



The Annual Report on Anti-Semitism Symptoms in the Czech Republic in 2011

Jewish Community in Prague

Content

PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT	3
DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM.....	3
3D TEST	5
CATEGORIES OF ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS.....	6
INTRODUCTION	7
TIME EVOLUTION OF ANTI-SEMITISM SYMPTOMS IN 2004 - 2011.....	10
PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON PEOPLE AND PROPERTY	11
THREATS AND HARASSMENT.....	11
ANTISMITIC TEXTS AND IMAGES , SITES AND DISCUSSION FORUMS.....	13
ANALYTICAL PART.....	16
THE RIGHT - WING EXTREMIST SCENE.....	16
THE WORKER'S PARTY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE.....	21
THE RADICAL CONSERVATIVE ENVIRONMENT	25
RELATIONS WITH OTHER RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN CR.....	28
THE LEFT- WING RADICALS.....	30
UMĚNÍ JE OBRANA (ART IS DEFENCE)	32
CONCLUSION	33

PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report on anti-Semitism symptoms in 2011 (the "Report") has been prepared by the Security Department of the Jewish Community of Prague (the "SB") for the internal needs of the Jewish community of Prague (the "JCP") and other Jewish communities in the Czech Republic (the "CR"), but also for the needs of other institutions processing the data on anti-Semitism. The report aims to provide a comprehensive image of the state of anti-Semitism related to manifestations of extremism, the overall mood in the society concerning anti-Semitism and to deliver not only the necessary data, but also their analysis, which may explain the trends of 2011 and to predict future developments. The report also compares current trends in anti-Semitism to previous years.

The report consists of several parts. The first one is a list of anti-Semitic incidents. SB considers such an act as anti-Semitic incident that is directed against members of the Jewish community, Jewish organizations or Jewish property, for which it is clear that the incident has anti-Semitic motivation or the victim of the incident was intentionally selected for his/her Jewishness (including alleged one). Anti-Semitic incidents can take various forms: attacks on property or physical or verbal attacks. More detailed categorization of individual anti-Semitic acts or articles are described below. All incidents and manifestations listed below and described as anti-Semitic meet the definition of anti-Semitism given further in the text.

The report is intended for the needs of JCP and other Jewish organizations; its version for public contains the general anti-Semitic incidents and lists of articles. The details concerning the anti-Semitic incidents are intentionally omitted, in order to protect victims, their privacy and dignity.

The data used in the annual report come from several sources: from those who have become subjects to anti-Semitic incidents, from Czech Jewish organizations and communities, published documents and analyses of other organizations and state institutions, from open sources - both from the mainstream media and the websites, and finally from forums of the monitored organizations themselves. All analyses included in the report are based on these data.

Besides the lists of anti-Semitic acts and articles, the report also contains analyses of individual phenomena and groups relevant to the topic of anti-Semitism and Jewish communities in the country. These analyses do not only deal with purely anti-Semitic incidents, but also describe other manifestations of extremism, hatred against minorities, the government's attitude to this topic and the overall atmosphere in society. The analyses are made on the basis of the same information as data on the antisemitic incidents.

DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Analyses of offenses evaluated in the report as anti-Semitic incidents satisfy the definition of anti-Semitism published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (the "FRA"). The

Coordinating Forum for Combating Anti-Semitism (the "CFCA")¹, which SB cooperates with, is governed by a similar definition.

According to this definition, anti-Semitism can be regarded as "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

In addition, such manifestations could also target the State of Israel conceived as a Jewish collectivity. Anti-Semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews of „why things go wrong“. Anti-Semitism is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and other activities, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits of Jews."

The FRA definition also describes specific individual manifestations of anti-Semitism. "Contemporary examples of anti-Semitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace and the religious sphere, taking into account the overall context, include but are not limited to:

Calling for, aiding or justifying the killing of Jews or serious harm to Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion;

Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective – such as but not exclusively, the myth about the world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government and other social institutions;

Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a Jewish person or group of Jews or even for acts committed by non-Jews;

Denying the fact, scope, mechanism (e.g., gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of Jews at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust);

Accusing Jews as a people or Israel as a state of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust;

¹ CFCA is an Israeli forum, which collects information on anti-Semitic incidents from various sources around the world. Forum members are among others: the Israeli Ministry of Education, Sochnut - The Jewish Agency, The Community Security Trust (CST) from Great Britain, Vidal Sasson Institute at Hebrew University and the Stephen Roth Institute at Tel Aviv University.

Accusing Jewish citizens to be more loyal to the State of Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

Examples of the ways in which anti-Semitism manifests itself with regard to the State of Israel taking into account the overall context include:

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or not demanded by any other democratic state.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism (e.g., claims of Jews of killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.

However, criticism of Israel, similar to that leveled against any other country, can not be regarded as anti-Semitic."²

3D TEST³

While determining the new manifestations of anti-Semitism concerning the illegitimate criticism of Israel and a clearer distinction of Israel from criticism of the new anti-Semitism, SB obeys the 3D test, written by N. Sharansky.⁴ According to this test, such a statement containing at least one of the so-called 3D, is regarded as anti-Semitic.

The first D stands for **demonization** of Israel – labeling Israel as a materialized evil, charging with aggression, for example, if the policy of the State of Israel is compared to Nazi Germany or if the Palestinian refugee camps are compared to concentration camps, etc.

²Definition of antisemitism FRA, 2006, available at <http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/material/pub/AS/AS-WorkingDefinition-draft.pdf> and the definition of anti-Semitism under the CFCA, available at <http://www.antisemitism.org.il/eng/Working%20Definition%20of%20Antisemitism>

³ <http://www.jcpa.org/phas/phas-sharansky-f04.htm>

⁴ Natan Sharansky is originally a Ukrainian Jew, fighter for human rights, dissident, in later years Israeli politician, Minister without portfolio for the issue of Jerusalem. Since 2009, the president of Sochnut - the Jewish Agency, which operates worldwide.

N. Sharansky describes the second D as a **double standard**, which is selectively applied for the State of Israel. This is especially the case of the United Nations where Israel is often a target of many condemnation statements and resolutions, while other, often undemocratic, authoritarian and totalitarian states are not obliged to face adequate criticism and they even act very often as an arbitrator against the State of Israel.

The third D stands for **delegitimation** of the State of Israel. Statements that deny the right of the State of Israel to exist, can be evaluated as anti-Semitic.

CATEGORIES OF ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

The chapter Categories of anti-Semitic Incidents contains various types of anti-Semitic acts categorized for the purpose of further processing of the available data. Each category contains a brief description and corresponding types of incidents:

1. **Physical attacks on people and property**

Physical attacks on people - this category includes any attack on a person that leads to injury, respectively such an attack on a person intended to harm the health even if the object of attack can manage to escape or injury does not occur, although it was intended. Attack on Jewish property, which is not intended to make any bodily harm - this category includes offences such as destruction of Jewish cemeteries, painting Nazi symbols on Jewish buildings, etc. This category includes only those incidents where it is obvious that they were committed with anti-Semitic motivation - other attacks on Jewish property are not included in this category.

2. **Threats and harassment**

This category of anti-Semitic incidents including any written or verbal threats to the Jewish community or to individual Jews (personal, telephone, e-mail or regular mail). As a threat is considered such a statement or written text, that threatens to a particular person by an act of violence because of her/his (also alleged) Jewishness. If the statement is not clearly articulated or addressed to a specific person, the incident is registered in the category of harassment. As harassment is considered any verbal, written or personal hateful speech against Jews, which is not addressed to a specific person (or a specific group of people). Harassment in the contrast to threats does not include the threat of further violence.

3. **Anti-Semitic texts and images**

Articles and other texts in which there are such hateful expressions against Jews, which can be evaluated as anti-Semitism as defined above. The resulting number of monitored anti-Semitic articles may be partially distorted due to the trend to place such peaces of information on closed servers, etc.

4. Anti-Semitic sites and discussion forums

This category contains a list of sites, which in 2011 provided space for publishing anti-Semitic articles. The category also includes such sites that publish anti-Semitic comments in the discussions below the main articles.

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, SB recorded a similar number of anti-Semitic incidents as in previous year. The number of the incidents or their character did not register any significant fluctuation. SB scored a **total of 6 physical attacks on persons and property with anti-Semitic undertones (5 attacks on property and 1 assault on a person)**. In 2011 a physical attack on people was recorded for the first time since 2008 and can be considered as a singular expression. Both the number (5) and nature of physical attacks on property were the same as in the previous year.



Photo: The sprayed synagogue door in Písek.

Even the number **of threats (4) and harassment (7) with anti-Semitic undertones** are nearly identical with the numbers for 2010. In the case of anti-Semitic articles and Web sites SB also recorded almost identical number as in the last year (**26 - including 7 sites and 19 articles, videos and pictures**, in 2010 there were 31 of them). Due to the fact that in 2011 the same procedure was used for a data collection as in 2010 (Monitoring covered a similar number of sources, so a possible error in the resulting figures may be similar as in 2010) and the resulting data from both years are remarkably consistent, we can assume that manifestations of anti-Semitism in Czech society are at a similar level and there were no sudden changes or unexpected fluctuations.



Photo: The inscription on the building in Prague 1

Police of CR monitored 16 actions with anti-Semitic motivation⁵ in 2011. These incidents meet the criteria of a crime and are evaluated according to other criteria than anti-Semitic incidents assembled by SB.

Some incidents may overlap with the list prepared by SB, others do not, because one part of incidents assessed as anti-Semitic according to the above definition does not necessarily fulfil a criminal offense under the laws of the CR and also data collection is different. Although the results of police and SB are different, for description of the overall situation concerning anti-Semitism it is appropriate to take both these outcomes into account.

The amount of anti-Semitism symptoms in comparison with global data is very low, although possible differences in the amount of collected data, in chosen methodology and evaluation must be taken into account. The situation in the CR can be considered very favorable for the Jewish minority. The reason is an overall mood of the majority society traditionally more sympathizing with the Jews in contrast to its attitude to other minorities (negative attitude is particularly evident towards the Roma population). Another reason may be that the Jewish minority in the Czech Republic compared to Western European countries is very small, completely integrated into society and members of the Jewish communities are not easily identified at first glance.

⁵ 11 actions listed as supporting and promoting movements suppressing human freedom (§ § 403,4,5), 2 of them registered as actions of incitement to racial and national hatred (§ 356), 1 act of violence and intimidation against a group of people and individuals (§ 352), one act of defamation of nation, race, ethnic and other groups (§ 355), 1 graffiti offence (§ § 228/2). 3 of these crimes were committed in the year 2010, were investigated in 2011.

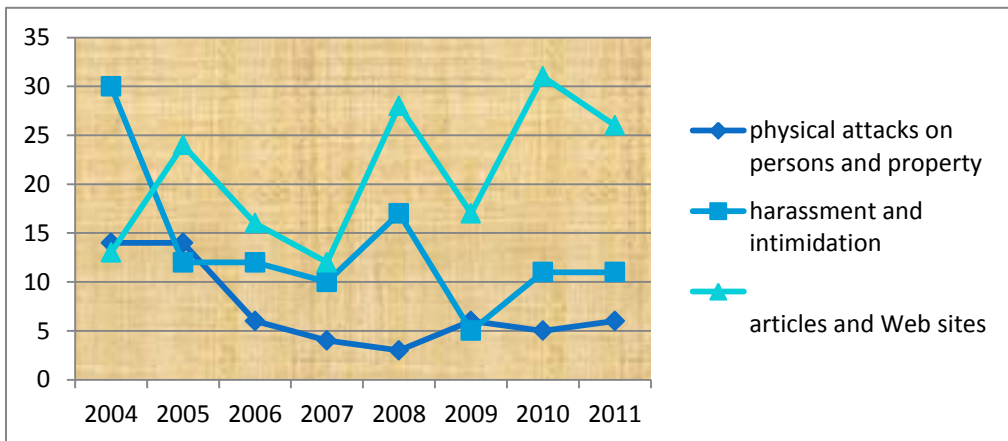
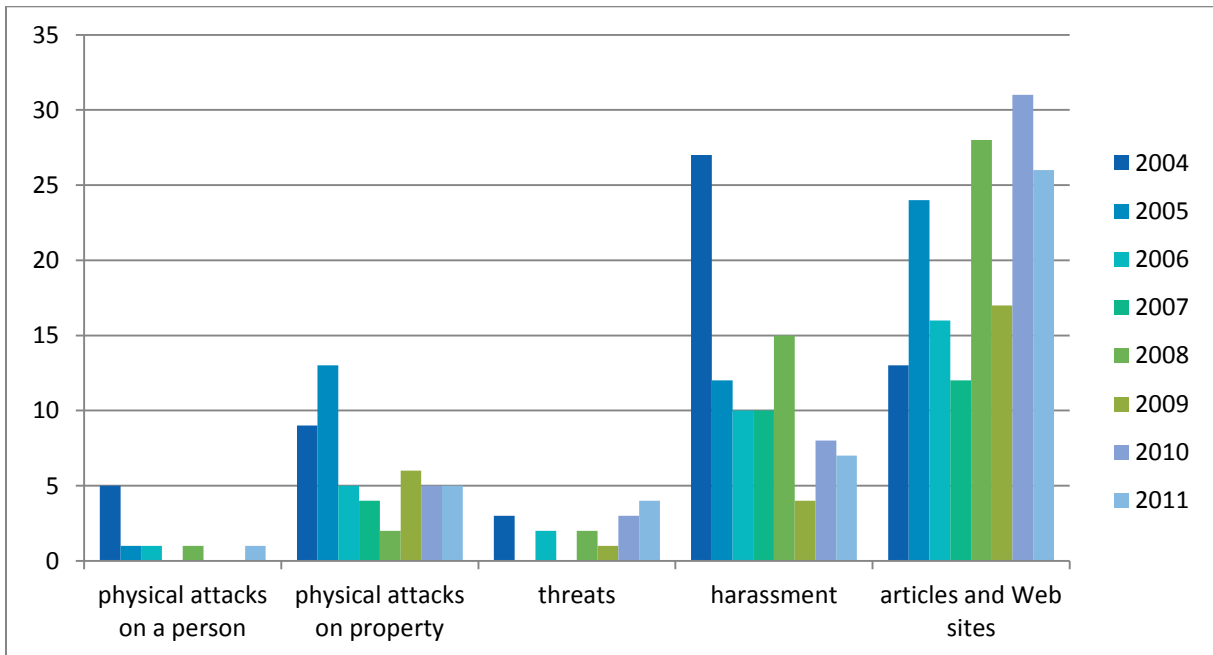


Photo: The Swastika on the building of the Old-New Synagogue in Prague 1

In the global context, as proved in the Report on anti-Semitism 2011 published by CFCA⁶, in 2011, an increasing trend in manifestations of anti-Semitism went on, especially because of the proceeding economic crisis which brought strengthening national-chauvinistic tendencies, and also the extreme right went on its strengthening. And more over, the above mentioend increase in anti-Semitism occurred despite the absence of pronounced conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, which often serves as a trigger for anti-Semitic incidents outside of Israel.

⁶ http://antisemitism.org.il/webfm_send/28

TIME EVOLUTION OF ANTI-SEMITISM SYMPTOMS IN 2004-2011



PHYSICAL ATTACKS ON PEOPLE AND PROPERTY⁷

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
January	Swastika sprayed on the Holocaust Memorial
May	Swastika on synagogue
June	Graffiti on the door of the synagogue
July	Inscription and swastika on synagogue
September	Physical assault, including anti-Semitic verbal attack in a public space.
September	Two damaged stolpersteins (Holocaust memorial stones embedded in the pavement)

THREATS AND HARASSMENT

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
February	E-mails
May	Verbal attack on Jewish community
July	Verbal attack on Jews
August	Verbal attack on Jews
September	Verbal attack including threat of physical violence
September	Denunciative inscription on the property of a member of the Jewish community
November	Verbal assault on a member of the Jewish

⁷ Incidents marked in yellow in the table Physical attacks on people and property mark incidents included in the category of attacks on persons; In the table Threats and Harassment yellow means incidents included in the category of threats.

	community
November	Written threat to the Jewish community
November	The written call for physical liquidation of Jews
December	Disqualification in the professional area because of alleged Jewishness
December	Verbal performance in front of a Jewish property

ANTISMITIC TEXTS AND IMAGES , SITES AND DISCUSSION FORUMS⁸

Date	Title of the article	link	Author
27.1.	Vzpomeňme oběti holocaustu	http://radicalrevival.wordpress.com/2011/01/27/vzpomenme-obeti-holocaustu/	-
20.2.	Good night Jewish Parasite	http://radicalrevival.wordpress.com/2011/02/20/good-night-jewish-parasite/#comments	-
2.3.	Proč debatovat o holocaustu?	http://radicalrevival.wordpress.com/2011/03/02/proc-debatovat-o-holocaustu/	Midilird
5.6.	Počítání obětí Mauthausenu	http://radicalrevival.wordpress.com/2011/06/05/pocet-obeti-mauthausenu/	Midilird
1.7.	Deset přikázání holocaustového náboženství	http://radicalrevival.wordpress.com/2011/07/01/robert-faurisson-deset-prikazani-holokaustoveho-nabozenstvi/#comments	Midilird
9.7.	Evropo, povstaň	http://abbartos.wordpress.com/2011/07/10/evropo-povstan/	Adam B. Bartoš
říjen	FCB profil Žádáme NATO o humanitární bombardování Izraele	http://www.facebook.com/pages/%C5%BD%C3%A1d%C3%A1me-NATO-o-humanit%C3%A1rn%C3%AD-bombardov%C3%A1n%C3%AD-Izraele/283302761704429 (profil byl zrušený)	
27.10.	Occupy Wall Street	http://abbartos.wordpress.com/2011/10/24/occupy-wall-street-neco-tu-smrdi/	Adam B. Bartoš

⁸ Some articles were removed for its hateful content from the Internet, as well as some blogs were canceled during the year 2011. Copies of papers are deposited in the archives SB JCP .

29.10.	Jurgen Graf – Hoax nebo Holocaust (5 kapitol)	http://radicalrevival.wordpress.com/2011/10/29/jurgen-graf-hoax-nebo-holocaust-5-kapitola/	J. Graf. překlad Midilird
7.11.	Můj Vztah k Židům	https://abbartos.wordpress.com/2011/11/04/muj-vztah-k-zidum/	Adam B. Bartoš
4.11.	Svědci Holocaustu - Dagmar Lieblová	http://radicalrevival.wordpress.com/2011/11/04/svedci-holokaustu-dagmar-lieblova/#comments	
12.11.	Výkon krematorií tehdy a dnes	http://radicalrevival.wordpress.com/2011/11/12/vykon-krematorii-tehdy-a-dnes/	
17.11.	Střet civilizací trochu jinak aneb Židé ve stínu Muslimů	http://abbartos.wordpress.com/2011/11/17/stret-civilizaci-trochu-jinak-aneb-zide-ve-stinu-muslimu/	Adam B. Bartoš
18.12.	Buchenwald: hodně hloupé vyobrazení zla	http://radicalrevival.wordpress.com/2011/12/18/buchenwald-a-dumb-dumb-portrayal-of-evil/	
14.12.	FCB profil-Drsné a rasistické vtipy s rasistickým a xenofobním obsahem	http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=287934844572855&set=a.287837851249221.74378.282140595152280&type=3&theater (pozn. FCB stránka byla zrušena a posléze ji nahradila webová stránka Legrace bez hranic- viz seznam webů)	
nedato váno	hlavní stránka	http://www.bhbohemia.org/novinky.html	
nedato váno	Reakce Terormachine Bohemia aktivisty division	http://tmbohemia.calloffreedom.net/page1.html	
nedato váno	Reakce Terormachine Bohemia aktivisty division	http://tmbohemia.calloffreedom.net/page1.html	
27.12.	Slova papeže o násilí prošla v Čechách cenzurou	http://www.evropsky-rozhled.eu/slova-papeze-o-nasili-v-palestine-prosla-v-cechach-cenzurou/ (původně na blogu J. Hrebenáře)	J. Hrebenár

Legrace bez hranic	legracebezhranic.wordpress.com
Blood and Honour	bhbohemia.org
Radical Revival	radicalrevival.wordpress.com
blog A. B. Bartoše	Abbartos.wordpress.com
Radical Brux Boys	radicalboys.com
Blog J. Hrebenáře	hrebenar.blog.idnes.cz
Umění je obrana	umenijeobrana.iprostor.cz

THE RIGHT-WING EXTREMIST SCENE⁹



After the crisis of the neo-Nazi scene in 2010 there were noticeable efforts in 2011 to revive the movement and its organizations. The neo-Nazis, after their experience with repression by the state in recent years, are more focused on legal aspects of their dealings to succeed not only in a particular case, but to achieve the broadest possible media coverage. Particular attention is paid to this aspect in lawsuits, where they figure in the position of the accused. Despite great efforts for greater unity, as in the previous years, relatively high fragmentation of the scene still remains. There were strong ties to foreign extremist right-wing associations in 2011.

⁹ In the text there are expressions as the right-wing extremists and neo-Nazis. The first one is to describe a group whose views or actions go beyond the constitutional - legal framework of the society within the country. The term "right-wing extremists" is rather indicative to separate this group from the left-wing extremists or others. However it is clear that the scope and ideas of the extremists often overlap, the views of the far-right and the far-left often coincide. That is why this description is not entirely accurate. As for the neo-Nazis the text refers to such a group of people who ideologically incline to the ideas of Nazism. The right-wing extremists group then includes the neo-Nazi group too. If it is specifically about the Nazis, it is explicitly mentioned in the text.

¹⁰ Taken from the server Czech newspaper http://i3.cn.cz/14/1252402963_F200903250163001.jpg

In 2011, the right-wing extremist scene faced, as in the previous year, the high fragmentation, but also the problem with the replacement of generations and leaders. In 2011, the lack or the minor activity of leading figures in the neo-Nazi scene known from the previous years was apparent.¹¹ Though it is likely that these people remain loyal to the ideas of right-wing extremism, younger leading individuals also get a chance to implement their activities. It leads to a situation where they either cooperate or, on the contrary, several generations of the right-wing extremists come into conflict with each other. According to the report of the Ministry of the Interior (the "MI CR")¹² the right-wing extremist scene systematically distances itself from notorious "trouble makers" and for this reason it is probable that it was not heard much about the former popular characters of the scene in 2011 quite deliberately. The right-wing extremist scene seems to have raised since the crisis in 2010, however it is still very rugged and uneven just because of its age heterogeneity. In addition to age dividing line, some ideological disputes between the autonomous movements inclining to nationalism on the one hand and neo-Nazism or other extremist orientations on the other hand, can be seen. Other areas of friction between the *Workers' Party of Social Justice* and its staunch opponents have been arising. In 2011 another dividing line was recognized between the "reformed" part of the right-wing extremist scene, it means among its leaders, who try to act in a very organized way and to operate within the law preventing any conflicts with government departments, and the part of the "underground" that doesn't obey these rules and where physical violence, cannot be excluded.

Football fans - hooligans who represent the most aggressive group in the right-wing extremist scene may also be classified as members of this group. Though SB registered just one anti-Semitic incident associated with the football fans last year¹³, it is evident that all the groups, which the right-wing extremists identify themselves against, may become potential targets of physical violence by the football fans.

¹¹ According to the report of M. Mares et al. Czech neo-Nazi militant movement (current trends) (Analysis for the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic - Security Policy Department, Brno, 2011) in the management of neo-Nazi movement operate approximately 10 to 15 people.

¹² Ministry of Interior - Department of Security Policy : Extremism, Global Situation Report 4th quarter of 2011, Prague, 2011.

¹³ The description is found in the list of anti-Semitic incidents. The group of football fans chanted after the match under the windows of the JCP building "Beat Jews, beat Jews!"

Another more and more apparent dividing line within the right-wing extremist scene is determined by regional identity of the extremists. Extremist organizations have been increasingly falling apart in local cells that organize events only for a few people, very often for 5 to 10 of them. Among the most active regions are cells operating in Moravia, Ústi and Carlsbad (Karlovarský) districts - that is, those that generally have social and economic problems to a large extent.

Within the Czech right-wing extremists in 2011 efforts to deepen cooperation with foreign partners were still apparent. Besides traditional links with the German movement, which serves often as a model for the Czech extremists, cooperation with extremists from Russia, Slovakia, Hungary, Italy and Sweden, as well as from France, was also registered. It is obvious that efforts to learn and take over running patterns occur at least within a certain part of the Czech right-wing extremists.

In 2011, the neo-Nazi scene discovered a new phenomenon called Hardbass coming originally from Ukraine.¹⁴ Hardbass is sort of a dance group accompanied by aggressive music performed in front of important buildings or in symbolic places where the masked extremists are shooting themselves and then they hang their videos on the Internet. Hardbass was originally mentioned to prevent drug use, but in the Czech conditions these activities are intended rather to intimidate citizens and to increase self-esteem of the extremists. Due to the fact that Jewish objects are of great symbolic importance for the extremists (which was, among other things, proved by Hardbass in front of Jerusalem synagogue)¹⁵ and that Hardbass does not break the law, it is likely to meet this phenomenon in the future near these objects again.

IDEOLOGY AND IMPORTANT TOPICS OF THE RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS

As in previous years, the anti-Roma theme was in 2011 - perhaps even with greater intensity associated with the already escalating social situation in some regions of the CR - again the main point of interest for the Czech extremist scene. The right-wing extremist groups together with DSSS¹⁶ abused ethnic tensions in these regions, respectively popular topic of anti-Gypsism among the broad public¹⁷ to get closer to the Czech public. Bet on this populist strategy ensured not only high

¹⁴ M. Mareš et al. , Czech militant neo-Nazi movement (current trends) (Analysis for the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic - Security Policy Department), Brno , 2011

¹⁵ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPhT4TJHHcg> 15 , the group is passing the synagogue at 5:50 .

¹⁶ More information in a separate chapter on DSSS.

¹⁷ The phenomenon of hatred towards the Roma.

participation of the extremists in demonstrations, which was after the decline in 2010 quite unexpected¹⁸, but also attracted media attention.

The theme of anti-Semitism has become a kind of Czech neo-Nazi taboo, which is neither discussed in public nor publicly available on websites, although it is natural for the right-wing ideology. After the experience with negative reactions of the Czech society and public authorities to propagation of anti-Semitism, the extremists are avoiding explicit thematization of this topic and they rather tend to above mentioned anti-Gypsism and to "fighting against" the System". According to the extremists the "System" - in democratic countries the existing political representation, public authorities and governments - is a synonyma for the conspirative ruling of the world, which corresponds to their conspirative vision of the world, known as the *Zionist Occupation Government* (ZOG). Reference to Zionism, in this case, is orientated against Jews in general who allegedly rule the world primarily through the U.S.. Many extremists believe that Jews are a symbol of the "System", which dominates through its contacts and resources. The fight against the "System" then means "to escape from the domination of Jewry." These ideas connected with the conspiracy theory of the 19th century is one of the most common manifestations of anti-Semitism among right-wing extremists, which is also related to the denial of the Holocaust (Shoah). In 2011 a relatively high number of such expressions were recorded in CR. Equally popular type of anti-Semitism among the Czech right-wing extremists is promotion of ideas of so called new anti-Semitism, which is illegitimate criticism of the State of Israel. Manifestations of this type of anti-Semitism are emerging as particularly hateful reactions, that do not respect facts and reasons for military actions of the Israeli army in the Middle East, which were not many. SB did not register, in comparison with 2009, any manifestation of the new anti-Semitism among the right-wing extremists.

The fight of the extremists against the "System" is closely related to a series of lawsuits¹⁹ and to a strategy which the right-wing extremists used during the trials especially in 2011. This strategy consisted mainly in efforts to identify all the trials as artificial or politically motivated. This simplified perception of extremism by the part of the Czech society is to some extent result of the Czech media work, which sometimes took over defendants' rhetoric as in the case Dupová/Vondrak when informing about the "sticker case"²⁰. Such a label then gave an impression to the public that it must have been a political lawsuit against innocent people. Systematic attempts of neo-Nazis in the

¹⁸ There were hundreds of participants in demonstrations

¹⁹ M. Dupová, P. Vondrak, R. Lang and others

²⁰ The term "sticker case" emerged in the media reporting about the arrest and detention of P. M. Dupová and Vondrák, who were both accused of promoting movements for suppressing rights and freedoms by means of leaflets and stickers, but also for the tattooed Nazi symbols and organization of marches (e.g., in honor of the fallen soldiers of the SS).

litigation was mainly to discredit "the enemy" (ie, judges, forensic experts and other representatives of state bodies) as incompetent to perform their assigned role.

They have achieved their purpose when warning of Judge V. Bartová's membership in KSČ (The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia). She withdrew from the litigation for bias after the publication of this information, although membership in the former Communist Party in the Czech judiciary is nothing extraordinary in the post-communist period. The case of a legal expert on the right-wing extremism M. Mazel who should have been prejudiced because of his alleged Jewishness proved by awkward constructions based on the origin of his name²¹ drew not only media attention. M. Mazel was subjected to personal threats and then with regard to conditions for the performance of his work as an expert witness he finally gave up this job. It is clear that neo-Nazis have learned from their previous negative experiences with organizing large demonstrations or other events often with anti-Semitic undertones, and now they prefer targeting specific people they consider to be obstacles for their activities. It should be noted that this strategy of the Czech neo-Nazis is quite successful. They have especially succeeded at gradual „removing“ of the legal experts on right-wing extremism.²²

The change of extremists strategy in the fight against the "System" is also related to greater caution in expressing in open forums and blogs on the Internet. Compared with previous years, the extremists are far more aware of the fact that they could be monitored by state bodies and other entities. Because of their safety, they move their articles and discussion forums on the locked and hidden blogs, where it is impossible to monitor them. In general, the activity of authors of articles and discussing groups are moving from established standard servers to social networking sites in hidden groups, etc.

Immigrants issues also remain in the viewfinder of right-wing extremists interests, however, thanks to relatively low numbers of immigrants from foreign countries coming to CR (in comparison with other EU countries) and the low popularity of this topic among the public it is not the priority for the Czech extremists.

SB doesn't consider the Czech right-wing extremist scene an immediate threat to security of Jewish communities. However, it is essential to monitor its further development, as the Jews remain in the position of the chief enemy for the most right-wing extremists. In the future, no significant change is

²¹ As an expert witness in the trial of neo-Nazi L. Šlégrová M. Mazel said that her public speech in this context could be viewed as promoting anti-Semitism and Nazism. An objection concerning alleged partiality based on its presumed origin was swept off the table in January 2012 and marked as irrelevant by the Most Court.

²² Right-wing extremists have discouraged at least three forensic experts (M. Mazel and M. Mareš, Z. Zbořil) from writing reports in recent years. Currently only two legal experts operate as expert witnesses on the right-wing extremism, which greatly complicates the litigation process.

expected in this trend anyway. On the contrary, it is assumed a continuing focus on the anti-Roma theme based on the experience of right-wing extremists and proven as successful for their goals in 2011. Roma and foreigners (especially those of non-European anthropological type) remain the most endangered group as for physical violence from the part of the right-wing extremists.

THE WORKERS' PARTY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE



In 2011 the *Workers' Party of Social Justice* – *Dělnická strana sociální spravedlnosti* (the " DSSS ") was marked by lawsuits, deepening cooperation with the neo-Nazi scene and *the Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands* (the "NPD") and by preparation for regional elections. Ideologically DSSS is tending to populism and xenophobia, which is reflected mainly in anti-Roma and anti-immigrant rhetoric. Demonstrations organized by DSSS are mostly directed against Roma and immigrants. DSSS keeps criticizing the Government, especially the so-called austerity packages, and more generally it deals with the promotion of other social issues. The *Allied Workers' Youth* civic association (the " DM ") with its activities is focused primarily on increasing membership through recruitment campaigns. The DSSS also emphasizes DM profiling their leaders as educated and independent-minded individuals using electronic and print media to spread their views.

Like its predecessor the *Workers' Party* ("DS ") DSSS is not profiled as anti-Semitic, respectively it doesn't express its attitudes to Jews and Israel. There is an exception concerning the personality of J. Fischer, a candidate for President of the CR who publicly identifies himself with Judaism. DSSS speaks about Fischer as someone who is not a "right Czech", i.e., Judaism is perceived as an ethnically/racially alien element. DSSS collaborates quite often with representatives of associations

²³ Taken from the server DSSS, <http://www.tomasvandas.cz/userFiles/doulic.jpg>

or organizations, whose activities or attitudes are anti-Semitic²⁴. In the particular circumstances of 2011 DSSS did not constitute any special threat for Jews in the CR, but in case that DSSS was able to integrate into the mainstream of Czech politics it could happen that the Jews would become its interest group.

As expected, the transformation of DS into DSSS brought first of all greater alertness to compliance with the law, i.e., greater efforts to avoid possible sanctions, or even a prospective ban. DSSS was able to stabilize (no greater internal personnel disputes were recorded) and also showed a degree of flexibility when organizing demonstrations during the crisis in Šluknov region (more below), but fewer activists participated in the demonstrations than in previous years. At the same time it is clear that DSSS is missing a vision for its future direction and more comprehensive and constant approach (for instance there is a question whether to submit an action or not). It also shows a high degree of unprofessionalism, respectively that DSSS is not financially stable. The representatives of DSSS often act inconsistently.

The year 2011 was a year of "trials" for DSSS (lawsuits from the years 2009 and 2010 were continuing and new ones started). They were directed against leaders of DSSS and DM²⁵ with varying results. Legal analysis of court judgments could be undoubtedly useful, but it goes beyond the format of this document. A list of the issued judgments would help to reflect many features of the behavior and statements of representatives of DSSS. On the contrary DSSS itself was planning to file several complaints (against journalists, politicians). This is an effort to legitimize the party and to include it among the mainstream parties. DSSS is acting offensively, especially in its "anti-System crusade" (e.g., strategies to challenge the judges as biased because of their past in the Communist Party and questioning the professionalism of expert witnesses). DSSS is taking over the strategy of Russian neo-Nazis focusing on certain judiciary representatives and disclosure of their personal data.²⁶

DSSS goes on working with the neo-Nazi scene especially through personal linkage²⁷, by promoting accused peaks of the neo-Nazi scene²⁸, co-organizing demonstrations and mutual promotion, for

²⁴ In particular, in co-organization of public events. More also M. Mareš et al. *Czech neo-Nazi militant movement (current trends)* (Analysis for the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic - Security Policy Department, Brno, 2011)

²⁵ Vandas, Kotáb, Zbela, Štepanek, Šlégrová

²⁶ Only two legal experts on right-wing extremism remain today in CR, others abandoned their function mostly due to their own safety.

²⁷ Penetration of neo-Nazis in local cells in DSSS. See M. Mareš et al. *The Czech neo-Nazi militant movement (current trends)* (Analysis for the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic - Security Policy Department, Brno, 2011)

example by publishing articles and promotional materials on the Internet. It seems that contradictions of the last year concerning the support of DSSS are over and DSSS is perceived by many fractions of the neo-Nazi political scene as their own political representative.

DM openly described efforts of the extremists to greater cooperation and tolerance within the movement. Further (possible) cooperation and its form will depend on many factors. Even though the year 2011 seemed fairly quiet in this area, it is clear that cooperation depends heavily on personal relationships among activists.

In 2011, DSSS attracted public attention in the most visible way by organizing and participating in anti-Roma demonstrations in Šluknov region²⁹. The demonstrations were relatively numerous³⁰ and quickly successive, the neo-Nazis also took part in them, often with the support of local residents. However it does not necessarily mean that DSSS is supported by local citizens, but it rather reflects the generally unsatisfactory situation in these areas. Chanting slogans such as "Gypsies to the gas", etc. from the part of the Czech public is alarming. The largest demonstration took place on the 1st of May in Brno (Traditional First-of-May Demonstration), which was organized by DSSS with cooperation of NPD³¹. Demonstrations were under the police supervision and thus the situation in the city of Genoa in 2008 was not repeated. None of the demonstrations organized by DSSS took place near Jewish objects and no themes concerning Jews or Israel were included either.

In contrary to 2010, DSSS was intensively tightening contacts with its German counterpart *the Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands* ("NPD"). E. Lamprecht (DM) refers to the year 2011 as a turning point as for cooperation with NPD. Besides personal contacts and visits (exchange of speakers and participation in events in both countries) They are harmonizing their activities thematically - in particular they oppose immigrants, the alleged Islamization, communism and capitalism. Their cooperation is formalized in an official document of cooperation "*Manifesto of Rises on Violations of Human Rights*"³². In this document the signatories also outline areas of their

²⁸ In 2010, autonomous neo-Nazis retreated from supporting DSSS because of the lack of support by DSSS. This year, similar information appeared in open sources.

²⁹ This is essentially Nový Bydžov Krupka, Přerov, Nový Bor, Rumburk, Varnsdorf, Ustí nad Labem, Rotava, Vimperk, and Prague.

³⁰ Several hundred participants.

³¹ The announced topic of demonstration was "Against Immigrants and Foreign Workers ." DSSS held the demonstration in Prague at the occasion of the anniversary of 17/11/1989. The course of this action reminded of "wild " events of 2009. Regarding the fact how much the event was promoted, it was surprisingly visited by quite a few people in comparison with previous years. Another larger demonstration of this type is the annual Unity Day (10. 28.).

³² <http://www.dsss.cz/manifest-z-riesy-o-porusovani-lidskych-prav>

cooperation³³, which can be expected to deepen in the future. However, there is a question of a practical impact of this cooperation in the future on the situation in CR, which is in many respects (or liaison issues on both sides, or in the position of parties in political systems), very different.

In 2011 DSSS focused primarily on the regional elections of 2012 which have been essential for most of its activities. It has been promoting and establishing local cells that operate on the principle of proportional autonomy³⁴. It focuses mainly on those regions and areas where there are socially excluded localities (where socially weaker Roma are living³⁵). Among individual cells there are significant differences in terms of degree of their success with the public. It is true that where there are bigger problems in coexistence with neighbors, DSSS has a greater chance of success with the mainstream society. For example DSSS North (Most, Chomutov) is more radical in its written documents than the parent - national dsss.cz. Members of DSSS also often stand as independent; the probability of success is greater at the local level (especially in troubled municipalities) than at central level. DSSS structure thus leads from local through regional to national organizations.

Despite some stabilization of DSSS there are two main obstacles for its further development: first, lack of funds, lack of human potential, respectively of quality and charismatic leadership. SB doesn't expect any significant change in the near future in this regard. It seems that even in times of economic crisis the Czech public does not find DSSS as an acceptable alternative. DSSS didn't constitute in 2011 for Jews in the CR a direct threat, although it radicalized the Czech public through its generally racist anti-immigrant and anti-Roma rhetoric and xenophobically vulgarized social atmosphere, which created a negative tendency for the specific Jewish community. DSSS is a direct threat especially for Roma and immigrants because of fostering racism and xenophobia within the Czech public and also because of possible physical attacks of individual members or supporters of the DSSS on members of these groups. The more specific picture about further development of DSSS in the CR will bring results of the regional elections in 2012.

³³ a) Promotion of measures against immigration b) Resistance to all attempts to control freedom of expression; c) of criticism of the undemocratic EU institutions; d) Support of the campaign against illegal armed conflicts and the U.S. and NATO in the world , e) Cross-border cooperation aimed at the municipal level

³⁴ Among the "most successful" cells are those in the Moravian-Silesian region , led by Mgr. Komárek .

³⁵ One of the repercussions of these sites are problems between the majority and the Roma excluded.

THE RADICAL CONSERVATIVE ENVIRONMENT



Although the radical conservative environment is not a priority topic for SB, an attitude to social events and phenomena constituted by this environment has indirect relation to Jewish communities in the CR, because it is characterized by low tolerance for minorities (whether ethnic, sexual, racial or political) and multi-cultural environment itself. That is why this report pays attention also to radical conservatives even though the Jewish theme in general - or specifically with anti-Semitic tendency - is usually not openly, respectively publicly, dealt in this school of thought³⁷. Another reason to monitor the activities of this type provides the fact that spreading intolerant and -fobic attitudes and opinions opens increasingly the way for their domestication in politics and even in public. In this way public space is getting a platform for their easier dissemination and stabilization.

In this context in 2011 L. Bátorá³⁸ work at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (“the Ministry”) attracted attention. His controversial personality associated with the Presidency in the ultraconservative movement Action D.O.S.T. (enough), with his participation in the closed lecture “History, causes and development of Czech anti-Jewism” that was given in 2005 by a spokesman of

³⁶ Taken from the server Action D.O.S.T., http://www.akce-dost.cz/img/fotogalerie/konferencedost/konf5/IMG_1123_061111.jpg, http://www.akce-dost.cz/img/fotogalerie/konferencedost/konf5/IMG_1105_061111.jpg

³⁷ Conspiracy theories about the world conspiracy of Jews, quoting the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, the New World Order theory and careful questioning of the Holocaust are among the discussed topics.

³⁸ Former Secretary of Education J. Dobeš (Public Affairs) was planning at the beginning of 2011 to appoint Ing. Mgr. Bachelor Ladislav Bátorá as his deputy. L. Bátorá was a member of various right-wing parties, he was an independent candidate for Edelmanová’s National Party, he said for a magazine called Respect that the nationalist politics Haider and Le Pen were his role models (although Bátorá himself denied it later). He is notorious for his ultra-nationalistic attitude in line with Action D.O.S.T., where he was a chairman and which is still active. After criticizing decisions of Mr. Dobeš (Minister of Education, Youth and Sports) by some politicians, civil society and media attention Dobeš designated him an economic advisor. After further public criticism Bátorá resigned after several months.

the former neo-Nazi National Resistance P. Kalinovský, and with praise of "anti-Semitic work" in Rudolf Vrba's own Internet Czech magazine, polarized the Czech society. Not surprisingly against L. Bátorá featured non-profit, academic sector and engaged generally liberal citizens including politicians of various, otherwise incoherent political parties; on the contrary, for Bátorá stood conservative activists (signatories of Action D.O.S.T., M. Semín, T. Okamura, Young Christian Democrats and others) and several representatives of the Czech political and social elite.

The case pointed to two phenomena relevant to the current situation in CR. First, the way how Bátorá's supporters argued in his favor, and second on the existence of the conservative environment of the contemporary Czech society and its interconnectedness. In that argumentation L. Bátorá is seen as an "authentic right-wing conservative" and as "a victim of the dictatorship of political correctness". He was even several times compared to L. Hilsner³⁹. The arguments in favor of L. Bátorá were entirely misleading and they actually identified Bátorá's case - in an entirely inappropriate way - with the case of anti-Jewish campaign against L. Hilsner, who was a victim of anti-Semitic and anti-Judaistic prejudices. Finding populist connections between victims of anti-Jewish baiting and a man whose ties to promoters of anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism were criticized when he was appointed to high office at the Ministry of Education, can be described as a phenomenon that has not had any precedent in CR yet.

L. Bátorá in December 2011 resigned as a chairman of the Action D.O.S.T., in which he was replaced by M. Semín, director of the Institute of St. Joseph, whose opinions are close to anti-Judaistic positions of the Catholic Church from the period before the Second Vatican Council that were also reflected in the history of anti-Semitism in a tragic way. On the Action D.O.S.T. website it was possible to record openly tuned anti-Semitic statements in 2011. In them, for example, it was dealt with the alleged Jewish origin of an ideological oponent as a "member of the chosen nation" or the brushing of arguments about the killer of L. Hilsner. Within the movement of the Young Christian Democrats (the "MKD"), youth organization called Christian Democratic Union - ČSL, L. Bátorá caused a conflict. The case shows that within the FDM there is a conservative, relatively radical wing, which cooperates with the Action D.O.S.T. (e.g., by co-organization of public events, sharing internet articles etc.). They agree on their opposition to liberalism, the European Union and its transnational spirit, emphasizing the resistance against "political correctness", "mass immigration", "radical Islam", multiculturalism, gender equality and homosexuality. The defense of "traditional values" in varying degrees, put together otherwise distinct opinion currents (Catholic activists around M.Semín and L. Malý - patriots and supporters of plot theories, Eurosceptics, individuals in virtual space, etc.) with common features of xenophobia, Islamophobia, homophobia and chauvinism. One of the platforms for the presentation of these

³⁹ T. Okamura Words (<http://okamura.blog.idnes.cz/c/179660/Hon-na-Batoru-ostuda-politiku-a-novinaru.html>) Leopold Hilsner - in an atmosphere of anti-Semitic campaign in the early 20th century wrongfully convicted to death (later changed for life imprisonment) for the alleged murder of A. Hružová .

attitudes is a web server www.parlamentnilisty.cz. These activities has got some significance within the Czech society not so much due to their coverage or social response but rather due to support of some representatives of social and political life - in their individual manifestations - in the country.

Quite exceptional is Adam Benjamin Bartoš⁴⁰ with his texts that do not deny their inspiration in anti-Semitic literature and with his arguments in the style of classic anti-Jewish clichés usual in the radical conservative environment of the Action D.O.S.T. On his website he published even several of them⁴¹. The writer failed to reach the Czech majority society with his texts, but he has finally received a positive response from some representatives of the politic elite.⁴² The activists of radically conservative environment have different backgrounds and it is important to note that they do not always agree with Bartoš's views.⁴³

The radical conservative environment of the current CR doesn't represents threat for the security of Jewish community. However strongly anti-democratic and anti-Semitic attitudes that tragically affected the life of the Jewish minority in Czechoslovakia in the past are undoubtedly associated with this environment too. It is therefore appropriate to closely monitor its further developments.

⁴⁰ Adam B. Bartoš, (* 1980), a trained theologian, former editor in chief of the website Eurabia.cz and former editor of [iDnes](http://iDnes.cz), currently writes for Prvnizpravy.cz on his personal blog and <http://abbartos.wordpress.com/> <http://freeglobe.com>. 41 In 2011, SB identified four articles that meet the above definition of anti-Semitism.

⁴¹ In 2011, SB identified four articles that meet the above definition of anti-Semitism

⁴² A. Bartoš in his article " Eternal signatories of petitions in the service of Mr. Vanek " September 12, 2010 (<http://abbartos.wordpress.com/2010/12/04/vecni-petenti-ve-sluzbach-pana-vanka/>) put together the "truelovers" list (people regarded by him as the supporters of the President Vaclav Havel). Klaus called Bartoš in his interview with *Lidové noviny* (People newspaper) December 18, 2010 as a "genius" (<http://www.klaus.cz/clanky/2736>).

⁴³ <http://abbartos.wordpress.com/2011/11/26/video-z-prednasky-o-islamizaci-a-zajimava-reakce-alexandra-tomskeho/44> Taken from the server Denik.cz, http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-jxmFFtR5kCc/TzJ5Bcs7MII/AAAAAAAAA6M/1q1-FcJ7cbg/s400/lukas_lhotan_mesita.jpg



Besides above mentioned manifestations of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism in the Catholic-oriented radical conservative environment it was possible to record in 2011 an anti-Semitic speech within the Czech Muslim community after a long time. The case of anti-Jewish sermons of 2009, which L. Lhořan drew in December 2011 attention to, provoked a strong response not only by the leaders of Jewish communities, but also by other organizations and the public.

In recent years, it was quite common that representatives of Muslim communities in CR had neutral and not very lively relations to Jewish communities. In this context, the publication of audio recordings with anti-Jewish sermon from the mouth of the Czech convert to Islam Lukáš Větrovec, which was to be uttered in the Brno mosque in 2009, on the Internet in L. Lhořan's blog at the end of 2011, was rather unexpected. In this sermon sounded hateful, openly anti-Jewish statements, including quotations from religious literature, which is part of the Charter of the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas. Yet it was not a description of historical events that are part of Islamic religious tradition, but their actual context what was unexpected. The recording also denied Israel's right to its existence and the situation in the Gaza Strip was compared with the Auschwitz concentration camp. Representatives of the Federation of Jewish Communities publicly denounced such a manifestation of anti-Jewish hatred in a public written statement and also the organization called *International Christian Embassy Jerusalem* (the ICEJ) prepared a petition against religious and racial hatred, which was signed by many prominent Czech personalities. In response to anti-Jewish sermons L. Lhořan and the *Young Christian Democrats* also filed a criminal complaint to review the registration of the *Center of Muslim Communities* to the Ministry of Culture. According to the chairman of the *Brno Muslim Community* H.M. Alrawi, L. Větrovec was reprimanded for anti-Jewish sermons and was prevented

⁴⁴ Taken from the server Deník.cz, http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-jxmFFtR5kCc/TzJ5Bcs7MII/AAAAAAAAA6M/1q1-FcJ7cbg/s400/lukas_lhotan_mesita.jpg

from preaching. The sermon also provoked a backlash of radical opponents of Islam in the CR represented by civic association *Anti-mosque* - Antimešita maintained by V. Kusák. This association applied a comprehensive request for a ban on Czech Muslims in public space. The application also included a ban on Czech-Arab TV programs or a complete ban on the Center of Muslim communities, which can not be considered a requirement consistent with democratic principles.

Statements in the audio recording as well as other anti-Semitic chants published on the video⁴⁵ showing a demonstration against the Israeli embassy held in 2009 evoking the murdering of Jews (*the Union of Muslim Students*) has essentially damaged up to now smooth relations between the Muslim and Jewish communities in the country. Further on L. Lhořan offers information, which according to him, reveal the Brno Muslim community ties to terrorist organizations, draws attention to the alleged lack of transparency regarding the funding of the Muslim community in Brno presenting sometimes even 15 years old facts and publishing old records etc⁴⁶. L. Lhořan broke in bad with the Brno Muslim community, so their relationship is now full of personal conflicts, which must be taken into account when interpreting the information.

The theme of Palestine and the Middle East conflict also connects some Muslim organizations with Czech radical leftists, especially with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM)⁴⁷. The rate of personal ties of these organizations is not known, however both movements have the same ideological attitude to Israel and the Middle East conflict, which has been proved in co-organizing of several events. Rare manifestations of anti-Israel Muslims, living in the CR, that have the character of spreading anti-Jewish hatred in general, as it was in the mentioned cases, were associated with the development of the Middle East conflict. However that was rather a unique response (and cases) that do not represent any long-term problem for the safety of the the Jewish community in CR so far.

The above mentioned facts concerning the cases that occurred in the past are not to be generalized against Muslims living in the CR. It should also be noted that information from open sources available for SB are not sufficient for detailed analysis of the situation.

⁴⁵ The recording of anti-Semitic chanting slogans against the Israeli embassy was published 4.1 2012

⁴⁶ L. Lhořan claims that Muslim community in Brno has a close relationship to radical Bosnian Muslim Mohammed living in Vienna Porco, who heads the Wahhabi organizations linked to terrorist network and is primarily responsible for funding the Muslim extremists in Bosnia. Further on L. Lhořan claims that Czech Muslims organized a fundraiser in 2000 and its proceeds were used to finance terrorist activities of the Palestinian Hamas. L. Lhořan also argues that the Muslim community in Brno received sponsorship from organizations in Saudi Arabia (even though it was denied by the Muslim community in Brno) and probably did not declare these amounts in their tax returns.

⁴⁷ See more in the chapter Left-Wing Radicals

THE LEFT- WING RADICALS



THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

In contrast to the far-right, strongly hateful attitude toward the Jewish community in CR, the leftist scene defined itself toward Jewish communities as in 2010 and in 2011, in particular through the topic of Israel and the Middle East conflict. The most anti-Israeli topics were published by the radical left-wing grouping of the Czech branch of an international organization the *International Solidarity Movement* ("ISM"), headed by activist Eve Adams. ISM has traditionally been focused on Palestine (or "the occupation of Palestine by Israel"), which is mainly connected with Palestinian activists from abroad. They also take part in ISM events.

ISM has long supported the anti-Israel project BDS (*Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions*), that tries to illegalize Israeli products and their production and convince the public not to buy Israeli products in their countries. Several protest actions focused on a state visit of B. Netanyahu in the country had also anti-Israel character. Despite all efforts of leaders of the Czech branch of ISM, especially of E. Adams, protests had, within the Czech population, very little response. Great attention was also paid by ISM to an attempt to declare independent Palestine at the UN last autumn.

The theme of Israel, Palestine and the Middle East conflict in general is very attractive for left-wing radicals in ISM. But in most cases ISM speeches about Israel are within the limits of legitimate criticism of government policy and social conditions and they rarely exceed it ⁴⁹. For activities of the Czech branch of the ISM is essential that they do not associate the Czech Jewish community with Israel's policy. However as for the negative relationship of the Czech branch of ISM to the State of

⁴⁸ Taken from the official profile of the Czech branch of FCB ISM <https://www.facebook.com/ismcz>

⁴⁹ An examples of 2011 may be a lecture organized by the ISM Cross Club in Prague 12/2/2011, where invited guests uttered some hateful remarks about Israel and Zionism

Israel it is not possible to determine how much is this negative attitude due to this or that particular event or how much it is just fundamental expression of disagreement with the existence of Israel itself, which could be respectively evaluated as anti-Semitism.

The other radical left-wing groups, that are found in CR, do not pay to the topic of Judaism and Israel any particular attention and no manifestations of anti-Semitism were registered with them in 2011. Anarchist groups are oriented in a more traditional way as anti-fascist. Even if the topic of criticism of Israel is quite close to them, their symptoms do not exceed the limit of legitimacy.

Although in Western countries may the left-wing radical scene pose a security risk to Jewish communities, from the above mentioned facts it is clear that in CR this trend has not been confirmed yet.

UMĚNÍ JE OBRANA (ART IS DEFENCE)



An activist group *Art Is Defence* – Umění je obrana drew attention to itself in connection with Jewish themes, in particular with collages on its website and also with its public action, when its members were burning, with the undisputed anti-Semitic motivation, the Israeli flag with the modified Swastika in the Star of David in front of Pilsen Synagogue.

Art Is Defence is an activist movement around the person of J. Sobek⁵¹. The group is focused mainly on regional issues relating to Pilsen and on themes concerning privacy policy, but on its website under the chapter titled Hanifistic movement is a visual collage that can be considered an anti-Semitic manifestation⁵².

In December 2011 *Art Is Defence* organized a public protest against Zionism and Israel. An explicit comparison of Israel with Nazi Germany through linking the Star of David with the Swastika in a

⁵⁰ Taken from the official website Art Is Defense, http://umenijeobrana.iprostor.cz/pool/umenijeobrana/fotog/12053/clim_thumb_640x_obr12.jpg

⁵¹ Jakub Sobek Noah is a student of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. It deals with public affairs in Pilsen and writes about it on the news server novinky.cz (<http://www.novinky.cz/vase-zpravy/uzivatel=2876>). Organizer of several public demonstrations (23 rescue 2011, the ninth city spa in Pilsen- http://plzen.idnes.cz/plzen-zpravy.aspx?c=A110923_181828_plzen-zpravy_alt or burning Israeli flags in front of Synagogue in Pilsen - 13.12.2011

⁵² The collages are located at: <http://umenijeobrana.iprostor.cz/anti-sionismus-1/anti-sionismus/zide-proti-sionismu.htm>, <http://umenijeobrana.iprostor.cz/anti-sionismus-1/anti-Zionism/anti-sionismus.htm> can be evaluated by 3D test as a new anti-Semitism.

variation of the Israeli flag, which was subsequently burned, can be considered a manifestation of anti-Semitism. The fact that the activists chose the space in front of the main Pilsen synagogue for their protest and that their leaflet was found inside the synagogue makes it even more evident. The group *Art is Defense* thus linked the ideological opposition to the State of Israel with the Czech Jewish community. The activists themselves, in their own words, are aware⁵³ very well of the difference between Israel respectively Zionism on one hand and Judaism on the other hand, so the linkage between the two issues in their protest in front of the Pilsen Synagogue makes it even more paradoxical.

The theme of anti-Semitism or anti-Zionism significantly deviates from the usual agenda of the group *Art Is Defense*. Any connection to the extremist scene has not been recorded yet. The means chosen by the movement in terms of content (in the spirit of the new anti-Semitism) and forms (visual collages, leaflets, etc.) have recently been used mainly by the right-wing extremists. The group *Art Is Defense* represents a unique phenomenon of this kind, but more groupings may appear in the public space in the future.

CONCLUSION

During 2011 SB registered mainly efforts to restore far-right movements and organizations in the CR. In the Czech society there are visible strong and culminating expressions of anti-Gypsism. This topic is often (mis)used by right-wing extremists included leaders of the DSSS to approach the Czech public. But even in 2011 nothing pointed out to the fact that the Czech society considered solutions offered by the right-wing extremists a viable alternative.

As in the years 2009 and 2010 the right-wing extremists represent a threat to the Czech Jewish communities expressed in the form of verbal attacks, harassment or spontaneous gatherings near Jewish objects. Trends of anti-Semitic manifestations remain relatively stable in terms of their low numbers and have a relatively non-violent character. The situation in CR is so far different from other states of Central Europe where anti-Semitic incidents are not only more numerous but also have a more violent nature.

⁵³ <http://umenijeobrana.iprostor.cz/reformni-zidovske-hnuti.htm>, <http://umenijeobrana.iprostor.cz/anti-sionismus-1/anti-sionismus/zide-proti-sionismu.htm>

As for the left-wing extremism and radicalism the CR again represents a positive exception within Europe. Unlike in Western Europe or Scandinavia, where anti-Israel issues and support for Palestine with anti-Semitic tendencies are one of the most important areas of interest for the left-wing extremists, SB monitored very few anti-Semitic manifestations in the CR in 2011.

With the only exception described above, which occurred in 2009, SB has not monitored any anti-Semitic Islamist tendencies on the Czech scene. However SB considers - despite the stable security situation in the CR – a possibility of a terrorist attack on Jewish targets by foreign Islamists potential. Although the rate of the anti-Semitic expressions and Czech extremist activities were rather low in 2011, the real threat of a terrorist attack in neighboring European countries applies to the CR too.