



MINISTERSTVO VNITRA
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

**REPORT ON EXTREMISM AND
PREJUDICIAL HATRED IN THE TERRITORY
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2020**

**Ministry of the Interior
Security Policy Department
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LIST OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	4
2. Definition of terms	4
3. Report on Manifestations of Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2020	7
3.1. Summary	7
3.2. Right-wing extremists	9
3.3. Manifestations of prejudicial hatred	10
3.4. Paramilitary and domestic militia	12
3.5. Anarchist scene	12
3.6. Orthodox communists	13
3.7. Media spreading prejudicial hatred	14
3.8. Religiously motivated extremism	15
3.9. Other relevant events associated with extremism and terrorism	16
4. Significant court decisions and other interesting cases	18
5. Statistics of criminal activity motivated by hatred	23
5.1. Introduction	23
5.2. National police statistics	25
5.3. Police statistics by acts	26
5.4. Police regional statistics	27
5.5. Crimes motivated by hatred against selected groups	28
5.6. Criminal offences committed by members of Security Forces	28
5.7. Criminal offences committed by members of the Army of the Czech Republic	28
5.8. Court Statistics	29
5.9. Statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office	30
5.10. Statistics of the Probation and Mediation Service	33

1. Introduction

The Report on Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2020 (“the Report“) is submitted under the Government Resolution No. 730 of 13 July 2020. The Evaluation of the Conception on Combating Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in 2020 and the Conception on Combating Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred for 2021 to 2026 and the Action Plan on Combating Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred for 2021 to 2022 are submitted as separate documents.

The Report does not address all racist and xenophobic manifestations registered in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2020. 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.

The Report is written by the Ministry of the Interior. Representatives of the intelligence services, the Police of the Czech Republic, 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 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 chapter on important court decisions and other interesting cases is based on data from the Prosecutor General's Office.

The statistics in the following section were provided by the Police of the Czech Republic, 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, i.e., 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 on the basis of 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 model, 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 2020. 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 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.
- 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.

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

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.

Regarding manifestation of prejudicial hatred by individuals, the Report mainly mentions persons who have been prosecuted in connection with hate crimes.

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. There is a mutual 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.

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 Manifestations of Extremism and Prejudicial Hatred in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2020

3.1. Summary

The extremist scene and groups whose central agenda is the spread of xenophobic ideas have been greatly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Supporters of entities on this spectrum have often criticised government measures and adopted various disinformation and conspiracy theories.

The Covid-19 disease severely limited the public activities of neo-Nazis, who began to re-mobilise during 2019. In 2020, they were most visible, along with hooligans, during clashes with the police at the October protest rally in Prague's Old Town Square. Criminal proceedings related to neo-Nazis and other right-wing extremists continued. The Workers' Party of Social Justice (Dělnická strana sociální spravednosti), Workers' Youth (Dělnická mládež) and National Democracy (Národní demokracie) failed to attract public attention.

The internet, especially social platforms, continued to be the primary domain for the spread of hate speech. The trend of aggressive threats and insults against opponents, including attempts to dehumanise them, continued. The verbal attacks were primarily directed against Muslims, migrants, and Roma, but the range of persons attacked continues to widen.

The Freedom and Direct Democracy movement (hnutí Svoboda a přímá demokracie) remained the most prominent group with dominant xenophobic and virulently nationalist elements. It has not allowed other similar entities to significantly take away its sympathisers. Several "patriotic meetings" took place with the participation of some politicians and activists from different parts of the political spectrum who are united by their extreme nationalism. These events received news coverage from the so-called alternative media.

The militia groups have stagnated. This was due to internal disagreements and fears of prosecution by the state.

The anarchists did not intervene significantly in the public sphere. They only gained attention by militant individuals publishing radical texts online.

In terms of mobilising supporters, the orthodox communists were similarly unsuccessful. Only the criminal proceedings against communist officials in connection with the use of firearms on the Czechoslovak border and the State Security operation called *Asanace* have attracted more attention.

The media spreading hateful prejudice continued to produce xenophobic content, disinformation, and conspiracy theories. They contributed to the polarisation of Czech society and the weakening of democracy.

In terms of religiously motivated extremism, the main challenge is to detect possible radicalised individuals. This is evidenced by the Shehadeh brothers' trials and the indictment of an Iraqi citizen who was supposed to have joined the fighting in his homeland on the side of the Islamic State terrorist organisation.

In addition, during the reporting period, the courts convicted several individuals for their involvement in the conflict in eastern Ukraine on the side of separatists. The courts also dealt with cases of support and promotion of terrorism and threats of terrorist attack.

In 2020, 134 criminal offences with a hate subtext were detected by the Police of the Czech Republic. In 2020, the police recorded a total of 92 prosecuted persons for hate crimes.

A total of 98 persons were charged for crimes committed for racial, national, and other hate motives (plus 17 motions for punishment were filed). A total of 74 persons were sentenced.

In 2020, a total of 188 events organized by or involving extremists were recorded. A total of 151 belonged to the left-extremist spectrum and 37 to the right-extremist spectrum. Compared to 2019, a year-on-year decrease can be observed (a total of 292 events in 2019, 224 left-wing extremists and 68 right-wing extremists).

3.2. Right-wing extremists

The right-wing extremist scene has been severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Activists from this spectrum often adopted various disinformation and conspiracy theories.

Neo-Nazis, who resumed their activities in 2019 after a long hiatus, were forced to cancel their scheduled events due to adopted anti-pandemic measures and were left to communicate in a virtual environment. In relation to the tightening of the large social platforms' policies against hate content, neo-Nazis were forced to start using lesser-known communication services with a higher degree of anonymity. These services are popular and are used to recruit new followers even among foreign neo-Nazis, including militant individuals or groups.

Undercover concerts of White Power music took place in the Czech Republic in January and February. Other planned productions were then cancelled. During the anti-pandemic measures, neo-Nazis attempted to provide fans with musical performances of their favourite bands via online broadcasts.

The main event associated with the neo-Nazi and hooligan scene was the October riot on Prague's Old Town Square. Thanks to the preparedness of the police, the militants' expectations of repeating the several-hour-long clashes with the law enforcement forces from the end of the first decade of this century did not come true. Some 500 hooligans and neo-Nazi activists gathered at the rally site. 130 people were arrested for misdemeanours and 14 people were detained for criminal activity. The riots were subsequently exploited by various disinformation media. Again, unfounded allegations of police provocations were deliberately spread.

The neo-Nazis, especially supporters of the National and Social Front (Národní a sociální fronta), also participated in several events abroad, especially in Hungary and Poland.

The police also dealt with three publishing houses offering for sale books and other items popular in the neo-Nazi environment. These cases have aroused a response in the Czech Republic as well as some other countries and were felt very intensely especially by members of the communities most affected by Nazi crimes. Detectives charged one person and a legal entity with supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms and with disorderly conduct in connection with the production of the publishing house Our Troops (Naše Vojsko).

During the year, police officers, public prosecutors and judges dealt with several cases related to hate crime by neo-Nazis and other right-wing extremists. These cases, which include hate-motivated physical attacks, clearly show that the risk of the neo-Nazi movement cannot be underestimated. Its supporters continue to pose a security threat, especially to ethnic, religious and sexual minorities, homeless people, members of various subcultures as well as others.

National Democracy (Národní demokracie) and the Workers' Party of Social Justice (Dělnická strana sociální spravednosti) have long been marginal entities, whose rallies have faced low turnout. Their rhetoric combines traditional xenophobic verbal attacks with commentary on current events, often copying the views expressed in the alternative media. In the October regional elections, both entities were unsuccessful, and their leaders again failed to take any personal responsibility for this. What separates the two parties is their attitude towards the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement (hnutí Svoboda a přímá demokracie). While the chairman of the "workers", Tomáš Vandas, expressed support for the movement, the representatives of National Democracy (Národní demokracie) were very critical of it.

3.3. Manifestations of prejudicial hatred

Non-extremist groups with a predominantly xenophobic element continuously spread hateful content throughout the year, mainly directed against migrants and Muslims. For example, particularly in the first half of the year they referred to these groups as carriers of the Covid-19 disease. Verbal attacks against Roma and foreign workers also continued.

Hate attacks were also directed against political opponents, civil activists, and journalists. Cases of threats were also registered. Law enforcement authorities responded to several acts of online verbal aggression.

A close symbiosis continued with disinformation websites, from which xenophobic and populist politicians and activists readily adopted various conspiracy theories.

Criticism of the European Union and NATO intensified during the coronavirus pandemic for allegedly failing to control the disease. Different and often absurd conspiracy theories about the origin and spread of the disease were raised frequently.² Russia and China have been praised as models of successful coronavirus control.

Supporters of xenophobic entities often repeat and further promote ideas produced by pro-Kremlin propaganda. Following the posts and messaging on pro-Kremlin websites, they are able to mobilise quickly via social platforms. In practice, this was manifested, for example, by the highly emotional reaction of this scene to the removal of the monument to Marshal Koněv in Prague's Dejvice district and in connection with the plan to erect a monument to Vlasovtsy

² Leaders of the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement also played part in disseminating this disinformation. Its chairman stated, for example, that the pandemic is being used in Western countries to introduce euthanasia for the elderly with the alleged aim of their elimination. The elderly - the defenders of traditional values, were said to be replaced by an aggressive immigrant population.

in Prague's Řeporyje district. In relation to this, three Prague politicians became the target of aggressive threats and insults, of which some had to be dealt with by the Police of the Czech Republic.

Journalists reporting on this scene, especially representatives of Czech Television, also became targets of harsh criticism.³

Other incidents partially motivated by prejudicial hatred were registered during the year, some of them were dealt with by the law enforcement authorities. These present mostly public statements, posts or comments on social platforms, but the courts also dealt with cases of physical aggression. The District Court in Přerov gave suspended sentences to a married couple for assaulting a group of Romani children in Lipník nad Bečvou in April 2019.⁴ Another verdict for a man for racially motivated assault of a Romani man in a bar in Ostrava-Zabřeh in 2019 was five years in prison.⁵

Even in 2020, the actors on this scene have not been able to unite despite having very similar views. Groups formed in the social platforms' environment were disintegrating, their alliances with others were breaking down due to personal animosities. There is still a lack of a unifying charismatic figure who would be accepted by all, often ambitious, leaders of smaller nationalist groups.

The Freedom and Direct Democracy movement remained the most prominent entity, not allowing to anyone to threaten its position as the leader of the "patriotic" spectrum. This was clearly demonstrated in the October regional elections, where the movement overshadowed all other "pro-nationalist" subjects.⁶ In the light of the continued success of the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement and the continued failures of other subjects, many supporters of this spectrum, who previously took a reserved or even critical stance towards Tomio Okamura, are beginning to change their minds.

Several 'patriotic meetings' were held in August and September, attended by various politicians and activists from different parts of the political spectrum. These events confirmed the trend of establishing new contacts purely on the basis of exacerbated nationalism, often between representatives of political entities that are otherwise ideologically opposed to each other. In some cases, these patriotic meetings were attended by representatives of the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement. Alternative media usually provided reports from the meetings.

³ For example, the chair of the Prague organization of the Freedom and Direct Democracy movement has called for the defenestration of the management of this public institution.

⁴ The man received a 14-month suspended sentence with a three-year suspension for the crimes of disorderly conduct, bodily harm and defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons, while the woman received a one-year suspended sentence with a two-year suspension. In addition, they must pay non-pecuniary damages.

⁵ In addition, the convicted person must pay CZK 50,000 to the victim as part of the settlement agreement.

⁶ The Freedom and Direct Democracy movement won 6.13% of the vote and a total of 35 seats.

3.4. Paramilitary and domestic militia

Domestic militia groups that emerged in response to the migration crisis were going through a period of stagnation.

The National Domestic Militia (Národní domobrana) was affected by disputes within its command. Some of its members publicised these disagreements through disinformation websites.

The Provincial Domestic Militia (Zemská domobrana) already ceased its activities at the end of 2019 in response to the new arms legislation or rather the superstructure law.⁷⁷ The Czechoslovak Reserve Soldiers (Českoslovenští vojáci v záloze) also did not organize any significant public activity.

Fearing state sanction and aware of the absence of political support, the domestic militias have effectively resigned from paramilitary activity.⁸ Members of these groups regularly took part in protest rallies against the government's anti-pandemic measures.

3.5. Anarchist scene

Reclusive anarchist community gained practically no public interest. It was also affected by anti-pandemic measures that limited the organisation of traditional public events and happenings.

In 2020, as in previous years, anarchists were increasingly emphasising environmental issues. They often participate in activities of various environmental organisations.

Members of anarchist collectives continued to express sympathy for foreign movements or groups. These were entities operating around the world that they considered to have anarchist characteristics or that anarchists traditionally advocate.⁹ Other themes of these collectives continued to include solidarity actions with prosecuted and imprisoned colleagues¹⁰ and support for squatting.

Militant anarchist individuals presented online texts in which the pandemic was described as an opportunity to weaken or completely dismantle the system. These individuals were inspired by foreign riots, looting, strikes or prison riots.

Czech Anti-Fascist Action ceased launching direct attacks against neo-Nazis and effectively stopped publishing the results of its own monitoring of right-wing extremists.

⁷ This law prohibits and punishes the formation of armed groups, such as domestic militias, militias, or similar armed forces, which aim to pursue their political, religious or other similar objectives by armed means.

⁸ A major disappointment for the paramilitaries was the support for the new gun legislation from politicians they believed were sympathetic to their paramilitary organisations.

⁹ For example, Kurds in the Rojava region, migrants, sexual minorities, the Black Lives Matter movement, etc.

¹⁰ For example those prosecuted in the Phoenix II case or Russian and Belarusian anarchists.

3.6. Orthodox communists

Orthodox communist groups were active mainly online. Their activities, including the Communist Youth Union (Komunistický svaz mládeže) and Left Perspective (Levá perspektiva), continued to stagnate. Only some radical members of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (Komunistická strana Čech a Moravy - KSČM) have managed to gain media and public attention.

Supporters of this spectrum are unable to apply communist ideas to current events in the Czech Republic and therefore resort to commenting on current affairs abroad or to recalling historical events. Their views are often reminiscent of official propaganda in Czechoslovakia in the 1980s. Some statements by orthodox communists provoke great indignation, particularly among those affected by the repressions of the former communist regime.

On current issues, these left-wing extremists sometimes ideologically align with xenophobic activists and disinformation media. They find common ground in particular in the criticism of the European Union, NATO, selected NGOs, etc. They also support the current policies of the Russian Federation.

Especially in the first half of the year, the Orthodox Communists were intensively involved in the cases of the removal of the monument to Marshal Konev and the installation of a memorial plaque in Řeporyje dedicated to the Vlasovtsy. They often repeated the allegations of pro-Kremlin propaganda claiming the spread of "fascist tendencies" in the Czech Republic.

The Orthodox Communists also reflected on the failure of the KSČM in the regional elections.¹¹ They blamed it, among other things, on some of the party's politicians who, in their view, were not radical enough and had renounced fundamental communist ideas.

The District State Prosecutor's Office for Prague 1 has stopped the prosecution of high representatives of the communist regime for alleged abuse of power in connection with the use of firearms on the Czechoslovak border. Former Communist Party of Czechoslovakia General Secretary Miloš Jakeš died in July 2020, while former Prime Minister Lubomír Štrougal and former Interior Minister Vratislav Vajnar were found to be mentally ill.

Charges of abuse of official authority by former State Security officers in connection with Operation Asanace¹² were heard at the District Court for Prague 1. Two former members of that institution were convicted in a non-final judgment at the end of the year.

¹¹ The KSČM won 4.75 % of the vote and a total of 13 seats.

¹² 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.

3.7. Media spreading prejudicial hatred¹³

The so-called disinformation media have long shown an ability to reach almost the entire extremist or xenophobic spectrum.

In some cases, they even produce topics on which a wide range of hate-profiling politicians and activists can agree. Examples include criticism of the European Union and NATO – in the past year, both institutions have been criticised for allegedly failing to respond to the spread of Covid-19. The recipients of media content have also been regularly presented with various disinformation and conspiracy theories concerning the disease itself and vaccination against it. Some "reporters" provided entirely alternative live coverage of protests against government restrictions. By emphasizing criticism of the anti-pandemic measures, the disinformation media tried to reach new potential supporters, especially from those most affected by the pandemic.

Content directed against Muslims, immigrants or Roma is a “safe bet“ for reaching a xenophobic audience. Some websites also consistently produce anti-Semitic texts based on theories of a Jewish conspiracy, or of an alleged hidden Jewish effort to weaken and dominate individual nations. There is also a proliferation of articles questioning the crimes of the Holocaust.

Using the example of the coverage of the coronavirus pandemic, it was possible to see that some of these media outlets can simultaneously produce completely contradictory messages in parallel. On one hand, the disease was downplayed, and anti-pandemic measures were presented as an excuse to restrict personal freedoms, while on the other hand, it was claimed Covid-19 is an insidious, dangerous and deliberately developed biological weapon that was being transmitted by migrants. Confidence in state institutions, the European Union and NATO has been undermined while anti-pandemic activities of Russia and China were highlighted. There were also reports that the pandemic was to be followed by a financial crisis in which Jewish bankers were planning to profit.

In the first half of the year, the media devoted a great deal of content to the cases of the monument to Marshal Konev in Dejvice and the Vlasovtsy monument in Řeporyje district. They adopted the messaging of pro-Kremlin propaganda, artfully stirred up emotions and escalated hate speech.

The disinformation media also regularly attacked, for example, the Czech Television, the Security Information Service and the Czech EU Commissioner Věra Jourová. The race riots in the USA¹⁴ and the US presidential election have received strong and often contradictory coverage.

¹³ The report focuses on media that have been producing hateful content while this type of content makes up a considerable part of their production on a long-term basis.

¹⁴ On one hand, the racist version of black criminality and discrimination against whites was given space, and on the other hand, the messaging portrayed America as a racist country. There were also conspiracy theories that the race riots were being orchestrated from behind the scenes by Jewish masons or George Soros himself.

As regards the coverage of the protest rallies, these media outlets were able to provide their supporters with live online alternative audio-visual coverage, quite different from the coverage of credible mainstream media. After the October riots in Old Town Square, completely unsubstantiated allegations of police provocations were deliberately spread by parts of this "journalistic" community.

The technical skill and ability to navigate the world of internet news is also improving on the part of these media. They also show a high degree of flexibility in circumventing the restrictions and bans against hateful content implemented by major social platforms.

Ostrava detectives accused editor-in-chief of racist Patriotic Newspaper (Vlastenecké noviny) Radek Velička of the criminal offences of defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons, incitement to hatred against a group of persons or to restriction of their rights and freedoms, threatening with intention to influence a public authority and threatening with intention to affect a public official. He was also sentenced to a suspended sentence for disorderly conduct, first by the District Court in Ostrava and then by the Regional Court in Ostrava.¹⁵

3.8. Religiously motivated extremism

Various conspiracy theories and misinformation about the origins of the Covid-19 disease, how to combat it, and how to use it to weaken the West, were part of the propaganda of Islamist terrorist organizations.¹⁶ Foreign extremist clerics also came up with various justifications for the arrival of the pandemic. They generally held that it was a punishment for sins or moral decay. However, these ideas were not publicly reflected in the Czech Muslim community.

According to the security agencies, there were no information indicating that a religiously motivated terrorist attack was to be committed in the Czech Republic in 2020. However, the risk of individual radicalisation still needs to be addressed. Online propaganda and sermons by foreign extremist clerics are important factors in particular. The negative experiences of some Muslims with Islamophobic activists cannot be underestimated. The Czech Muslim community also lacks religious authorities.

The above risks are highlighted by the ongoing court proceedings. The Municipal Court in Prague sentenced former Prague imam Samer Shehadeh to ten years in prison for the crimes of participating in a terrorist group and financing terrorism. In November 2016, Samer helped his brother Omar travel to Syria and join the terrorist organization AnNusra, later known as Jabhat Fatah ash-Sham (Front for the Conquest of Syria). He also sent money to the terrorist organisation through intermediaries. He has been in detention since November 2018. His brother was sentenced in absentia to 11 years in prison for participating in a terrorist group and financing terrorism. Omar's wife Fátima (formerly Kristýna) Hudková was given a six-year

¹⁵ Velička assaulted municipal police officers who were intervening against a drunk and noisy man on the street in Ostrava-Poruba.

¹⁶ There have also been calls to use the weakened capacity of the security forces during the pandemic for terrorist attacks.

prison sentence, also in absentia, for the same offences.¹⁷ Samer Shehadeh rejected the Czech court's decision, saying it was not ruling under Sharia law. The High Court in Prague subsequently confirmed the sentences of both brothers and Hudková.

Another significant case was the conviction of Mohammed Yousef Al Samarrai by the Regional Court in Pardubice to a three-year suspended prison sentence with a three-year probationary period for financing terrorism. In 2017, he sent \$2,000 to his son Watheq, a member of the Islamic State terrorist organisation, in Mosul, Iraq, through an intermediary. The Prague High Public Prosecutor's Office filed charges against Watheq. According to the prosecutor, the Iraqi citizen was supposed to fly from Prague to his home country in 2015 to join the Islamic State. There he was to engage in, among other things, combat and propaganda activities. The case has been assigned to the Municipal Court in Prague.

During the year, the Prague High Court reduced the sentence of Slovak convert to Islam Dominik Koblunický from six and a half years to five years in prison. The court upheld the commission of the crime of founding, supporting, and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, but overturned the conviction for the crime of general endangerment. The Slovak was also expelled from the Czech Republic for ten years. Koblunický filed an appeal with the Supreme Court.¹⁸

Jan Silovský, who was sentenced to imprisonment for the crime of supporting and promoting terrorism, has applied for conditional release. He said he had renounced Muslim faith and wanted to lead a normal life.¹⁹

The Chamber of Deputies, following the example of other parliaments, called for the abolition of the concept of differentiating between the political and military branches of the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah, describing it as a whole as a terrorist organisation. It also called on the Government to promote this shift in view at the European Union level. Senate representatives condemned the terrorist acts committed by extremists in France. The Czech police increased protection of domestic Jewish sites following the terrorist attack in Vienna.

3.9. Other relevant events associated with extremism and terrorism

In 2020, the Czech courts dealt with several people involved in the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

A three-year prison sentence for the crimes of participation in an organised criminal group and unauthorised access to a computer system and information carrier was handed down by the High Court in Prague to Pavel Kafka.²⁰ The Municipal Court in Prague sentenced Alexey

¹⁷ Hudková supported Omar, trained with him with a gun and knowingly participated in passing money to terrorists. She described herself as a mujahid.

¹⁸ According to the High Court in Prague, the Mining Office is to determine whether Koblunický committed the offence by storing chemicals.

¹⁹ In February 2021, Silovský was conditionally released based on a psychological and psychiatric evaluation by the District Court in Louny.

²⁰ The Regional Court in České Budějovice had previously imposed only a three-year suspended sentence.

Fadzeyev to four and a half years' imprisonment for the crime of participation in an organised criminal group. The Belarusian was also expelled from the Czech Republic.²¹ The most severe sentence yet, fifteen years, was imposed by the Regional Court in Ústí nad Labem on Oldřich Grund for the crime of terrorist attack.²² The Supreme Court also ruled in the case of former soldier Erik Eštu. It rejected an appeal by the High Public Prosecutor and confirmed a two-year suspended sentence with a three-year postponement for the crime of serving in foreign armed forces. The Prague High Public Prosecutor's Office also brought charges against Lukáš Nováček from Karlovy Vary for his participation in the fighting in eastern Ukraine.²³

A video of an interview with Jiří Urbánek and Pavel Botka, who fought on the side of the eastern Ukrainian separatists, was published on the internet. Both Czechs stated that they wanted to rejoin the fighting and did not want to return to the Czech Republic for fear of prosecution. They also confided that they had converted to Islam.

The courts have also dealt with several cases of support and promotion of terrorism. These included approving terrorist attacks against Czech soldiers in Afghanistan, the shooting at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the attack committed by A. B. Breivik. Suspended and financial penalties were imposed for these online texts.

The Regional Court in Zlín has sentenced a man from the Uherské Hradiště region to six years in prison and subsequent placement in protective custody for ordering strong poisons from the USA on the so-called darknet. He was originally charged with attempted terrorist attack and illegal arming, but the court found him guilty of attempted general endangerment and attempted possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances and poison. According to a psychiatric expert, the man is dangerous because of his mental illness and disorder. Czech police cooperated with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on the case.

In two cases, the courts dealt with threats of a terrorist attack in which the authors of the threats claimed to be members of the Islamic State terrorist organization. In one case the perpetrator was sentenced to an unconditional sentence, in the other to a suspended sentence. Detectives also dealt with cases of terrorist threats against persons protesting the anti-pandemic measures.²⁴ The number of such qualified offences has increased annually. In 2020, six such offences were recorded.

Threats or undue pressure against state and local government officials in connection with their activities against the spread of Covid-19 have become a new phenomenon. There were a total of 110 cases that were classified as criminal offences.

At the end of January, an incident occurred in Prague when a man armed with knives and a telescopic baton unsuccessfully demanded entry to the Chamber of Deputies. He was

²¹ The verdict is not final. Both Fadzeyev and the prosecutor have appealed.

²² The proceedings were against a fugitive.

²³ He is charged with the crime of terrorist attack.

²⁴ The case of a man from Pardubice who threatened a terrorist attack if bars and restaurants were not opened gained significant media coverage.

detained after a conflict with the Security Service. Prague detectives charged the man with the crime of violence against a public official and threatening with the intention to influence a public authority.

The District Court in Nymburk has decided to parole Antonín Balda, who was sentenced to four years in prison for a terrorist attack on a railway and for threatening to commit a terrorist act.

This year's motorcycle rides of the Path of Victory traditionally organized by the Night Wolves club were limited by anti-pandemic restrictions. Only members of the Czech branch of Night Wolves MC Europe and their supporters participated in the ride in the Czech Republic.

Terrorism threat level 1 was in effect during the year.

4. Significant court decisions and other interesting cases

In 2020, the number of extremist and hate crimes registered by the Prosecutor General's Office decreased slightly. Predominantly, these consisted of online hate comments against migrants and supporters of migration policy, as well as against the Roma ethnic group, published mainly via social platforms. There were also "traditional" expressions of sympathy for the Nazi movement, especially in the form of performing the Nazi salute with simultaneous verbal declarations of "Sieg heil". Physical and verbal hate attacks on members of minorities, especially the Roma ethnic group, also occurred in several cases. However, even in 2020, according to the findings of the prosecutor's office, there were no racially motivated attacks causing death.

Important decisions of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court

In its ruling of 19 October 2020, Case No. III ÚS 1412/20, the Constitutional Court dealt with the issue of so-called premeditated motive in the crime of grievous bodily harm under Section 145(1), (2)(f) of the Criminal Code. This ruling dismissed the victim's constitutional complaint against the judgment of the court of first instance, which did not find a prejudicial motive in the violent behaviour of the accused, with reference to the principle of *in dubio pro reo*. The Constitutional Court examined the constitutional complaint from the point of view of the victim's right to an effective investigation, on the one hand, and the accused's right to a fair trial, on the other hand, concluding that there had been no violation of the right to an effective investigation, since the court of first instance had assessed the presence of a prejudicial motive in the accused's conduct thoroughly and impartially.

The Supreme Court Resolution of 11 March 2020, Case No 6 Tdo 194/2020, addressed the issue of the subjective aspect of the offence of expressing sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Section 404 of the Criminal Code in the case of so-called "hailing" (performing the Nazi salute). The Supreme Court upheld the reasoning of the court of first instance, which concluded that the accused had direct intent, on the grounds

that by performing the Sieg Heil salute he was undoubtedly expressing sympathy for a fascist movement which demonstrably aims at the suppression of human rights and freedoms or advocates national, racial, religious or class hatred or hatred against another group of persons, and that he was well acquainted with the issue of neo-Nazism. Moreover, it may be noted that the operative part of the judgment of conviction described hailing as a gesture currently used in the neo-Nazi movement, which is a continuation of the German National Socialist movement and its ideology.

The Supreme Court in its resolution of 25 November 2020, Case No. 4 Tdo 1192/202 upheld the conviction for the crime of establishing, supporting, and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms pursuant to Section 403(1), (2)(a) of the Criminal Code in the well-known case of Dominik Kobulnický, who presented symbols of the terrorist organisations Caucasus Emirate and Islamic State on his publicly accessible Facebook profile. The Supreme Court dealt in particular with the question of intent to publicly promote a movement that preaches primarily religious hatred, on the basis that the accused, as an adult of at least average intellectual ability, must have been aware of the nature of the activities of the organisations he promoted as propagators of implacable opposition and intolerance towards any person who professes a different or no religion. He must have known that those organisations do not hesitate to resort to brutal violence and terror directed against civilian targets to promote their religious ideas and political goals, and that they also incite individuals, especially from Muslim communities living in non-Arab and secular states, to this form of "armed struggle" through propaganda-oriented posts on publicly accessible computer networks. The fact that the defendant's profile was followed by a relatively narrow circle of persons was not essential for the establishment of his criminal liability.

Selected significant or typical cases in which a prosecution was initiated or a final decision on the merits was issued in 2020:

Among the interesting cases of an extremist or hateful nature addressed in 2020, it can be pointed to the publicized case of Ing. Martin Lang, who published a post on his Facebook profile in which he criticized the President and the MPs who voted for the approval of the law on the taxation of church restitution, to which he wrote, among other things, that "*such monsters must be killed*". He was charged by the public prosecutor with the offence of incitement to commit a criminal offence under Section 364 of the Criminal Code, but the case was referred by the court of first instance to be dealt with as a misdemeanour, a decision which was confirmed by the Supreme Court's decision of 9 December 2020, Case No. 8 Tdo 1171/2020, on the grounds that in terms of the possibility of criminal liability, it is a borderline case, but its assessment as a misdemeanour is sufficient in view of the motive of the accused, who sought to express his opinion on the issue of taxation of church restitutions.

By contrast, the conviction for the offence of denying, questioning, approving, or justifying genocide under Section 405 of the Criminal Code was handed down in the case of the defendants who, in the compound of the cemetery with the Lety memorial, had put up the following text on an information board: "*Memorial dedicated to the historically last working Roma on the territory of the Czech Republic*".

Finally, we can mention the filing of the indictment in the well-publicised case of the accused JUDr. Emerich Drtina and the company Our Troops – book distribution s.r.o. (Naše Vojsko – knižní distribuce s.r.o.) he manages, which on its online e-shop as well as in its brick-and-mortar shop offered books (e.g. Mein Kampf) and souvenirs (mugs, calendars, etc.) with images of Nazi criminals such as Adolf Hitler, Reinhard Heydrich, etc. The case in question was initially adjourned by the police pursuant to Section 159(1)(a) of the Criminal Code on the grounds that it was not a criminal offence, as the accused did not intend to promote or support a movement within the meaning of Section 403 of the Criminal Code, however, following a review of the completed case by the Prosecutor General's Office, a criminal prosecution was initiated and subsequently an indictment was filed against the above-mentioned accused for the crime of establishing, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Section 403(1), (2)(a) of the Criminal Code and the offence of disorderly conduct under Section 358(1) of the Criminal Code, since the accused must have been at least aware that their actions relativised Nazi crimes and ideologically supported sympathisers of the contemporary neo-Nazi and neo-fascist movement.

On 20 April 2020, the public prosecutor of the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Liberec filed an indictment against the accused J. V. for the offence of defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons under Section 355(1)(b) and the offence of disorderly conduct under Section 358(1) of the Criminal Code, which he was alleged to have committed by disturbing the preparation and conduct of religious services almost every Sunday from August 2017 to January 2020 in the vicinity of the Baptist Unity Church (Sbor Bratrské jednoty baptistů) by vulgarly insulting members of the Baptist Unity Church when they arrived at the services, tearing pages out of the Bible, spitting into it, shouting during the services, etc.

By the judgment of the District Court in Chomutov of 13 October 2020, the accused F.G. was found guilty of the offences of violence against a group of inhabitants and against an individual pursuant to Section 352(2) of the Criminal Code and of authorising a criminal offence pursuant to Section 365(1) of the Criminal Code, which he committed by posting a video on his publicly accessible profile on Instagram (which was later uploaded by another person to the YouTube web portal) in which he approved the murder of a person of Roma ethnicity, stating that "*if the gypsies riot*" he would come to Chomutov and murder everyone. He was sentenced to a total fine of CZK 15,000 and a one-month alternative imprisonment.

In the same criminal case, four defendants were convicted by criminal orders of the District Court in Chomutov for the offence of inciting hatred against a group of persons or restricting their rights and freedoms pursuant to Section 356(1), (3)(a) of the Criminal Code and two defendants for the offence of endorsing a criminal offence pursuant to Section 365(1) of the Criminal Code, as they publicly commented on the above-mentioned video recording of the defendant F. G. with various supportive statements. For the conduct in question, they have been sentenced to fines or suspended prison sentences.

By the judgment of the District Court for Prague 4 of 1 July 2020 (which became final on 7 October 2020), the accused M. L. was found guilty of the offence of denying, questioning,

approving, and justifying genocide pursuant to Section 405 of the Criminal Code, which he committed by creating, among other things, a publicly accessible Facebook page called "Kuratorium", on which he shared Nazi-themed images, promotional materials of the Hitlerjugend and invitations to events organised by contemporary far-right extremist groups, and later pages called "Emanuel Moravec, death anniversary", "Reinhard Tristan Eugen Heydrich reverence" and "Rudolf Hess", on which he shared invitations to relevant commemorative events. For these acts, he was sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment suspended for a probationary period of 48 months.

By the judgment of the District Court in Přerov of 21 December 2020, the accused married couple S. P. and P. P., were found guilty of the offence of bodily harm pursuant to Section 146(1), (2)(b) of the Criminal Code, the offence of defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons pursuant to Section 355(1)(b) of the Criminal Code and the offence of disorderly conduct pursuant to Section 358(1) [or (2)(a)] of the Criminal Code for publicly verbally assaulting a group of seven children aged 9 to 15 years because of their Roma origin and simultaneously physically assaulting six of these children with punches to the face or punches and kicks after knocking them to the ground. For the conduct in question, they were sentenced to prison terms of 14 and 12 months, suspended for a probationary period of 3 and 2 years respectively.

By the judgment of the District Court in Přerov of 25 June 2020, the accused married couple M. M. and D. M. were convicted of the offence of dangerous threatening pursuant to Section 353(1) [or (2)(c)] of the Criminal Code, the offence of defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons pursuant to Section 355(1)(a) of the Criminal Code and the offence of disorderly conduct pursuant to Section 358(1)(2)(a) of the Criminal Code, which they committed by verbally and physically attacking the victim (by throwing a chair and a brick) for belonging to the "white race", threatening to kill him and his family. They were sentenced to 16- and 10-months' imprisonment in a secure prison for the conduct in question.

By the judgment of the District Court in Olomouc of 22 October 2020, the juvenile L. H. was found guilty of the offence of expressing sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Section 404 of the Criminal Code, which he committed by creating an e-shop in 2018 for the purpose of selling promotional materials with neo-Nazi symbols (the so-called Black Sun, the emblem of the Celtic Cross, the symbolism of the Ku Klux Klan, etc.) and offering the products in question until January 2020 via Facebook profile called "NORD HAUSSER". For these actions, he was sentenced, inter alia, to a prison sentence of 3 months, suspended for a probationary period of 1 year. The public prosecutor of the Olomouc District Court appealed against the conviction, arguing that his conduct should be assessed as the offence of founding, supporting, and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under section 403(1), (2)(a) of the Criminal Code.

By the judgment of the District Court in Prostějov of 12 October 2020 (which entered into force on 28 January 2021), the accused R. B. was convicted of the offence of expressing sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms pursuant to Section 404 of the Criminal Code, which he committed by visibly placing tin signs with the symbolism

of the Reichswehr and neo-Nazi cryptograms, as well as stickers with Nazi themes complemented by the symbolism of contemporary neo-Nazis on his truck, and using the vehicle for journeys in the Czech Republic until at least January 2020. For the conduct, he was sentenced to 8 months' imprisonment suspended for a probationary period of 18 months and a fine of CZK 15,000.

By a criminal warrant of the District Court in Jeseník of 16 November 2020, the accused brothers M. T. and P. T. were found guilty of the offence of incitement to hatred against a group of persons or to restriction of their rights and freedoms pursuant to Section 356(1)(3)(a) of the Criminal Code, which they committed by commenting on the publicly accessible Facebook group "Observations of a citizen of Javorník" (Postřehy občana Javorníku) on a photograph of Romani children with the statement "*Shoot, dead black good black*", with which the accused P. T. agreed with the words "*at least*", and by successively placing other similarly worded comments under the photograph. They were sentenced to fines totalling CZK 30,000 and CZK 13,000.

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 prezídia, ESSK). Statistical data of the Ministry of Justice, which also form the basis for the statistics of the Prosecutor General'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 currently technically impossible to solve this issue.

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 considered 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 2012 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 2005²⁵. 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 Judaism, including attacks against Jewish Community edifices and their facilities, synagogues, and Jewish cemeteries.

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.

²⁵ Prior to this extension of statistics, there was an increase in crimes with an anti-Semitic motive throughout Europe. Anti-Semitism has become a priority topic for both the European Union and international organizations.

5.2. National police statistics

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

There were 165.525 criminal offences committed in the territory of the Czech Republic in 2020. Offences with extremist subtext accounted for 0.08 % of the total. In 2020, the Police of the Czech Republic detected 134 criminal offences with criminal subtext. In a year-on-year comparison, the number of detected extremist offences decreased by 36.

Of the above-mentioned criminal offences, 45.5% were solved, i.e., 61 (56.5 % in 2019, i.e., 96 criminal offences).

In 2020, there was a total of 92 persons prosecuted for offences with extremist subtext.

Total amount of criminal offences with extremist subtext recorded in the territory of the Czech Republic between 2006 and 2020

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
2020	134	0,08	61	92

Source: Police Czech Republic, 2020

5.3. Police statistics by acts

Criminal offences

Tactical-statistical classification	1. 1. – 31. 12. 2020	
	Registered	Solved
Intended Bodily Harm (Sections 145 - 146a)	3	3
Violence and Threats Against Group of People and Individuals (Section 352)	23	11
Dangerous Threatening (Section 353)	0	0
Damage to a Thing of Another (Section 228)	0	0
Disorderly Conduct at sports and public events (Section 358)	1	1
Spraying (Section 228/2)	5	1
Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or Other Group of People (Section 355)	29	15
Instigation of Ethnic and Racial Hatred (Section 356)	34	15
Support and Promotion of a Movement (Sections 403, 404, 405)	39	15
TOTAL	134	61

Persons prosecuted

Tactical-statistical classification	1. 1. – 31. 12. 2020
	Prosecuted persons
Intended Bodily Harm (Sections 145 - 146a)	3
Violence and Threats Against Group of People and Individuals (Section 352)	11
Dangerous Threatening (Section 353)	0
Damage to a Thing of Another (Section 228)	0
Disorderly Conduct at sports and public events (Section 358)	1
Spraying (Section 228/2)	1
Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or Other Group of People (Section 355)	13
Instigation of Ethnic and Racial Hatred (Section 356)	11
Support and Promotion of a Movement (Sections 403, 404, 405)	15
TOTAL	92

In 2020, the most frequent criminal offences in the tactical-statistical group were “support and promotion of a movement“ (Sections 403, 404, 405), i.e., 39 acts.

The most prosecuted persons, i.e., 15, were recorded in the tactical-statistical group “support and promotion of a movement“ (Sections 403, 404, 405).

5.4. Police regional statistics

Criminal offences

Region	1. 1. – 31. 12. 2020	
	Registered	Solved
Prague	50	16
Central Bohemian	6	0
Southern Bohemian	6	4
Pilsen	3	1
Ústí nad Labem	5	3
Hradec Králové	5	5
Southern Moravian	11	1
Moravian-Silesian	14	11
Olomouc	12	6
Zlín	3	2
Vysočina	1	0
Pardubice	8	4
Liberec	6	5
Carlsbad	4	3
TOTAL	134	61

Persons prosecuted

Region	1. 1. – 31. 12. 2020
	Persons prosecuted
Prague	23
Central Bohemian	4
Southern Bohemian	3
Pilsen	3
Ústí nad Labem	6
Hradec Králové	4
Southern Moravian	3
Moravian-Silesian	8
Olomouc	22
Zlín	2
Vysočina	0
Pardubice	4
Liberec	8
Carlsbad	3
TOTAL	92

In 2020, the most offences with extremist subtext were registered in Prague (50), Moravian-Silesian region (14) and Olomouc region (12). The most prosecuted persons for offences with extremist subtext were recorded in Prague (23) and Olomouc region (22).

5.5. Crimes motivated by hatred against selected groups

In 2020, 27 crimes with anti-Semitic subtext were registered. Compared to 2019, there was an increase of four acts. Crimes with an anti-Semitic subtext in 2020 accounted for 20.1 % of the total number of crimes having an extremist subtext. In 2019, it was 13.5 %.

In 2020, a total of 19 crimes motivated by hatred against Roma were recorded. It is a decrease of 24 acts compared to last year. These crimes accounted for 14.2 % of the total number of crimes with an extremist subtext in 2020.

In 2020, the Police of the Czech Republic recorded 9 crimes motivated by hatred towards Muslims (compared to 11 in 2019). In 2020, the Police of the Czech Republic also recorded four crimes motivated by hatred towards Arabs. Compared to 2019, it is a decrease of four acts.

5.6. Criminal offences committed by members of Security Forces

In 2020, one member of the security forces was investigated in relation to a criminal case with signs of extremism. He is suspected of committing a criminal offence of Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of People under Section 355(1)(a), (2)(b) of the Criminal Code, and Instigation of Hatred towards Group of Persons or an Individual or Suppressing their Rights and Freedoms under Section 356(1), (3)(a) of the Criminal Code.²⁶

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

The Military Police did not investigate or examine any findings, criminal reports or complaints concerning suspicion of the commission of a criminal offence by a member of the Armed Forces against another because of his race, ethnic group, nationality, political beliefs, or religion (actions with so-called extremist context), which would require the initiation of criminal proceedings within the meaning of the relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

No manifestations of extremism and prejudiced hatred have been recorded in the Army of the Czech Republic. No soldier has been 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 hatred against another group of persons (Article 19(1)(m) of Act No. 221/1999 Coll., on professional soldiers, as amended).

²⁶ Related to posts published online.

5.8. Court Statistics

In 2020, the Czech courts sentenced a total of 48.230 persons (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, 71.471 in 2012, 70.160 in 2011, 69.953 in 2010), which represents a decrease of 7 364 persons, i.e. 13.25 %, compared to 2019. A total of 74 persons were convicted for criminal offences with a racial subtext in 2020. This figure represents only 0,153 % of the total number of convicted persons this year.

Compared to 2019, we have seen a decrease in the number of convicted offenders for offences with a racial subtext (by 25 persons, i.e. by approximately 51%, 49 persons in 2019, 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). Based on this data, the proportion of these offences in the total number of convicted persons in the Czech Republic remains very low. In absolute numbers, the number of perpetrators has oscillated between 50 and 100 in recent years.

Offenders were convicted of the following crimes in 2019²⁷:

Criminal Offence	Provision of the Criminal Code (CC)	Persons Convicted
		2020, (CC 40/2009)
Grievous Bodily Harm	Section 145	1
Bodily Harm	Section 146	5
Breaking and entering	Section 178	2
Theft	Section 205	1
Illegal arming	Section 279	1
Violence against Public Official	Section 325	2
Violence against Group of Persons and an Individual	Section 352	13
Dangerous Threatening	Section 353	4
Defamation of Nation, Race, Ethnic or other Group of Persons	Section 355	10
Instigation of Hatred towards a Group of Persons of Suppression of their Rights and Freedoms	Section 356	12
Disorderly Conduct	Section 358	29
Incitement to Commit a Criminal Offence	Section 364	1
Establishment, Support and Promotion of Movements Aimed at Suppression of Human Rights and Freedoms	Section 403	1

²⁷ The sum exceeds 74 because one person can be (and often is) convicted of multiple crimes.

Expressing Sympathies for Movements Seeking to Suppress Human Rights and Freedoms	Section 404	39
Denial, Impugnation, Approval and Justification of Genocide	Section 405	7

In 2020, perpetrators of these offences were most often convicted of the offence of expressing sympathies for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Section 404 of the Criminal Code (39 persons). This is followed by convictions for disorderly conduct under Section 358 of the Criminal Code (a total of 29 persons) and Violence against a group of people and against an individual under Section 352 of the Criminal Code (13 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 2020, 51 persons were sentenced to imprisonment with a conditional postponement. The punishment of community service was imposed in six cases. Two juvenile offenders and six women were convicted.

5.9. Statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office

Overview of criminal offences motivated by racial, ethnic, and other hatred between 2008 and 2020

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	95 (+33)	92 (+30)
2017	98 (+31)	90 (+29)
2018	144 (+33)	128 (+31)
2019	98 (+16)	89 (+15)
2020	113 (+22)	98 (+17)

In 2020, there was an increase in the number of persons prosecuted for racial, ethnic, and other hate crimes (135 prosecutions in total; increase by 21 compared to 2019). The trend started in 2016 was maintained (with a fluctuation in 2018) in 2020. For the entire period under review in the present table, 2020 recorded the second lowest number of persons charged (98 persons charged, 17 proposals for punishment) for these criminal activities.

In 2020, a total of 35.052 persons were prosecuted in the Czech Republic (32.792 persons in the case of shortened preliminary proceedings). A total of 30.941 persons were charged in 2020 (30.911 motions for punishment filed). The proportion of prosecuted persons (+ shortened preliminary proceedings) for crimes committed based on racial, ethnic, and other hate motives on the total number of prosecuted persons (+ shortened preliminary proceedings) was 0.199%. In the case of charged persons (+ motions for punishment filed) for crimes committed based on racial, ethnic, and other hate motives to the total number of charged persons (+ motions for punishment filed), the proportion was 0.186%. The proportion of crimes committed based on racial, ethnic, and other hate motives in the total volume of crime remains low.

Persons prosecuted and accused of having committed offences motivated by racial, ethnic, and other hatred between 2008 and 2020

ČR	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	5	4	22	18	20	14	0	0	3	3

ČR	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

In 2020, as in previous years, the most frequently occurring offence in the monitored category was the offence of expressing sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Section 404 of the Criminal Code (38 prosecuted persons in 2020, 35 accused persons in 2020). Compared to 2019, there has been a decrease in the number of persons prosecuted and accused.

A decrease in the number of persons prosecuted was also recorded in the case of the offence of violence against a group of people and against an individual pursuant to Section 352(2) of the Criminal Code (-9 prosecuted persons compared to 2019, -10 accused persons compared to 2019), the crime of denial, impugnation, approval and justification of genocide pursuant to Section 405 of the Criminal Code (-6 prosecuted, -5 accused), the crime of violence against a group of people and against an individual pursuant to Section 352(3) of the Criminal Code (-3 prosecuted, -3 accused) and the crime of bodily harm pursuant to Section 146(2)(e) of the Criminal Code (-1 prosecuted, -1 accused).

Almost the same data as in the previous year were recorded in 2020 for the crime of defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons under Section 355 of the Criminal Code and the crime of instigation of hatred against a group of persons or suppression of their rights and freedoms under Section 356 of the Criminal Code. These two offences, after the offence under Section 404 of the Criminal Code, are among the most frequently occurring offences in the observed category.

A slight increase in the number of persons prosecuted and charged was recorded for the offence of establishing, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms pursuant to Section 403 of the Criminal Code (+2 prosecuted and accused persons compared to 2019), the offence of grievous bodily harm pursuant to Section 145(2)(f) of the Criminal Code (+1) and the offence of damage to a thing of another pursuant to Section 228(3)(b) of the Criminal Code (+1).

On a long-term basis since 2015, zero values are recorded for the crime of murder under Section 140(3)(g) of the Criminal Code. In 2020, no person was prosecuted or charged for the offence of extortion under section 175(2)(f) of the Criminal Code.

There is a trend towards a slight decline in the "pure" promotion of extremist movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, but this is offset by an increase in online hate speech, especially on social platforms. However, effective prosecution of such hate speech has long been elusive, mainly due to the sheer volume of such hate speech and the difficulties involved in proving its authorship.

On the other hand, in the case of sanctioning physical and verbal attacks carried out by the perpetrator in direct contact with the victim, it can be stated that these cases can be effectively sanctioned, including the previously occurring problems related to the careful clarification of the motive of the conduct.

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 2020, there were 70 new cases in total. Since 2002, the share of these crimes has ranged from 0.2 % to 0.7 % of newly registered cases per year. In 2020, this share reached 0.3 % of newly registered cases (22.122 cases). In a year-on-year comparison, the share of cases with an extremist subtext has increased by 0.1 percentage point.

Offences with an extremist subtext in the Czech Republic and in individual judicial regions between 2015 and 2020

Number of offences /Regional courts	2016			2017			2018			2019			2020		
	Extremist subtext	%	Total	Extremist subtext	%	Total	Extremist subtext	%	Total	Extremist subtext	%	Total	Extremist subtext	%	Total
Prague	8	0,3	2733	6	0,2	2514	8	0,3	2564	12	0,5	2463	11	0,5	2338
Central Bohemian	6	0,2	3384	4	0,1	3112	8	0,3	3008	8	0,2	3298	7	0,2	2903
Southern Bohemian	4	0,2	1976	4	0,2	1780	1	0,1	1666	2	0,1	1796	4	0,3	1473
Western Bohemian	3	0,1	2728	4	0,2	2494	10	0,4	2500	8	0,3	2712	12	0,5	2403
Northern Bohemian	19	0,4	5202	9	0,2	4850	12	0,3	4535	13	0,3	4738	8	0,2	4055
Eastern Bohemian	1	0,0	2615	7	0,3	2562	3	0,1	2410	5	0,2	2616	9	0,4	2199

Southern Moravian	13	0,3	4400	4	0,1	3955	9	0,2	3638	3	0,1	3549	4	0,1	3117
Northern Moravian	4	0,1	5634	7	0,1	5293	9	0,2	4893	7	0,1	5208	15	0,3	4737
Czech Republic	55	0,2	27548	44	0,2	25403	59	0,2	24047	54	0,2	25122	70	0,3	22122

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

Note: 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 Persons and an Individual under Section 352, Act No. 40/2009 Coll. (14,5 % of criminal offences). Also significantly represented were the offences of Expressing Sympathies for Movements Seeking to Suppress Human Rights and Freedoms under Section 404, Act No. 40/2009 Coll. (11,9 % of criminal offences) and the offence of "Defamation of a nation, race, ethnic or other group of persons", Section 355 of Act No. 40/2009 Coll., (6.3 % of cases).

Other crimes with extremist subtext (Sections 401 403 of Act No. 40/2009 Coll.) did not occur in 2020. Extremist subtext was also recorded in connection or in combination with other offences, mainly in relation to the offence of Disorderly Conduct, Section 358 of Act No. 40/2009 Coll. (25.8 % of the total number of offences).