, e.g. the actions of the so-called lone wolves, there are also fatal threats associated with the intentional creation of polarisation in society and the disruption of the Czech Republic's pro-Western ties. Weakening of the Czechia's resilience by these groups plays into the hands of hostile activities of foreign powers. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a significant warning for Czech society. Combating extremist and xenophobic groups is essential to the viability of a democratic Czech Republic.

The entire spectrum of extremist and xenophobic actors continued to reflect the covid-19 epidemic and related preventive measures.

"Patriotic"-oriented entities generally criticized the adopted anti-covid measures, often engaging in protests against restrictions or in the activities of the so-called anti-vax movement. Covid-19 and related issues side-lined their traditional xenophobic outbursts against minorities, migrants or other groups.

The neo-Nazi movement was made up of relatively isolated groups or activists who were not very publicly visible.

Left-wing extremists, anarchists and orthodox communists failed to make much of an impact on public life. They kept within their closed communities.

The media spreading hateful prejudice continued to operate in symbiosis with xenophobic politicians and activists. The agenda of the two groups overlapped. The disinformation media were consistently and intensively introducing narratives generated by pro-Kremlin propaganda to the Czech public.

Militia groups were going through a period of stagnation. Only several of their individual members made public appearances. The whole community was affected by the charges brought against the members of the group Czechoslovak Reserve Soldiers for Peace (Českoslovenští vojáci v záloze za mír).

The security forces did not register a direct threat of a religiously motivated attack. Czech courts handed down sentences against two individuals who offered their services to terrorist organisations.

Convictions were also handed down against persons involved in the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The level of aggressiveness of some opponents of anti-epidemic measures has increased. The aggressors became more and more invasive. At the same time, the number of people blamed for the measures taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19 was expanding.

In 2021, 108 hate crimes were detected by the Czech Police. In addition, the police recorded a total of 99 prosecutions for hate crimes. 72 persons were charged for crimes committed for racial, national, and other hate motives and a total of 67 persons were convicted.

3.2. Right-wing extremists

Right-wing extremist groups have moved their presence to social networks. In their public messaging, they tried to target mainly the younger generation. They continued to maintain contacts with their foreign counterparts. However, these contacts were scarce and took place primarily on an individual level. Representatives of right-wing extremist entities are aware of the risks of criminal prosecution and are more cautious in their public communications. For example, they try to avoid making overt references to the Nazi Third Reich. Neo-Nazi activists have communicated with each other in virtual space, creating their own online communities.

A group of neo-Nazi militants or hooligans, whose members train in combat sports, can be assessed as posing a significant risk.

In October, the District Court for Prague 1 ruled again in a case related to the neo-Nazi movement National Resistance (Národní odpor). Seven individuals received suspended sentences.

The law enforcement authorities also dealt with the products of three publishers or publishing houses. In the case of the publication of the book *The Myth of Six Million* (Mýtus 6 milionů), the District Court in Žďár nad Sázavou fined the publishing house Bodyart Press and its managing director. The case of the publishing house Our Troops (Naše Vojsko) related to the sale of items associated with Nazism was returned to the District Court for Prague 5 for a second time for further investigation. Finally, detectives charged four persons and two legal entities with the crime of denying, questioning, approving or justifying genocide in connection with the production of the Guidemedia publishing house².

Political entities the Workers' Party of Social Justice (Dělnická strana sociální spravedlnosti) and the National Democracy (Národní demokracie) have both focused on criticism of anti-epidemic measures. They have also disputed the conclusions of the Czech security forces in the Vrbětice case and have sided with the pro-Kremlin propaganda.

Before the elections, the Workers' Party of Social Justice supported the political entity Free Bloc (Volný blok)³, then its representatives became part of the anti-vax protests organized by the group Dead Dog (Chcípl Pes)⁴.

² The prosecutor of the Brno City Prosecutor's Office revoked the police resolution in September and ordered the case to be heard and decided.

³ The party changed its official name three times during the year.

⁴ The movement also changed its official name several times during the year.

The High Court in Prague has dismissed an appeal by the National Democracy Party in a personality protection lawsuit over being named in the Interior Ministry reports on extremism and prejudicial hatred.

Both above-mentioned parties and their youth organisations are marginal entities. On their own, they are unable to gain attention, so they try to join other, more progressive groups.

3.3. Manifestations of prejudicial hatred

In 2021, xenophobic populist entities and activists partially refrained from attacks against Muslims, migrants, Roma or the LGBTQ+ community. Their main agenda has become speaking out against the alleged imposition of so called "covid totalitarianism". This community has very often consumed various disinformation and unfounded news and disseminated them further on social media.

Criticism against anti-epidemic measures and vaccination was widely shared by 'pro-nationalist actors' but did not lead to a unification of the scene. This is demonstrated, among other things, by the wide range of entities with similar agendas running in the October parliamentary elections.

Compared to previous years, the Freedom and Direct Democracy Movement (Hnutí Svoboda a přímá demokracie) opted for a more moderate campaign. It won 9.56% (513,910 votes), i.e. 20 seats.⁵

In contrast, the Free Bloc (Volný blok) party tried to promote itself through controversial activities, especially those connected with MP Lubomír Volný, which resulted in 1.33% (71,587 votes) in the parliamentary elections.

Hate speech continued to be part of the online environment. It is often incited by various news articles or statements by xenophobic politicians.

The range of prejudicial hatred acts was wide and, as in previous years, kept law enforcement authorities busy.

3.4. Paramilitary and domestic militia

The Czech militias do not form one compact unit but are a conglomerate of several diverse and only loosely linked groups. Many of them carry out real activities only sporadically and in a highly uncoordinated manner. The riskiest activities of the militias have been their efforts to illegally manufacture firearms and explosives. The most active individuals were those involved in the National Militia (Národní domobrana), who organised various militant meetings (with the participation of usually only a few individuals) on a relatively regular basis.

The financial possibilities of the militia were very limited. The main source of income was self-financing. With the onset of the covid-19 pandemic, strong opposition to the state's

⁵ For example, the movement's representatives have claimed that the European Union is trying to destroy European nations through immigration and Islamization. In August, in a political resolution, they summed up their position by saying: "NO to maladjusted, NO to migrants and NO to Islam in the Czech Republic!"

measures to tackle the disease and to vaccination spread among the militiamen. In their online activities they shared content from disinformation websites or disseminated Kremlin propaganda. Czech militiamen maintain sporadic contacts with foreign partners. Despite declarations of deepening mutual cooperation, collaboration was predominantly based only on personal contacts of a few individuals.

A significant event in 2021 associated with domestic militia was undoubtedly the indictment of five individuals from the group Czechoslovak Soldiers in Reserve for Peace (Českoslovenští vojáci v záloze za mír, z.s.) for several terrorist offences in connection with the conflict in eastern Ukraine. This case, led by detectives from the National Centre against Organised Crime, initially sparked outraged condemnations from some right-wing extremists or disinformation producers. However, support for the prosecuted waned in the second half of the year.

In the context of accusations against Russia in the Vrbětice ammunition warehouse bombings case, representatives of the National Militia (Národní domobrana) addressed the Consul General of the Russian Federation in Ostrava and condemned the alleged anti-Russian "actions of the fomenters" and "the descendants of fascists, Trotskyists and minions of the Western liberal democratic globalist structures". Before the parliamentary elections, the National Militia endorsed the Free Bloc (Volný Blok).

3.5. Anarchist scene

The Czech anarchist community did not expand significantly in terms of number of adherents. It was the same persons as in previous years that have tried unsuccessfully to arouse public interest by drawing attention to a wide and disparate range of domestic and foreign issues. Meetings, benefit concerts, and various commemorative events have dwindled. Direct international contacts were noticeably weakened, primarily because of the pandemic situation. Czech participation in protests abroad was not recorded in 2021. The participation of foreign left-wing extremists at events in the Czech Republic was registered only minimally.

Anarchists did not join the protests against the anti-epidemic measures and later also opposed the anti-vax movement.

In connection with the death of a Romani man Stanislav Tomáš in Teplice, anarchist activists strongly criticised the police. In July, the only direct violent action in Teplice in response to the above-mentioned tragic event was the deliberate burning of garbage cans. Subsequently, a video was published in which the perpetrator of this act denounced the police and the rich.

Texts promoting violent direct action, including arson and theft, continued to appear online.

Followers of the 'insurgent' way of fighting however constitute a minority within the anarchist community. Most supporters of anarchism do not identify with "insurgent" activities.

3.6. Orthodox communists

Orthodox communists represent an aging closed community that recycles the dogmatic claims generated by the pre-1989 Communist regime. They are utterly failing to win new supporters.

Young people, with the exception of a few individuals, show no interest in communist youth organisations.

The community of orthodox communists is thus mainly concerned with commemorating various historical anniversaries or commenting on ideologically interesting foreign events.

The current situation in the Czech Republic is a source of strong dissatisfaction. Orthodox communists, however, do not see much hope for a change through the activities of the Czech society. They are therefore very uncritical of the current regime in the Russian Federation. They regularly follow Kremlin propaganda and further share it publicly (especially online) as they believe it to be a more credible source of information than the Czech mainstream media or the Czech authorities. In 2021, this was especially evident in their reflections on the Vrbětice case.

After the failure of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (Komunistická strana Čech a Moravy) in the regional elections in 2020, there was also a drop of votes in the 2021 parliamentary elections. The party won 3.6 % (193,817 votes) and for the first time since 1990 did not win any parliamentary seats. Orthodox communists sought the cause of the failure mainly in the party leaders who, in the words of the Presidium of the Central Council of the Communist Youth Union (Komunistický svaz mládeže), had shown "a profound incapacity for political action and class analysis of the situation" and had failed to fulfil their "historic role".

Law enforcement authorities continued to deal with cases related to the communist regime before 1989, whether in connection with the use of firearms on the Czechoslovak border or in connection with former State Security officers who participated in the *Operation Asanace*⁶.

3.7. Media spreading prejudicial hatred⁷

The so-called disinformation media focused on spreading unfounded information about the covid-19 disease or about anti-pandemic measures. They became a valued source for xenophobic politicians or activists. Various conspiracy theories about the non-existence of the disease or its exaggerated risk were frequently circulated. According to these theories, the aim of anti-epidemic measures was to control society or restrict individual rights.

Pro-Kremlin propaganda was regularly disseminated by these media, especially in the case of conflicts between the West and Russia. The Vrbětice case was covered with great intensity through this optics.

The fading interest in the Vrbětice case and the relaxation of anti-epidemic measures led to a renewed focus on anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim themes.

Some disinformation media have consistently produced anti-Semitic conspiracy theories. To a lesser extent, and rather sporadically, they have also featured anti-Roma and anti-LGBTQ+ content.

⁶ In this operation, State Security officers in the 1970s and 1980s tried to force several opponents of the regime to leave Czechoslovakia through persistent harassment.

⁷ The report focuses on media that have been producing hateful content on a long-term basis, and this type of content makes up a significant part of their production.

The District Court in Ostrava punished Radek Velička with a criminal order in connection with hate articles in the Patriotic Newspaper (Vlastenecké noviny). Velička objected to the decision.

3.8. Religiously motivated extremism

No direct threat of a religiously motivated attack was registered by the security forces in 2021.

The staff of the Czech Embassy in Kabul was exposed to a permanent security risk.

The Municipal Court in Prague convicted for the second time former Prague Imam Samer Shehadeh. His original ten-year sentence for participation in a terrorist group and financing terrorism was extended by four and a half years. In this second case, Shehadeh persuaded another man to join the fighting in Syria. He provided him with money and necessary contacts and information. In 2015, Shehadeh met with representatives of the terrorist organisation Jabhat an-Nusra li-Ahli ash-Sham (Support Front for the People of the Levant), to whom he handed over money collected in Muslim communities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. He was advised by these individuals to get involved in recruiting new fighters and raising funds because of his visual impairment.

A 15-year sentence was imposed by the Municipal Court in Prague on Watheg Mohammed Jousif Al Sammaraie, an Iraqi who took part in fighting on the side of the Islamic State and subsequently became involved in its propaganda activities. The High Court upheld his sentence. Al Sammaraie is being prosecuted as a fugitive.

Jan Silovský, who unsuccessfully tried to join the Islamic State, was released on parole from prison.

The Constitutional Court did not uphold a complaint by Dominik Kobulnický, sentenced to five years for the crime of founding, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms.

3.9 Other relevant events associated with extremism and terrorism

In 2021, the level of aggressiveness of some opponents of anti-epidemic measures and vaccination has intensified. It was no longer directed only against politicians or government officials, but also against doctors and other health professionals.

The opponents were increasingly invasive, and in addition to online threats and insults, there were also cases of people being followed to their homes or work. Manifestations of physical aggression were also registered. Since the beginning of the epidemic, police officers have had to deal with dozens of cases related to opposition to anti-pandemic measures. These were isolated acts as well as long-lasting attacks directed against persons who were considered responsible for given forms of anti-epidemic measures.

During the year, the range of sentences against persons who took part in the conflict in eastern Ukraine on the side of the separatists has expanded. The Municipal Court in Prague and

subsequently the High Court in Prague imposed 20-year sentences on Jiří Urbánek and Martin Kantor. The High Court in Prague reduced Lukáš Nováček's sentence from 21 to six years' imprisonment. On the other hand, it increased Alexej Fadějev's sentence from four and a half to 21 years in prison. The High Public Prosecutor's Office in Prague brought charges against other persons in connection with their involvement in the conflict in Donbas⁸.

The courts have also imposed suspended sentences in connection with the approval of the terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the attack against Czech soldiers in Afghanistan.

During the 2021, the first level of terrorist threat was in effect.

⁸ In February 2022, the Municipal Court in Prague imposed a 20-year sentence on Pavel Botko.

4. Significant court decisions and other interesting cases

Data from the Criminal Proceedings Department of the Prosecutor's General Office show that in 2021, similarly to 2020, manifestations of sympathy for Nazi or neo-Nazi movements predominated among extremist and hate crimes. These were mainly cases of performing the Nazi salute to the simultaneous verbal statements "Sieg heil" or "gas the Gypsies", but there were also cases of public presentation of other Nazism related symbols (swastika, SS symbols, etc.). Derogatory statements against minorities other than Roma were also recorded, in particular against Jews and in a few cases against Muslims, Blacks, homosexuals and transgender people. A number of online acts of hate speech were committed, with a growing phenomenon being threats sent by e-mail and online hate speech against government officials and the media, motivated by opposition to the measures taken to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. In 2021, the situation did not change with regard to physical assaults or threats between the Roma and the majority population, it occurred with approximately the same frequency on the part of the minority and vice versa. According to information from the prosecutor's office, there were no racially motivated attacks causing death in 2021 either.

On the legislative level a new offence was introduced into the Criminal Code by Act No. 220/2021 Coll., effective from 1 January 2022, which, in section 403a of the Criminal Code, provides for the offence of disseminating a work to promote a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. This legislative measure was a response to the ambiguous interpretation of Section 403 of the Criminal Code in the application practice when sanctioning the sale of items depicting war criminals (especially Nazis).

Selected cases registered by the Criminal Procedure Department of the Prosecutor's General Office in 2021

Among the cases of hate crimes that have been finalized, we can mention the publicly well-known case of hate speech related to a photograph of 1st grade elementary school pupils with a majority of children of Romani and Arab origin posted on Facebook. V. K., among others, posted a comment which read "It's a good thing they are from Plynářská ("*Gassworks*") Primary School. The solution is directly offered. Don't say you didn't think of it!!!". The above-mentioned conduct was qualified as an offence of incitement to hatred against a group of persons or to restriction of their rights and freedoms under Section 356(1), (3)(a) of the Criminal Code. This was confirmed by the Supreme Court in its resolution No. 3 Tdo 564/2021.

M. K., also going by the name "W. K." (assistant to the politician J.F.) was convicted for the same offence for publishing a total of three articles on the internet under the titles "Is the future of Europe Islamic?", "The solution to migration" and "Fighting migrant smugglers is stupid", in which he incited hatred against migrants in general and against persons professing Islam, the Blacks and the Arab ethnic group in particular. The criminality and seriousness of the conduct in question was also confirmed by the Supreme Court's decision, file no. 4 Tdo 130/2021.

On the other hand, the hateful statement of Ing. M.L., published on his Facebook profile, in which he insulted and encouraged the killing of the President of the Czech Republic and the MPs who voted for the approval of the law on the taxation of church restitution, was judged to

fall short of the socially harmful nature of a crime. However, the Supreme Court, in its resolution No. 8 Tdo 1171/2020 confirming that this act is not a criminal offence, noted that criminal liability can be inferred even for opinions expressed online if the necessary conditions are met. Such conduct must therefore be subject to the same parameters as statements made in non-virtual space.

In one criminal case of an extremist nature, which had been postponed in the preparatory proceedings pursuant to Section 159a(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Prosecutor's General Office initiated supervision, as a result of which a criminal prosecution was initiated against the publishing house B. P. s.r.o. and its managing director for the offence of denying, questioning, approving and justifying genocide under Section 405 of the Criminal Code. This was to be committed by arranging for the translation and subsequent sale of the book "The Myth of the Six" by David L. Hoggan, which belongs to the discourse of Holocaust denial. The above mentioned were convicted of the crime without a final judgment at the beginning of 2022.

5. Statistics of criminal activity motivated by hatred⁹

5.1. National police statistics

For the following statistical evaluation, acts with hateful subtext include cases of selected tactical-statistical classifications tagged as extremist.

There were 153.233 criminal offences committed in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2021. Offences with hateful subtext accounted for 0.07 % of the total. In 2021, the Police detected 108 criminal offences with hateful subtext. In a year-on-year comparison, the number of detected hate crime acts decreased by 26.

Of the above-mentioned criminal offences, 56.5 % were solved, i.e., 61 (45.5 % in 2020, i.e., 61 criminal offences).

In 2021, 99 individuals were prosecuted for offences with hateful subtext.

Total amount of criminal offences with hateful subtext recorded in the territory of the Czech Republic between 2016 and 2021

Year	Recorded Criminal Offences	Share in Total Crime Figures (%)	Solved Criminal Offences	Prosecuted and Investigated Persons
2016	143	0,07	99	X
2017	153	0,08	102	132
2018	179	0,09	107	136
2019	170	0,09	96	122
2020	134	0,08	61	92
2021	108	0,07	61	99

Source: Police Czech Republic, 2021

⁹ The data does not reflect latent crime, it does not take into account acts that for various reasons have not been detected, reported and thus recorded.

5.2. Police statistics by acts

Criminal offences

Tactical-statistical classification	1. 1. – 31. 12. 2021	
	Registered	Solved
Intended Bodily Harm (Sections 145 - 146a)	2	2
Violence and Threats Against Group of People and Individuals (Section 352)	35	21
Dangerous Threatening (Section 353)	16	9
Damage to a Thing of Another (Section 228)	0	0
Disorderly Conduct at sports and public events (Section 358)	0	0
Spraying (Section 228/2)	9	0
Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or Other Group of People (Section 355)	20	13
Instigation of Ethnic and Racial Hatred (Section 356)	26	16
Support and Promotion of a Movement (Sections 403, 404, 405)	0	0
TOTAL	108	61

Persons prosecuted

Tactical-statistical classification	1. 1. – 31. 12. 2021
	Prosecuted persons
Intended Bodily Harm (Sections 145 - 146a)	2
Violence and Threats Against Group of People and Individuals (Section 352)	21
Dangerous Threatening (Section 353)	9
Damage to a Thing of Another (Section 228)	0
Disorderly Conduct at sports and public events (Section 358)	0
Spraying (Section 228/2)	0
Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or Other Group of People (Section 355)	12
Instigation of Ethnic and Racial Hatred (Section 356)	16
Support and Promotion of a Movement (Sections 403, 404, 405)	0
TOTAL	99

In 2021, the most common registered offence was violence and threats against a group of people and individuals, with 35 committed offences.

For persons prosecuted, the most common offence was violence and threats against a group of people and individuals (21 individuals).

5.3. Police regional statistics

Criminal offences

Region	1. 1. – 31. 12. 2021	
	Registered	Solved
Prague	53	21
Central Bohemian	3	2
Southern Bohemian	3	2
Pilsen	2	2
Ústí nad Labem	12	8
Hradec Králové	4	3
Southern Moravian	8	4
Moravian-Silesian	10	9
Olomouc	1	1
Zlín	1	1
Vysočina	2	2
Pardubice	3	3
Liberec	5	2
Carlsbad	1	1
TOTAL	108	61

Persons prosecuted

Region	1. 1. – 31. 12. 2021
	Persons prosecuted
Prague	35
Central Bohemian	2
Southern Bohemian	2
Pilsen	5
Ústí nad Labem	17
Hradec Králové	3
Southern Moravian	8
Moravian-Silesian	13
Olomouc	6
Zlín	1
Vysočina	2
Pardubice	3
Liberec	2
Carlsbad	1
TOTAL	99

In 2021, the highest number of hate-motivated acts was registered in Prague (53), followed by the Ústí nad Labem Region (12). The highest number of prosecutions for hate-motivated offences in 2021 was registered in Prague (35) and in the Ústí nad Labem Region (17).

5.4. Crimes motivated by hatred against selected groups

Number of offences by victims (persons assaulted)

Targeted group	1. 1. - 30. 6. 2021	
	Registered	Solved
Jews	37	16
Roma	33	20
Muslims	7	2
Arabs	1	1
LGBTQ+	11	3
NGOs and human rights activists	3	3

In 2021, 37 anti-Semitic crimes were registered. Compared to 2020, there was an increase of ten acts. Offences with an anti-Semitic subtext in 2021 accounted for 34.3% of the total number of offences with an extremist subtext. In 2020, they accounted for 20.1%.

A total of 33 crimes motivated by hatred against Roma were registered. This is an increase of 14 acts compared to the previous year. These crimes accounted for 30.6% of the total number of crimes with extremist subtext in 2021.

In 2021, the Police recorded 7 crimes motivated by hatred towards Muslims. In 2020, 9 such crimes were registered. In 2021, the Police of the Czech Republic also registered one crime motivated by hatred towards Arabs. Compared to 2020, this is a decrease of three acts.

Furthermore, 11 acts motivated by hatred towards the LGBTQ+ community and 3 acts motivated by hatred against representatives of non-governmental non-profit organisations and human rights activists were registered.

5.5. Criminal offences committed by members of Security Forces

The General Inspectorate of Security Forces considers tackling extremism a priority. However, in 2021, the security forces did not need to investigate any hate crimes or crimes with extremist subtext committed by members of Security Forces.

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

In 2021, the Military Intelligence Service did not record any extremist or xenophobic activities by members of the Ministry of Defence. Therefore, manifestations of extremism or prejudiced hatred did not affect the defence capabilities of the Czech Republic in any way.

The Military Police did not investigate or examine any knowledge, criminal complaint or complaint concerning suspicion of a criminal offence by a member of the Armed Forces against another because of his or her race, ethnic group, nationality, political beliefs or religion (i. e., acts with extremist subtext), which would require initiation of criminal proceedings.

In 2021, no soldier was dismissed from service on the grounds of supporting, promoting or sympathising with a movement which demonstrably aims at suppressing human rights and freedoms or advocates national, religious or racial hatred or resentment against another group of persons (Article 19(1)(m) of Act No. 221/1999 Coll., on professional soldiers, as amended).

5.7. Court Statistics

In 2021, the courts of the Czech Republic convicted a total of 49,647 persons (48,556 in 2020, 55,594 in 2019, 54,488 in 2018, 55,069 in 2017, 61,399 in 2016, 65,569 in 2015, 72,854 in 2014, 77,976 in 2013, in 2012 71,471, in 2011 70,160), which represents an increase of 1,091 persons, i.e. 2.25%, compared to 2020. Of this number, a total of 67 persons were convicted in 2021 for racially motivated crimes. This number represents only 0.135% of the total number of convictions in that year.

Offenders were convicted of the following crimes in 2021¹⁰:

Criminal Offence	Provision of the Criminal Code (CC)	Persons Convicted
		2021, (CC 40/2009)
Grievous Bodily Harm	Section 145	5
Bodily Harm	Section 146	4
Extortion	Section 175	1
Breaking and entering	Section 178	8
Damage to a Thing of Another	Section 228	3
Violence against Group of Persons and an Individual	Section 352	15
Dangerous Threatening	Section 353	3
Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of Persons	Section 355	17
Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of Persons of Suppression of their Rights and Freedoms	Section 356	5
Disorderly Conduct	Section 358	33
Approval of Criminal Offence	Section 365	2
Establishment, Support and Promotion of Movements Aimed at Suppression of Human Rights and Freedoms	Section 403	10
Expressing Sympathies for Movements Seeking to Suppress Human Rights and Freedoms	Section 404	16
Denial, Impugnation, Approval and Justification of Genocide	Section 405	2

¹⁰ The sum exceeds 74 because one person can be (and often is) convicted of multiple crimes.

Compared to 2021, there was a decrease in the number of persons finally convicted of racially motivated offences (by 7 persons, i.e. by about 9.5%), whereas in the previous year, in 2020, a total of 74 persons were convicted of such offences (in 2019 - 49 persons, in 2018 - 54 persons, in 2017 - 47 persons, in 2016 - 77 persons, in 2015 - 54 persons, in 2014 - 52 persons, in 2013 - 71 persons, in 2012 - 83 persons, in 2011 - 111 persons). It is clear from the above data that the share of these offences in the total number of convictions in the Czech Republic remains very low. In absolute numbers, it has oscillated in recent years between approximately 50 and 100 offenders.

In 2021, the perpetrators of these offences were most often convicted for disorderly conduct under section 358 of the Criminal Code (33 persons). This was followed by convictions for the offence under Section 355 of the Criminal Code of defamation of a nation, ethnic group, race and beliefs - a total of 17 persons, and for manifestation of sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Section 404 of the Criminal Code (16 persons).

For these racially motivated offences, 7 persons were sentenced to unconditional imprisonment. Of the persons convicted of racially motivated offences, two persons were classified by the courts as repeat offenders. In 2021, the courts finally imposed suspended prison sentences on 39 persons. A sentence of community service was imposed in 7 cases. Six juvenile offenders and six women were sentenced.

5.8. Statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office

Overview of criminal offences motivated by racial, ethnic, and other hatred between 2008 and 2021

Criminal Offences Motivated by Racial, Ethnic, and Other Hatred	Persons Prosecuted (*)	Persons Accused (*)
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	95 (+33)	92 (+30)
2017	98 (+31)	90 (+29)
2018	144 (+33)	128 (+31)
2019	98 (+16)	89 (+15)

2020	95 (+29)	81 (+14)
2021	86 (+25)	58 (+14)

* Figures in brackets indicate shortened preliminary criminal proceedings

In 2021, there was again a slight decrease in the number of persons prosecuted for crimes committed for racial, national and other hate motives (111 persons prosecuted in total; a decrease in 13 compared to 2020). The absolute figures of persons prosecuted thus confirmed the trend started in 2016, when a decrease in the number of persons prosecuted and charged for these crimes was recorded (except in 2018). Similarly to the previous year, a decrease in the number of persons charged for this crime was recorded in 2021 (total 72 persons; decrease of 23 persons). The year 2021 saw the highest difference between the number of persons prosecuted and the number of persons charged over the period under review. On the other hand, the number of cases handled in summary proceedings has not seen significant changes in recent years. In 2021, 25 persons were subject to summary pre-trial proceedings (decrease in 4 compared to 2020) and 14 persons were subject to a proposal for punishment (the same as in 2020).

In 2021, a total of 32,916 persons were prosecuted in the Czech Republic (31,386 persons in summary proceedings). A total of 28,912 persons were charged in 2021 (motion for punishment has been filed for 29,805 persons). The proportion of persons prosecuted (including summary proceedings) for racial, national and other hate crimes to the total number of persons prosecuted (including summary proceedings) was 0.17%. In the case of persons charged (including motions for punishment), it was 0.12%. The proportion of hate crimes in the total volume of crime therefore remains low.

Persons prosecuted and accused of having committed offences motivated by racial, ethnic, and other hatred between 2008 and 2021

	Sec. 196/2 old CC		Sec 196/3 old CC		Sec 198 old CC		Sec 198a old CC		Sec 219/2g old CC		Sec 221/2b old CC	
	Sec 352/2 CC		Sec 352/3 CC		Sec 355 CC		Sec 356 CC		Sec 140/3g 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	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
2020	17	16	6	4	22	18	20	14	0	0	3	3
2021	20	18	7	3	24	20	18	7	0	0	0	0

	Sec 222/2b old CC		Sec 235/2f old CC		Sec 257/2b old CC		Sec 260 old CC		Sec 261 old CC		Sec 261a old CC	
	Sec 145/2f CC		Sec 175/2f CC		Sec 228/3b CC		Sec 403 CC		Sec 404 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	6
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
2020	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	38	35	3	3
2021	1	1	2	2	0	0	6	1	30	28	4	3

The crime of expressing sympathies for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Section 404 of the Criminal Code was one of the most frequently occurring crimes in this category in 2021. Nevertheless, compared to 2020, there was a decrease of persons prosecuted (-9) and persons charged (-7). The next most frequently occurring offence in 2021 was the offence of defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons under Section 355 of the Criminal Code (+2 prosecuted, -2 accused), the offence of violence against a group of people and against an individual under Section 352(2) of the Criminal Code (+3 prosecuted, +2 accused) and the offence of incitement to hatred against a group of people or to restriction of their rights and freedoms under Section 356 of the Criminal Code (-2 prosecuted, -7 accused).

Similar figures to the previous year were recorded for the offence of violence against a group of people and against an individual under Section 352(3) of the Criminal Code (+1 prosecuted, -1 accused).

A small increase was recorded for the offence of establishing, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Section 403 of the Criminal Code (+2 prosecuted, +2 accused), the offence of grievous bodily harm pursuant to Section 145(2)(f) of the Criminal Code (+1 prosecuted, +1 accused) and the offence of damage to foreign property pursuant to Section 228(3)(b) of the Criminal Code (+1 prosecuted, +1 accused).

On the other hand, there was a slight decrease in the offences of denying, questioning, approving and justifying genocide under Section 405 of the Criminal Code (-3 prosecuted, -3 charged) and the offence of bodily harm under Section 146(2)(e) of the Criminal Code.

In 2021, no one was prosecuted for the crime of extortion under section 175(2)(g) of the Criminal Code. The same was true for the offence of murder under section 140(3)(g) of the Criminal Code.

5.9. Statistics of the Probation and Mediation Service

The number of cases related to extremist-motivated crimes registered by the Probation and Mediation Service has been traditionally very low. In 2021, there were 41 new cases across the country. Since 2002, the proportion of such crimes has ranged from 0.2% to 0.7% of newly registered cases per year. In 2021, this proportion reached 0.2% of all new cases (20,517 cases). The proportion of cases with extremist overtones has thus decreased by 0.1 percentage points compared to the previous year.

Offences with an extremist subtext in the Czech Republic and in individual judicial regions between 2017 and 2021

Number of offences /Regional courts	2017			2018			2019			2020			2021		
	Extremist subtext	%	Total												
Prague	6	0,2	2514	8	0,3	2564	12	0,5	2463	11	0,5	2338	4	0,2	2139
Central Bohemian	4	0,1	3112	8	0,3	3008	8	0,2	3298	7	0,2	2903	5	0,2	2673
Southern Bohemian	4	0,2	1780	1	0,1	1666	2	0,1	1796	4	0,3	1473	0	0,0	1481
Western Bohemian	4	0,2	2494	10	0,4	2500	8	0,3	2712	12	0,5	2403	3	0,1	2372
Northern Bohemian	9	0,2	4850	12	0,3	4535	13	0,3	4738	8	0,2	4055	11	0,3	3658
Eastern Bohemian	7	0,3	2562	3	0,1	2410	5	0,2	2616	9	0,4	2199	2	0,1	1969
Southern Moravian	4	0,1	3955	9	0,2	3638	3	0,1	3549	4	0,1	3117	2	0,1	3066
Northern Moravian	7	0,1	5293	9	0,2	4893	7	0,1	5208	15	0,3	4737	17	0,4	4421
Czech Republic	44	0,2	25403	59	0,2	24047	54	0,2	25122	70	0,3	22122	41	0,2	20517

Source: data export, probational register AIS PMS 12/2021

Note: Values are cleared of transferred files between individual regions and the Probation and Mediation Service centres in comparison with the data from previous years. Within the framework of the Probation and Mediation Service, extremist crimes are defined as crimes under Sections 352, 355, 356, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405 of Act No.40/2009 Coll. and other criminal activity with extremist subtext (racially, religiously, politically, or otherwise motivated).

In terms of the structure of the offences (more than one offence may be recorded in one registered case), the group of cases with extremist overtones was made up mainly of perpetrators of the offence of violence against a group of the population and against an individual, Section 352 of the Criminal Code (14.4% of the offences) and the offence of defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons, Section 355 of the Criminal Code (14.4% of the offences).

In 9.3% of cases, the offence of expressing sympathies for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, Section 404 of the Criminal Code, was also represented. The offences of § 356, § 403 and § 405 of the Criminal Code were present in only a few cases. Other crimes with extremist overtones (§ 401-402 of the Criminal Code) did not occur in 2021. Extremist subtext was also recorded in connection or in combination with other offences. It was most often associated with the offence of disorderly conduct, Section 358 of the Criminal Code (25.8% of the Criminal Code).