
**INFORMATION ON
THE ISSUE OF EXTREMISM IN THE
CZECH REPUBLIC IN
2003**

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I. Introduction

Since 1998 the Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, has annually drawn up the Report on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic. Currently a series of six Reports describing the period from 1996/1997 until 2002 are available to the public.

The situation in 1998, when the Ministry of the Interior decided to draw up Reports, was completely different from both the situation in 2003 and the situation at the beginning of 2004. Since 1998 the issue of extremism has been systematically covered. A strategy for combating the manifestations of extremism, racism and xenophobia has been gradually developed. The issues in question have been focused on by relevant institutions working within the security forces, a range of preventative and repressive measures have been adopted, including measures ensuring the steady monitoring of both Czech and foreign extremist scenes and criminal manifestations of this serious social phenomenon. A number of the measures have been met on an ongoing basis.

Generally, it may be said that thanks to the efforts of the Ministry of the Interior, the Police of the Czech Republic and other departments and state administrative bodies supported by intelligence services over the years, this issue is presently focused on at a suppressive level as well as preventative level. With regard to the aforementioned facts the Ministry of the Interior decided to present the issue of extremism in the Annex to the Report on Public Order and Internal Security in the Czech Republic. The submitted **Information on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2003** (hereinafter referred to as “the Information”) follows up the previous independent governmental reports dealing with this phenomenon.

The Information is the consensual view of state administrative bodies on the issue in question. The Information was drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior along with the Ministry of Justice, although the representatives of the following ministries and organisations also participated in its preparation: the Security Intelligence Service, the Foreign Relationship and Information Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Supreme State Prosecutor’s Office, and the Czech Government Human Rights Council.¹ **The concept of extremism, crimes having an extremist context and other terms used in the Information are identical with the definitions of terms as they were formulated in previous Reports dealing with the issue of extremism.**² The data included in the Information relates to the situation of extremism in 2003. More particular information, for example information on entities operating on the right-wing as well as left-wing scene is contained in the previous Reports; the most extensive information is to be found in the Report on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2002.

II. The Situation in the Czech Republic prior to its Accession to the European Union

It may be stated that prior to its accession to the European Union, the Czech Republic ranked among the countries that pay higher attention to the issues of extremism, racism, and

¹ When developing the text of the Information we have also taken into account several factual, additional notes of JUDr. PhDr. Miroslav Mares, PhD (Masaryk University, Brno).

² The last one was Report on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2002 which was accepted by Government Resolution No. 669 of 9 July 2003. See www.mvcr.cz...

xenophobia. The information on the situation of human rights, extremism and national minorities in the Czech Republic was provided in publicly accessible documents:

- Report on the Situation in Human Rights in the Czech Republic (1998 – 2002),
- Report on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic, formerly the Report on the Approach of State Bodies in Punishing Crimes Motivated by Racism and Xenophobia or Committed by Support of Extremist Groups, and on the Activities of Extremist Groups in the Czech Republic (1996 – 2002),
- Report on the Situation of National Minorities in the Czech Republic (2001, 2002).

2.1 How the Issue of Extremism Is Covered in the Czech Republic

The Czech legislative framework provides a sufficient number of legal instruments for prosecuting and punishing extremist crime and for monitoring manifestations of extremism and defending society against them.

In this context it is possible to mention the Constitution of the Czech Republic and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and some important legal provisions which serve as to defend the democratic foundations of the state against the phenomenon of extremism. They are, for example, Act No. 83/1990 Coll., on Associations of Citizens, Act No. 424/1991 Coll., on Association in Political Parties and Political Movements, Act. No. 198/1993 Coll., on the Illegitimacy of the Communist Regime and Resistance Against It, Act. No. 3/2002 Coll., on Freedom of Religious Conviction and the Position of Churches and Religious Societies, and in particular Act No. 140/1961 Coll., the Criminal Code, as amended (for example Sections 196, 197a, 198, 198a, 260, 261, and 261a). The amendments made to the Criminal Code namely reflected the need to adopt legislative measures necessary to increase the effectiveness of combating extremism as a negative social phenomenon. In this regard may be mentioned the amendment to the Criminal Code of 2002 which extended the facts of some criminal acts or it made the sanctions stricter.

Nowadays the issue of extremism is covered at the level of Government, individual ministries, the state prosecutor's office, and other state administrative bodies. **The measures adopted by the Government of the Czech Republic within the years 1998 – 2003, which currently seem to be sufficient both in the fields of prevention and suppression, are used permanently.**

The functional **monitoring system** of this phenomenon into which especially intelligence services and the Police of the Czech Republic are involved has been established. Information on manifestations of extremism abroad is provided also by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or embassies of the Czech Republic, The issue of combating extremism is universally and systematically covered in terms of organisation and personnel coverage both at the level of **the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic and its specialised units, and at the level of Regional Administrations and District Directorates of the Police of the Czech Republic.** Altogether **140 police experts** are involved in this issue. The Unit of Extremism as part of the Department of Terrorism and Extremism of the Unit of the Police of the Czech Republic for Combating Organised Crime is engaged in combating organised nation-wide extremist crimes showing international elements. With regard to methodological procedures, the activities of the Police of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as “the Czech Police”) as a whole are covered in this field of crimes by the amended Binding Instruction of the Police President No. 100 of 6 June 2002 and other internal managing acts

The Czech Police have managed to achieve better detection, recognition and classification of criminal offences with an extremist context, to increase the efficiency of police intervention during concerts held by right-wing extremist music bands where crimes with an extremist context are committed, to detect and prosecute criminal acts committed by means of

press, symbols and emblems, and to more consistently apply state power in the field of law on association.

Government Resolution No. 903 of 12 September 2001 established the inter-ministerial Commission for Combating Extremism, Racism, and Xenophobia as an **advisory body to the Minister of the Interior**. A range of training activities focusing on the life-long education of the police members was crowned by the drawing up of the National Strategy for Policing in Relation to Ethnic and National Minorities in the Czech Republic. Its objective is, *inter alia*, to increase the ethical conduct of the police forces as a whole including the elimination of possible manifestations of racism and xenophobia among policemen.

The procedure to be carried out by state prosecutors in investigating criminal activities having an extremist context is covered by General Instruction of the Supreme State Prosecutor No. 3/1995.

In the framework of the **crime prevention system** the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs have drawn up strategies and projects aimed at changing the climate in society, directing it towards a multicultural attitude.

Summary

Before the Czech Republic's accession to the European Union anti-extremist policy could be evaluated as successful in that:

1. protagonists of the Czech extremist scene currently, as well as in previous years, do not represent a serious threat to the democratic fundamentals of the state;
2. no extremist political party is represented in the Chamber of Deputies and/or the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic;
3. the security forces of the Czech Republic are able to ensure public order and security during events of extraordinary significance and international events, and to cope with violent street protests.

Despite the above-mentioned facts it is necessary to identify, on an ongoing basis, gaps in the work of state administrative bodies and to permanently seek for new ways and manners how to prevent manifestations and conduct of individuals demonstrating a racial, xenophobic or other extremist context. To that effect the **acceptance of recommendations made by international organisations**, permanently monitoring the situation in the Czech Republic, is **important** (see 2.2).

After the Czech Republic joins the European Union it will become, as other Member States, subject to monitoring by the European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC).

Petr Uhl was nominated as representative of the Czech Republic to the EUMC.

2.2 Evaluation of the Czech Republic by International Organisations in terms of Observing Human Rights in 2003

2.2.1 The United Nations (UN)

In the framework of UN control mechanisms, the Committee for the Rights of a Child (hereinafter referred to as the "CRC") and the Committee for Eliminating Racial Discrimination (hereinafter referred to as the "CERD") were dealing with the issue of racism and extremism in the Czech Republic in 2003. They were involved in discussing periodical reports by the Czech Republic on measures adopted to implement the Convention on the Rights of a Child and the International Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The delegation presents in its discussion of both reports provided, *inter alia*, information on measures adopted in the Czech Republic in the fight against extremism,

racism, and xenophobia. The CRC dealt in particular with legal provisions adopted to protect minorities against racially motivated attacks, the number of Roma children attending special schools, and the issue of access of Roma community members to education. In its conclusions the Committee recommended devoting attention to the issue of access of Roma community members to education within the reform of the educational system and the position of children belonging among minority groups. The CERD dealt with the issue in question in its full extent as well. This committee was interested mainly in preparing anti-discrimination instruments, and the current situation of the Roma community in the Czech Republic, in particular access of Roma community members to education, employment and accommodation. The committee considered violent attacks against the Roma community members and insufficient investigations into these attacks to be a serious matter.³

2.2.2 Council of Europe (CE)

The High Commissioner of the Council of Europe for Human Rights showed during his visit to the Czech Republic in February 2003 an interest in the position of the Roma minority in the Czech Republic. He concentrated mainly on the issues of Romas' access to education, their position in the labour market, their access to flats/houses, and on manifestations of violence against Roma community members. After being closely acquainted with the situation in the aforementioned areas he recommended the Czech Republic to make further coordinated efforts to be able to solve existing problems on the basis of a summary plan for access to education, employment and accommodation. Further, he recommended that all manifestations of violence against Romas be thoroughly investigated and their perpetrators punished in a relevant manner.

2.2.3 Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Measures adopted in the Czech Republic to eliminate racism and extremism were discussed during meetings on the Human Dimension of the OSCE (Additional meetings Romas and Sinti) in September 2003 (The OSCE Conference on the Issue of Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination) and in October 2003 (The Implementation Meeting of the OSCE).

III. The Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2003

3.1 Brief Characteristics of the Extremist Scene⁴

3.1.1 Right-Wing Extremism

3.1.1.1. The Neo-Nazi Scene

In 2003 this part of the extremist spectrum saw decentralising trends. The aim of the existence of territorial and independent neo-Nazi entities which, within the agreements of their leaders, mutually cooperate to a certain extent, was as much as possible to decrease the

³ See *CERD Recommendation No. 9. In its Recommendation No. 10, the Committee states that "a participant state declared as a criminal act only active participation in organisations propagating racial discrimination and inciting such discrimination". The Committee "urgently calls the participating state to consider the alteration of this provision and to declare as a criminal act any participation in an organisation which promotes racial discrimination and incitement thereof in accordance with Article 4 (b) of the Convention."*

⁴ **A detailed description of the right-wing scene including organisations which ceased their existence or did not carry out any activities is contained in previous Reports of the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic publicly accessible on the Ministry of the Interior's web-sites. See www.mvcr.cz**

risk of possible interventions taken by state bodies. The Czech neo-Nazi scene took over the principles of autonomous activities from similarly oriented German groups through the neo-Nazi organisation “the National Resistance”.

Prevailing Activities

In spite of organisational decentralisation the number of neo-Nazi events held in 2003 increased and so did the number of participating supporters. Private events prevailed, i.e. parties for invited guests. Some of these were presented as celebrations of birthdays or other personal anniversaries (for example an Ian Stuart Donaldson Memorial).

Apart from concerts and so-called parties, sports tournaments were increasingly organised, especially football, mini-football and paintball contests. During these sports events there were various meetings, new contacts were entered into and further activities of individual groups were planned. A hard core of the neo-Nazi scene organised occasional survival training.

Politically Motivated Activities

Although in 2003 politically motivated activities stagnated, some activists tried to renew them. Activities within the ANTI-ANTIFA campaign shared by neo-Nazis and neo-Nazi oriented hooligans gradually developed. Such activities can be unambiguously described as supra-regional, showing elements of international cooperation. Efforts to establish a PRAGUE – BRNO – BRATISLAVA “axis” were brought up to the fore. This is another attempt to establish an extensive right-wing extremist network through which individual groups operating in the framework of ANTI-ANTIFA could be coordinated, or at least attempts towards cooperation were seen. Thus, under favourable circumstances there could be conspiratory and extensive links among various right-wing extremist organisations.

Change in Generations

Recently, persons known from the environment of right-wing extremism are “merging” more and more with radical football fans. From the point of view of some leaders from the right-wing extremist spectrum football hooligans much more incline to violent activities than some people among neo-Nazi skinheads. Moreover, there is a change of generations within the skinhead movement. It can be assumed that the new, emerging generation will want to achieve their position by taking credits for various racially motivated attacks and therefore they will be far more radical than current skinheads. In addition, these “newcomers” are, according to some findings, more successful in entering into foreign contacts.

Effects of Pressure Exerted on the Neo-Nazi Scene in 2003

- a) Changes in methods used by the neo-Nazi part of the right-wing extremist scene were a result not only of police pressure but also the interest of media and anti-fascist associations. Organisers of right-wing extremist music performances were forced to work in higher conspiracy and they tried to divert attention by intentional misinformation about the places of relevant performances, and they attempted to protect such events using their own “guards”. They applied a procedure whereby the place of a rally would be intentionally selected to be in a different district from the one where the event is actually held. In this way the organisers tried to distract the police.
- b) A number of right-wing extremists are convinced that they have among them police confidants and strive to reveal them, thus such environments are full of mutual distrust and suspicion.

Risks

Efforts towards unification can lead to repeated political activation of neo-Nazis followed by the establishment and development of organisations carrying out various types of activities. The most dangerous are considered to be organisations promoting violent destruction of the current social establishment. Calls to fight however have not been responded to, but yet were seen among Czech neo-Nazis in the past. Some neo-Nazis have shown an interest in explosives for a longer period of time.

In 2003 the right-wing extremist movement had to cope with a lack of personalities able to unify this movement and lead it as one unit. This means that various activities were not coordinated although efforts towards reunification and coordination continued.

Right-wing extremists (including neo-Nazis) rejected the war of democratic countries against terrorism and in their anti-Semitic attacks are in agreement with Islamic extremists and Palestinian nationalists. On the other hand they are against migration from Islamic countries and the construction of mosques in the Czech Republic.

3.1.1.2 Nationalist Groups

Generally, activities of a political nature which should lead their enforcement on the political scene are typical for nationalist groups and organisations.

These organisations endeavoured to set up a general platform which would enable them to coordinate their activities and at the same time would provide space for closer mutual cooperation. The Saint Wenceslas Assembly which was held for the first time in Stara Boleslav on 4 October 2003 should become such a platform. Invited persons from the Patriotic Front, National Unification and some others met there.

Nationalist parties also strove to establish a coalition for the elections to the European Parliament in 2004, however the party of National Unification refused to participate. In addition, this party, closely linked to the Patriotic Front, transformed in 2003 and its internal conflicts climaxed when the Chairman, J. Skacel, and some of its members left the party.

The Patriotic Front (PF), which has been active on the scene for a long time, announced its intention to issue a monthly journal “The Voice”, and in January 2004 introduced its programme to the general public and gave information on its web-site www.altermedia.info.cz.⁵ The aim of this web-site was to be a counterbalance to official mass media and to bring reactions to the situation in the Czech Republic and also to be accessible to other nationalist entities.

3.1.2 Left-Wing Extremism

3.1.2.1 Anarcho-Autonomous Movement

The anarcho-autonomous movement has as a whole, since the NATO Summit held in 2002, to a certain extent dampened. It is true that representatives of anarcho-autonomous groups are interested in unification and enhancing the efficiency of their actions, nevertheless such efforts are still at the level of discussions which are not bringing about visible results. One of the manifestations of such efforts is a more frequent re-grouping and establishment of new entities on this scene. The anarcho-autonomous movement suffers from the passivity of the majority of its members. In the case of integration efforts being successful a certain radicalisation of the anarcho-autonomous movement can be assumed. However, this will depend on finding some strong, generally respected personalities.

⁵ The above-mentioned web-site was opened in 2004.

Activities Carried out in 2003

In 2003 the main attention of anarcho-autonomous groups was devoted to protests against the war in Iraq. As a consequence, the Prague anarcho-autonomous scene began to unify. Individual organisations were willing to cooperate and form an “anarchist block”, where membership to any organisation was not substantial. In contrast with other countries, demonstrations against the war in the Czech Republic were weak in terms of the number of participants.⁶

The Congress of the Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation (the CSAF), which was held in Western Slovakia in July 2003, represented a more important activity. Its aim was to summarise activities to date. It summarised events in the previous period and evaluated contacts with other left-wing extremist organisations. The decision to standardize their relationships with the Federation of Social Anarchists (FSA), which would step up its qualitative as well as quantitative position in the left-wing extremist environment, was significant news in the intentions of the CSAF. The Congress of the Internationale of Anarchist Federations – IFA/IAF, which will be held in April 2004, can affect the development of activities performed by the anarcho-autonomous movement. The CSAF, which at present is only a candidate, ought to become a regular member at this Congress. The Internationale of Anarchist Federations required the CSAF to build contacts in East European countries.

The Independent Media Centre (IMC), maintaining a network of contacts from Trotskyists and communists through anarchists to ecologists, carried out their activities in Prague in 2003. Two important activists left the IMC at the end of 2003. Due to the fact that they will not probably be replaced in the near future by other capable persons their withdrawal means further decreased the efficiency of IMC Prague and at the same time a possible outflow of some members to other groups.

Anarcho-autonomous groups continued their efforts to maintain or further develop international contacts, however they were not involved in “social forums” since they consider them to be too authoritarian and less radical. For example some Czech anarchists participated in protest actions against the G-8 Meeting in Evian, France (1 – 3 June 2003)⁷, while in July 2003 the Organisation of Revolutionary Anarchists - Solidarity (ORAS) organised in cooperation with German Groups Wildcat and Kolinko an international camp of ultra left-wing organisations - INTERCAMP 2003.

Reflection of the Attack on the Biotest company

Actions organised by conservationists usually do not overstep criminal law and respectful resistance was always carried out through petitions and by using passive boycotts. In the environment of the left-wing extremist entities of the anarcho-autonomous scene, the attack against the Biotest company (February 2003), making research for which the company uses animal tests, engendered a general popularity. This attack was led by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF),⁸ which supports direct action. The ALF proclamation disclosed on the web-sites of the CSAF showed that it had been an intentional, criminal act, planned in

⁶ In March 2003 the Czech platform of the International Peace Movement of the Czech Republic (IPM CR) was established with respect to the war against Iraq. This platform organised the majority of events.

⁷ Demonstrations accompanied by violent attacks were predominantly in Geneva.

⁸ The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) is a radical organisation aimed at protecting animals, which attacks property and the facilities of companies which are involved in research for the purpose of which animals are used, or which breed animals for fur or processing meat for food, and so forth. This organisation is assessed abroad as a representative of ecological terrorism. It politically professes rejection of the “capitalist” system and is radically left-wing. Their principal method is a direct action, special actions having the nature of criminal activities. The target is to cause to the chosen company the maximum material damage, to free animals and, if possible, to make any further activities of the company more difficult or to try to cease them.

advance, having an ideological context. Its objective was to damage the equipment of the facility to the largest possible extent and to make the operations of the company more difficult.⁹ This action may be a source of inspiration for other radically oriented activities. Despite the fact that in 2003 disturbances to public order and the commission of criminal offences were not seen during demonstrations and marches of conservationists a more radical approach cannot be ruled out under the influence of impulses from abroad. The movement of conservationists has frequent and regular international contact. Since in 2003 the number of violent attacks led by conservationists and objectors to genetically treated food increased in the USA as well as in West European countries, such contacts represent a certain danger.

3.1.2.2 Marxist-Leninist Groups (Neo-Bolshevism, Trotskyist Movement)

Marxist-Leninist groups continue to be active, and within their activities they mutually cooperate and maintain international contacts. In 2003 their most important event was participation in the 2nd European Social Forum (the ESF), which was held in Paris in November 2003. The ESF represents meetings of supporters of the so-called “social movement” which is one type of anti-global movements and is aimed against “the system”. The course of the Paris ESF confirmed that the direction of these social forums is fully in the hands of radically oriented Marxist-Leninist groups. Currently, two opinion wings are being formed inside the movement. The first one, the movement for “alter-globalisation” means a movement aimed at looking for alternative ways of globalisation, while the second one, the revolutionary wing, perceives “the social movement” as a radical, revolutionary struggle against “capitalism”. The majority of Czech participants at the ESF belong to the revolutionary wing.

Czech activists agreed to join the call of the American Social Movement to organise on the anniversary of US military actions in Iraq (20 March 2003) Europe-wide protests, and moreover, they decided to hold protests against the EU Draft Constitution, and on organising the 3rd ESF in London. The actual outcome of the participation of Czech representatives at the ESF was the meeting and discussions of representatives of left-wing extremist groups. They agreed on establishing a common initiative which should become a common platform, and they decided to enter into cooperation with other entities (such as environmental movements, political parties, and trade unions).

3.1.3 Other Movements

3.1.3.1 Spectator Violence

A number of skinhead supporters are among HOOLIGANS, i.e. especially fans of football clubs. However, they do not actually support their clubs but they exclusively intend to cause skirmishes, disturbances and want to breach public peace in stadiums as well as in their neighbourhood, which is the most frequent phenomenon since the Czech Police are not fully operative and do not supervise the near surrounding area of stadiums. Recently there has been a large growth in disturbances with property damage on the way to matches, and a plundering of petrol stations is becoming typical. Hooligans are associated mainly with AC Sparta Praha, FC Baník Ostrava and FC Stavo Artikl Brno football clubs. Bohemians Prague is new among those clubs. Its supporters are mainly anarchists, which means that besides “club hate” among the fans newly there is also hate along the lines of political conviction.

⁹ The ALF also admitted attacking the branch of the Biotest in Konarovice (October 2002)

The hard core of the National Resistance sometimes uses the support of Nazi hooligans of AC Sparta Praha club, in particular for larger events and assemblies where clashes with radical anarchists are expected.

3.1.4 Summary

- No substantial changes were seen on the extremist scene in 2003.
- Both the right-wing and left-wing extremist spectra remained heterogeneous and fragmented and there was an absence of leading personalities.
- Persons linked to the right-wing extremist scene however started to use methods of conspiracy and to a larger extent they used the internet for mutual communication. This consequently made interventions of state bodies more difficult because conspirative organisations, so-called “cells”, are less transparent.
- The aforementioned model of small regional cells working independently of each other without the participation of leading personalities who would manage the whole movement could cause some criminal acts to be committed by members of “regional cells” and they do not need to be related to extremism.
- From the point of view of the police the number of persons who incline towards anarcho-autonomous ideology, the ideology of ecological radicals and anti-global activists has increased.
- Clashes with supporters of the militant anarchist AFA–ANTIFA and neo-Nazi oriented supporters of skinheads naming themselves ANTI-ANTIFA were assessed as a profound problem.
- In the Czech Republic:
 - a) no operations of dangerous religious sects or new religious associations were recorded;
 - b) no findings on the operations of Islamic extremists were ascertained;
 - c) the existence of activities carried out by extremist groups in the armed forces of the Czech Republic were not detected.

Forecast for 2004

1. The current findings show that the efforts of extremist entities on the both scenes to achieve unification and efficient activities will continue; security forces perceive this trend and strengthened foreign cooperation of extremists as one of the principal risks.
2. It can be assumed that the trend aimed at not committing criminal offences and not making themselves very visible will continue.

3.2 Crimes Having an Extremist Context

3.2.1 The Situation in Individual Regions of the Czech Republic¹⁰

Of the total number of 357,740 criminal offences detected in the Czech Republic in 2003, 355 crimes had an extremist context, which accounts for 0.09% (0.1% in 2002) of total criminal activities recorded.

In 2003, in comparison with 2002, a decrease in ascertained crimes with an extremist context was registered - a decrease by 138 crimes, i.e. by 29.1%, (335 in 2003, 473 in 2002). 265 criminal offences, i.e. 79.1%, were cleared up. 334 persons were prosecuted for the aforementioned crimes (-149 persons; 483 persons in 2002). Most of such crimes were

¹⁰ See Act No. 36/1960 Coll., on the Territorial division of the State, as amended.

recorded in the North Moravian Region (95, i.e. 28.4%), the Central Bohemian Region (62, i.e. 18.5%) and the South Moravian Region (44, i.e.13%).

Composition of Criminal Offences

No substantial changes were recorded in the composition of crimes having an extremist context. Crimes under Sections 260, 261, and 261a of the Criminal Code (support and propagation of movements suppressing human rights and freedoms) prevailed – 177 crimes for which 159 persons were prosecuted – and criminal offences under Section 198 of the Criminal Code (defamation of a nation, ethnic group, race or conviction) – 71 crimes for which 79 persons were prosecuted. Furthermore, 41 crimes of violence against a group of people or an individual under Sec. 196 of the Criminal Code and 26 crimes under Sections 221 and 222 of the Criminal Code (intentional serious injury to another person's health) were ascertained. No homicide attempts and murders with a racial context were committed. In connection with extremism no terrorist activities occurred. No crimes having an extremist context committed by policemen were registered either.

With regard to criminal proceedings against perpetrators of crimes having a racial or other extremist context, many were closed, the majority of cases by submitting an indictment – 206 offenders (61.7%), in summary proceedings pursuant to Sec. 179c (1) of the Rules of Criminal Procedure 31 offenders were investigated and investigations were closed (9.3%), whilst 68 offenders are still being investigated (20.4%); 16 cases were suspended under Sec. 159a (2) and Section 159a (3) of the Rules of Criminal Procedure (4.8%). Six cases were discontinued pursuant to Sec. 172 (1) (d) of the Rules of Criminal Procedure (1.8%) and seven cases were conditionally discontinued pursuant to Sec. 307 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure (2.1%).

Offenders

Offenders of the above-mentioned crimes were both skinhead movement supporters and citizens of the majority of society who do not have any links to any right-wing extremist movements, however in exceptional cases such crimes were also committed by Romas. As in the previous years, in 2003 offenders of crimes having an extremist context came from categories with lower education. People having a basic education and no qualification – 123 persons (36.8%) and persons having a basic education and an apprentice certificate – 99 persons (29.6%) continued to prevail.

If the age of offenders is taken into account, offenders of the 21-29 years age category prevailed (112, i.e. 33.5 %), followed by 18 – 20 years of age (74, i.e. 22.2%) and 15 – 17 years of age (59, i.e. 17.7%). The only exception to this “rule” was the North Moravian Region where the majority of offenders fell into the 15 – 17 years age category (28%).

3.2.2 The Most Serious Cases from the Point of View of the Czech Police

In 2003 particularly Romas, but also foreigners, were verbally and physically attacked. This can be illustrated for example by an attack on the Roma married couple on 28 June 2003 in Jeseník (NMR) carried out by three skinhead movement supporters. Perpetrators were convicted and given a conditional sentence of imprisonment (6 January 2004) however after that they committed similar offences. The whole case will be brought to the appellate court. The case of physical attack against wedding guests in the Zivř Hotel in Nove Hamry (the West Bohemian Region – 20 September 2003) is considered to be of the same importance. The Czech Police continue to investigate this case. The next two cases of more serious attacks on Romas occurred in the Central Bohemian Region (Kladno and Kutná Hora Districts) and in the North Bohemian Region (Most and Liberec). With regard to attacks on foreigners a woman from China was assaulted in the capital city of Prague, two citizens of Namibia

studying at the South Bohemian University in Ceske Budejovice were attacked, and a group of Sudan citizens was verbally and physically assaulted in Pilsen. In the Eastern Bohemian Region the damage of 15 sand tombstones in the Jewish graveyard in Trutnov and damage to the memorial of "Reconciliation" (Nachod) as well as burglary and damage of the equipment of the Biotest company (Pardubice) were considered to be very serious.

In 2003 the Czech Police included among the most serious cases those ones which were not reported in statistics as crimes with an extremist context but taking into account their nature, perpetrators and consequences they ranked among the most serious crimes (for example the murder of a homeless man committed by two hooligans in Brno; an attack by skinheads at a concert of supporters of the left-wing extremist AFA in Opava; an assault of two visitors to a punk music concert by skinheads in Ceske Budejovice using knives, bars and other objects, or the clash of skinheads and radical anarchists from the AFA-FSA groups partially masked, and armed by telescopic truncheons and other weapons in the capital city of Prague).

3.2.3 The Issue of Concerts of Right-Wing Extremist Music Bands

Compared with 2002, especially in the second half of 2003, the number of musical performances of right-wing extremist bands increased in the Czech Republic. These performances were organised as closed social events. In contrast with private events attended mainly by Czech right-wing extremists, the concerts were attended by audiences from foreign, especially neighbouring countries, and some bands arrived from abroad as well. Apart from Czech bands, music groups from Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Germany but also from Italy or Russia (Kolovrat group) performed at concerts in the Czech Republic. The conspiratorial nature of concert organisation was a marked trend. Only a very close group of organisers was informed about the actual place and performers. Organisers on the day of a concert using a specially established mobile telephone line gradually released further information for concert visitors. This complicated the work of the Czech Police.

Public order was not usually disturbed during these events; the Czech police monitored performances and checked participants. During the concert held in Zahorovice (Uherske Hradiste District) on 29 November 2003 three German citizens were apprehended since they had on their clothes symbols promoting fascism and racism. The Czech Police checked the highest number of foreign participants (117) at the concert held in Sirejovice (the Litomerice District) on 22 September 2003.

The Czech Police responded to this phenomenon by increased attention, whilst the Ministry of the Interior has, to this end, drawn up the internal "Opinion on the Legality of Czech Police's Procedure Taken at Rallies of Extremist Groups and Movements and on the Interpretation of Terms of Section 260 and 261 of Act No. 140/1961 Coll., the Criminal Code".

3.2.4 Misuse of the Internet

In 2003 communication by the supporters of individual movements, exchange of information and organisation of events was carried out, *inter alia*, via the internet network, mainly by using e-mail. The following extremist groups were particularly active on the internet: Bohemia White Power, National Pride, the National Socialist Education Centre (NSEC), the Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation (the CSAF), the Anarchist Group from Uherske Hradiste (the UHAG), the Antifascist Action (the AFA), and the Federation of Social Anarchists (the FSA).

As a result it is necessary to permanently monitor the internet as a means which currently enables communication among an unlimited number of supporters of extremist

movements, not only at the national level, without meeting each other. Extremists are fully aware of the advantages of this way of communication.

Manifestations of racism in some chat-rooms, not only on extremist web-sites, are becoming a problem.

With regard to committing criminal activities via the internet network, J.S. (*1985) was charged with the crime under Section § 260/1 of the Criminal Code. On 6 October 2003 he placed on the internet the manuscript of *Mein Kampf* (1st and 2nd parts) and in total 29 pages of a text about Rudolf Hess, the Combat 18 movement and recordings of White Power Music in the MP3 format. The case is under investigation.

3.2.5 Crimes Committed Through Printed Materials, Symbols and Emblems

As in the preceding years the Czech Police devoted particular attention to this kind of criminal offence in 2003. The trend showing the decline of right-wing extremist press materials seen in 2002 continued, which relates to increasing usage of the internet.

Individual participants were monitored during extremist actions as to whether their clothes bore symbols propagating racial and national hatred. In the case that such symbols occurred the persons concerned were prosecuted.

Various racial signs or letter symbols having a racist content, the author of which was not detected, remained a problem. The same applies to actual cases which have not been successfully closed in court. There is for example the case of the police action called “Patriot” or the sale of badges and cloth badges with fascist symbols in Army Shops. Sellers usually declare such goods to be objects of collectors’ interest.

In the Patriot action the Czech Police originally accused nine persons.¹¹ Of these nine persons only six people were charged with a crime as of 19 December 2003 (subsequently the state prosecutor cancelled the charges of three persons) under Section 260/1, (2) (a) (b) of the Criminal Code. The file has been from 5 November 2003 kept at the State Prosecutor’s Office in Prague – vychod (East).

Legal proceedings against M. Zitko, who published in 2000 the Czech translation of Adolf Hitler’s book “*Mein Kampf*”, without an additional commentary, were commenced. He published in total 100,000 issues, which were distributed for free sale (he sold 90,000 books, whilst 10,000 were confiscated by the Czech Police when they started his criminal prosecution). The last appellate court was held on 28 January 2004 to the detriment of the defendant.

3.2.6 Criminal Activities Related to Spectator Violence

With respect to the disturbance of public order or committing activities related to football or ice hockey matches in the Czech Republic, even matches played by national teams were included among risky ones in 2003. In 2003 the sheer increase in the number of Czech spectators who travelled to watch matches of the national team or matches played by their clubs abroad, including risk fans, was recorded. The most risky matches were mutual matches of FC Banik Ostrava, AC Sparta Praha and FC Stavo Artikl Brno clubs. In connection with football and ice hockey matches there were frequent verbal as well as physical assaults. In 2003 serious criminal acts were committed (crimes having a racial subtext, serious injury to health, and assaults on public officials) during international matches of football clubs – UEFA Cups (3 crimes), during the matches of the Czech national team (7 crimes), and during the matches of the Czech National League (9 crimes).

For example on 26 July 2003 during the match of Intertoto Cup between FC Stavo Artikl Brno and FC Guingamp (France) four fans of the French team were violently attacked by a group of Brno hooligans. One French fan received a serious injury which required a two-week stay in hospital. On 26 January 2003 directly during the match of the Champions

¹¹ For more information on Patriot see www.mvcr.cz or the Report on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2002 (Chapter 4.4 Extremist Crimes in Individual regions – Criminal Acts Committed at Right-wing Extremist Concerts and Interventions by the Czech Police).

League an aggressive fan of AC Sparta Praha was apprehended for the promotion of racism since he showed vulgar gestures to the black organiser and attacked him verbally for his skin colour.

The total number of crimes recorded in the Czech Republic in 1996 – 2003
(according to the Statistical Recording System of Crime at the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic - ESSK)

YEAR	Number of crimes recorded	Share in total crime (%)	Crimes cleared-up	Number of persons prosecuted
1996	131	0,03	58	152
1997	159	0,04	132	229
1998	133	0,03	100	184
1999	316	0,07	273	434
2000	364	0,09	327	449
2001	452	0,1	406	506
2002	473	0,1	374	483
2003	335	0,09	265	334
Celkem	2363	-	1935	2771

Table No. 1 provides data on the number of crimes registered in the Czech Republic in 1996 – 2003

An overview of extremist crimes involving attacks on a nation, nationality or race or on their members, and crimes committed by the incitement of national or racial hatred – total numbers in 1996 - 2003 (according to the types of crime)

(according to the Statistical Recording System of Crime at the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic - ESSK)

Section of the Criminal Act	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sec.196 (2)	85	76	85	80	41	61	71	41
Sec. 198	62	46	69	85	111	86	105	71
Sec.198 (a)	11	11	15	18	11	16	18	11
Sec.219(2) (g)	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	0
Sec.221 (2) (b)	20	19	23	7	11	8	6	14
Sec.222 (2) (b)	4	10	10	4	5	7	4	7
Sec.235 (2) (f)	0	5	0	3	1	3	2	1
Sec. 236	5	1	2	0	1	1	1	0
Sec. 238 (a)	28	30	28	0	1	1	0	1
Sec.257 (2) (b)	82	51	82	38	11	6	14	4
Sec. 259	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sec. 260	33	20	32	70	53	88	95	77
Sec. 261	50	62	104	107	95	174	123	123

Table No. 2 gives a summary of the total number of individual crimes with an extremist context within the last eight years. It confirms the trend which started in 1998 – most criminal acts related to Sections 260, 261 and 198 of the Criminal Code.

IV. The Situation in the Central European Geopolitical Area

Groups of skinheads supporters, groups of anarcho-autonomists, left-wing extremists, radical conservationists and animal protectors existed and continued to develop their activities in *Austria*, *Hungary*, *Slovakia* and *Poland*. Ultra right-wing or ultra left-wing organisations are registered in each of these countries. However in 2003, compared with 2002, the extremist scenes of these countries did not see substantial changes which would impact upon the

internal security of the states.¹² According to available findings neither a marked growth in anti-Semitism nor the danger of extremist activities that could potentially extend to terrorist activities were registered in these countries. All organisations used the internet to communicate with each other or to spread their ideas and to make mutual contacts within Central Europe, including contacts with German colleagues. Activities carried out by religious sects or pseudo-religious organisations were not registered in any of these countries.

Activities of extremist right-wing organisations considerably decreased in *Austria*, where in contrast with the previous period no larger events were organised. Right-wing extremists (H.Juettner, H. Fidelsberger, K.Richter) continued to spread anti-Semitic propaganda. There were also attempts to hold racial concerts in Bregenze and Feldkirch, which were visited by neo-Nazis from Germany and Switzerland, where such events are prohibited. Concerts were mainly organised from July until September 2003.

In 2003 no serious manifestations of right-wing or left-wing extremism and/or Islamic radicalism were recorded in *Hungary*. In February 2003 a traditional festival of the Blood and Honour – Division Hungary was organised to honour Hungarian and German members of Waffen – SS. This organisation carried out their activities in secret so that the Hungarian police could not prosecute them. At the beginning of 2003 a new ultra right-wing political party was established in Hungary – the Hungarian National Front (the HNF), which is chaired by Istvan Czurka who was excluded from the Party of Hungarian Truth and Life (MIEP). However, since March 2003 no information on the activities of this party has been available. The activities of ultra left-wing organisations were not very considerable.

Slovakia did not see in 2003 any changes in the structure of the extremist scene; the number of criminal acts motivated by racial, national or other hatred stabilised. No marked growth in racial violence against Romas was registered, it entailed the usual physical and verbal attacks. Bratislava has allegedly become a city with the highest number of neo-Nazis in Slovakia. Taking into account the fact that there are only a few Romas living in Bratislava, attacks of neo-Nazis were to focus on so called alternative youth. In Nitra, Prievidza and Bratislava there were attempts, on 14 March 2003, to celebrate the 64th anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak fascist state. Events were organised by the Slovak National Unity, the Society of Andrej Hlinka and the Society of Jozef Tiso. The left-wing spectrum of the Slovak extremist scene was negligible.

The right-wing extremist scene in *Poland* remained more or less marginal. In September 2003 Młodzież Wszechpolska (MW = All Poland Youth), considered to be a combat organisation of the League of Polish Families (LPF), activated. It is an organisation showing neo-Nazi elements, glorifying the white race, despising minorities and supporting the rule of “strong hand”. Its ideologist is Wojciech Wierzejski, who recommends replacing the term “race” with a word “identity”, “the Jewish conspiracy” by the phrase “the international rule of money” and so forth. The organisation promoted some skinhead music bands such as Twierdza (= Fortress) that propagates in its songs, besides anti-Semitism, also hate towards Lithuanians, Latvians, Belarusians or Ukrainians as second-rate nations.

With regard to left-wing entities, for example the Anarchist Federation (the AF) and the Anarchist Federation of the Group for Defending the Earth (AFGDE), these made themselves visible in May 2003 during the demonstrations in Warsaw and Rzeszow focused on the protection of the environment and animals. Their reception was minimal and the same applies to Warsaw and Wroclaw demonstrations by the Communist Party of Poland (CPP), the Polish Workers’ Party (PWP) and of ultra left-wing Polish Socialist Party (PSP) on 1 May.

The situation in the *Federal Republic of Germany* was slightly different. Mainly the right-wing extremist scene attracted attention in 2003. An increase in anti-Semitism was registered within German society. Jews were marked as “an agency of American circles” striving for absolute world rule. An attack against the Jewish Centre in Munich planned on 9 November 2003 (the anniversary of the Crystal Night) was considered to be very serious. A frustrated bomb attack was prepared, according to the statement of the Federal Minister of the Interior, by the skinhead organisation Kameradschaft Süd-Aktionsbüro Süddeutschland. In 2003 there were still echoes of Moelmann’s anti-Semitic affair from 2002, having a favourable reputation among ultra right-wing entities, especially among the Republicans and members of DVU. The NPD Managing Board evaluated Moelmann’s speech as true words about the open war of Israel against Palestinians. Anti-Semitism was also spread by Islamic propaganda. On 15 January 2003 the Federal Government prohibited its activities and dissolved the radical Islamic organisation Hizb-ut-Tahrir (the Party of Liberation).

¹² For a basic description of Central European extremist scene – see www.mvcr.cz - Report on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic (2002, 2001).

The right-wing extremist scene demonstrated better organisation and efficiency. Attempts to enter into contact with Islamic fundamentalists and radicals were due to racial reasons very rare. Some of the ultra right-wing representatives tried to enter into contact with communists (DKP) under the pretext of struggling for peace and fighting against American imperialism. Attempts to prohibit NPD failed in March 2003. This party should have allegedly begun working on new political tactics, part of which is the certain restriction of cooperation with skinhead organisations and efforts to attract educated people. The congress of NPD Youth (Junge Nationaldemokraten, JN), held in Hanau in March 2003, concentrated on discussing the principles of a new policy. This party is to allegedly associate neo-Nazi and skinhead activists inclining to terrorism. Another new element was the establishment of terrorist, so-called national revolutionary, cells (NRZ), associating neo-Nazis and skinheads. Kameradschafts represented a new dimension of political violence. These formed a principal part of right-wing extremists in Germany where about 160 organisations of this type carried out their activities. They represent a combination of neo-Nazi and skinhead organisations. The internet body for the neo-Nazis was Radio Freiheit, spreading anti-Semitic and xenophobic materials.

V. The Most Important Activities Carried out by State Bodies

Permanent measures arising from Government Resolutions No. 198 of 19 March 1998, No. 720 of 14 July 1999, No. 684 of 12 July 2000, No. 498 of 21 May 2001, No. 903 of 12 September 2001, No. 994 of 14 October 2002, and No. 83 of 22 January 2003 have been met on an ongoing basis.¹³

5.1. The Government of the Czech Republic

In 2003, as in previous years, the Government of the Czech Republic considered the issue of extremism to be a security risk and application of a thorough approach against this phenomenon was among its priorities.¹⁴ In this context the Sixth Government *Campaign Against Racism*, which in 2003 followed up the project against racism for 2002, could be mentioned in more detail. This Campaign was a follow up to two successful projects: “Racial Variety Books to Libraries: the Informative and Media Campaign at Regional and Local Levels”, and “Interactive Educational Campaign at Primary and Secondary Schools”. In both cases these were educational and cultural activities the efficiency of which was markedly stepped up.

The object of the first project was the purchase of books for the network of 500 public libraries in the whole of the Czech Republic which were selected during the implementation of this campaign in 2002. The libraries were gradually supplied with books devoted to the issue of minorities, especially the Roma minority, and to refugees, immigrants and the issues of inter-cultural coexistence. The fund of books was considerably extended within the framework of this project so that the general public could have easy access to books which could help them understand differences, tolerance and respect towards racial varieties and create space for developing lectures, cultural events and discussions focused both on children and adults.

The second project was a follow up to the successful programme "Common Ride" implemented in previous years. Four-member teams of young people travelled across the

¹³ See www.vlada.cz, www.mvcr.cz (Reports on the Issue of Extremism)

¹⁴ For more information on the activities undertaken by the Government of the Czech Republic see www.vlada.cz

Czech Republic and visited secondary schools and apprentice centres. Their basic mission was within the specified period of time (two teaching hours) to discuss with students the negative nature of manifestations of racism and xenophobia and at the same time also to discuss positive contributions of tolerance towards different nations and nationalities, and advantages of the multicultural environment and related aspects.

5.2 The Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic

In 2003 the most important activities of the Ministry in the field of extremism both at the international level (the Working Group of the Countries of V4 and Austria for Combating Extremism) and the domestic level – activities of advisory bodies of the Ministry of the Interior (The Commission for Combating Extremism, Racism and Xenophobia, the Working Group of the Council of the Czech Government for Roma Community Affairs for the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police, and Commission of the Minister of the Interior for Preparing and Implementing the Policy of the Government of the Czech Republic in the Field of Integration of Foreigners and Development of Relations Among Communities).

5.2.1 International Cooperation in Combating Extremism

Agreements on Police Cooperation

In 2003 the issue of extremism and racism was taken into account in new draft agreements on police cooperation. These agreements are usually among areas for cooperation expressly combating extremism, racial incitement and xenophobia.

The *Agreement between the Czech Republic and Romania on cooperation in combating organised crime, illicit trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances and its precursors, terrorism and other serious crimes, of 13 November 2001* came into effect as of 3 March 2003. On 7 August 2003 the *Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Moldova Republic on cooperation in combating organised crime, illicit trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, terrorism, and other forms of serious crime* (currently being discussed by the Parliament of the Czech Republic) was signed; the Government approved *the proposal on entering into the Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Belgium Kingdom* on cooperation in combating organised crime, illicit trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, terrorism and other forms of serious crime (currently the signing of the Agreement is being prepared); negotiations on the *Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on cooperation in combating crime, in protecting public order and in protecting the national border* (the Government approved the proposal on entering into the Agreement in January 2004, the Agreement was signed on 27 January 2004, and it is currently being discussed by the Parliament of the Czech Republic).

Negotiations at the level of experts on contractual arrangements of police cooperation with Switzerland, Poland and Austria have continued.

The Working Group of the Countries of V4 and Austria for Combating Extremism

This Working Group meets once a year under the responsibility of the Czech Republic or the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. Such meetings are closed to the general public.

At its meeting in February 2003 the Working Group evaluated mainly cooperation focused on ensuring that the NATO Summit which was held in Prague in 2002 was secure. In its final communiqué the participants of the meeting agreed on further operations of the national contact points and more intensive cooperation, and at the same time on devoting special attention to the issue of misuse of the internet by extremists.

The next regular meeting of this Working Group was held on 25 – 26 February 2004. The representatives of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, and Austria dealt with the situation in extremism and its current trends. They came to the conclusion that in no participating country the promoters of extremism represent a threat to the democratic foundations of the state. They also agreed on further activities of the Working Group within the European Union as an expert group at the supranational level, which enables them being up-to-date and allows the assessment of security risks related to the phenomenon of extremism in Central Europe. After extensive discussion they set out priorities for 2004 which they will pay attention to. The priorities are as follows: Islamic extremism, anti-Semitism, anti-globalism, and misuse of the internet and contemporary information technologies by extremist groups. At the end of the meeting representatives of participating countries declared their readiness to continue concentrating on an accelerated exchange of operative information within the framework of the valid national rules of law, and also on the cooperation of experts who deal with detecting the misuse of up-to-date means of communication for spreading racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic ideas. As their contribution for the accession to the European Union they decided to draw up some brief information on the current legislative and institutional situation concerning the issue of racism, xenophobia, and extremism in their respective countries.

Currently it is possible to identify some parallel trends which have been more or less pursued in relation to extremism. These are for example over-the-border contacts between extremist entities and individuals, misuse of the internet for the communication and promotion of the ideas they profess; growing conspiracy of right-wing extremists, efforts not to become visible through criminal acts, operating in small groups, being rather isolated, the exchange of generations accompanied by a growth in the number of supporters of this scene who are minors, and increasing radical attitudes of some left-wing extremist groups showing elements of ecological extremism.

Generally, the law enforcement agencies of these countries cope in combating extremism with the same problems.

5.2.2 Advisory Bodies Working within the Ministry of the Interior

Commission for Combating Extremism, Racism and Xenophobia (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”)

In 2003 individual members of this inter-ministerial Commission devoted themselves, on an ongoing basis, to the issue of extremism, assessed its trends and dealt with suitable approaches and solutions for new factors concerning the extremist scene and relating criminal offences. At the very beginning of 2004 (15 January) the Commission held a meeting where its members evaluated the situation in 2003 and trends which can be expected in 2004. **The year 2003 was, as regards extremism, consensually evaluated as a year which did not see any substantial changes or fluctuation and current measures were perceived as sufficient.**

The Commission members approved the draft priorities in the field of extremism for 2004. They are, *inter alia*, Islamic extremism, anti-Semitism, misuse of the internet by extremists, the issue of so-called sects and new religious movements, and continuing monitoring of the whole extremist scene and its manifestations. Furthermore, they approved the proposal of the Ministry of the Interior to attach the Report of the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic in its shortened version as the “Information on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2003” to the “Report on Public Order and Internal Security”.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held at the end of June 2004.

Working Group of the Government Council for Roma Community Affairs concerning the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic

In 2003 this Working Group was, in relation to public administration reform and the break-up of the network of Roma advisors of the District Offices, transformed into a new shape. Now it consists of 25 members and is chaired by the First Deputy of the Minister of the Interior. (Its members are: Roma coordinators of Regional Councils, officers of the Ministry of the Interior, Czech Police members and employees of the Secretariat of the Government Council for Roma Community Affairs). In 2003 the Working Group, for example, dealt with the migration of Czech Romas abroad, the immigration of Slovak Romas to the Czech Republic, extremist tendencies in regions, social situations which threaten to become a security risk, drug issues, the issues of usury, and so forth.

Commission of the Minister of the Interior for Preparing and Implementing the Policy of the Government of the Czech Republic in the Field of Integration of Foreigners and Development of Relations Among Communities (hereinafter “the MI’s Commission“)

In 2003 the MI’s Commission represented an important platform for coordinating conceptual and practical activities of relevant ministries and other bodies and institutions to support the integration of foreigners in the Czech Republic. The MI’s Commission focused especially on commenting on conceptual documents of the Ministries and other bodies and institutions resulting from the Government Resolution No. 55 of 13 January 2003 relating to the Strategy on Integration of Foreigners in the Czech Republic and further development of this Strategy after the Czech Republic joins the EU.¹⁵ The MI’s Commission paid special attention to discussing projects on promoting the integration of foreigners. The subject of projects was developed in compliance with previously adopted *Plans of Integration Policies of Individual Ministries* and needs of the *Strategy of Foreigner Integration*. Non-making-profit organisations were the most important entities for implementing such projects. The projects aimed at, for example, providing social and legal advice for foreigners; promoting multicultural activities; developing relationships between foreigners and their communities and citizens of the majority society, and preventing intolerance, racism, and discrimination against foreign nationals.

5.2.3 Other Activities

Applying State Power in the Area of the Right of Assembly

In connection with entities registered under Act No. 83/1990 Coll., on the Assembly of Citizens, as amended and Act No. 424/1991 Coll., on Association in Political Parties and Political Movements, as amended, the Ministry of the Interior did not detect in 2003 any unlawful activities related to the issue of extremism. There was no single case which would have needed intervention in the activities of a relevant association under a legal regulation on the basis of the illicit alteration of statutes with regard to the proclaimed aim of their activities.

Spectator Violence

In 2003 the Ministry of the Interior paid attention to the issue of spectator violence in terms of both prevention and suppression. The Ministry drew up a document titled the

¹⁵For example *Analysis of the Situation and Position of Foreigners Living in the Czech Republic for a Long Period of Time, Draft Legislative and Practical Measures Adopted by Ministries in the Framework of the Strategy on Accession of the Czech Republic to the EU, and the Plans on the Integration Policies of Ministries from 2004 through 2006.*

“Analysis of Current Tools for Regulating Mass Sports Events”. The Analysis showed that there was a number of instruments both legislative and regulative enabling the punishment of offenders and to a certain extent prevention as well. In the framework of modification of the Criminal Code a few proposals to make some definitions more precise were submitted (for example the classification of “hooliganism”). The range of these instruments was insufficiently used – for example to prevent proven hooligans from entering stadiums or authorisation of municipalities to regulate local public order at sports matches by special decrees.

In 2003 cooperation with the United Kingdom continued in preventing spectator violence. In February a seminar was held which was participated in by British experts, focused on security at football stadiums and the duties of ruling bodies. In December a top-level delegation of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police visited the United Kingdom. The visit concentrated on assessing the measures adopted in the United Kingdom to prevent fan violence and to increase security at stadiums.

Within the Council of Europe the Czech Republic continued to participate in the Permanent Committee of the European Convention on Spectator Violence. The representative of the Ministry of the Interior was elected for the second time to become the First Vice-President of the Committee.

Within the prevention of spectator violence at stadiums one project in 2003 was supported by the amount of CZK 40,000 as a supplementary activity of the project Junior Fan Club Olomouc. A similar project for Liberec is being prepared.

National Strategy for Policing by the Czech Police in relation to Ethnic Minorities (hereinafter referred to as “the Strategy”)¹⁶

The Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police paid attention to meeting the objectives of the above-mentioned document, the aim of which is to pursue among the Czech Police principles of contemporary policing in a multicultural society and to create a framework for preventative police activities which would represent a counter-balance against the suppressive concept of police work. Three pilot projects were implemented. They were: the “Plan of Activities of the Czech Police in relation to National and Ethnic Minorities”; “A Liaison for the Issue of Minorities”, and “the Police Assistant for Combating Usury in Socially Excluded Communities”.¹⁷ Selected police specialists dealing with the issue of extremism were involved in implementing the aforementioned projects.

During the course of 2004 the Code of Conduct of a Policeman will be drawn up and in June 2004 the results of sociological surveys focusing on the relationship between the Czech Police and national minorities and foreign nationals in the Czech Republic will be available.

The Issue of Extremism in the System of Prevention

In 2003 the Ministry of the Interior, responsible for activities carried out by the Republic Committee for Crime Prevention, continued implementing the Crime Prevention Programme at Local Levels which involves cities with the highest crime rates and culmination of other pathological social phenomena (unemployment, poverty, extremist manifestations, and socially excluded Roma communities). In 2003 this programme ran in 93 cities, 33 of

¹⁶ See Government Resolution No. 85 of 22 January 2003. Police specialists dealing with the issue of extremism and related criminal acts participated in launching these projects.

¹⁷ The Minister of the Interior will submit to the Czech Government not later than 31 July 2004 an official evaluation on how the objectives of the Strategy are being met on an ongoing basis.

which implemented 40 projects targeted at Roma communities. The state subsidy was CZK 3,306,000.

On one hand, the projects focused on improving inter-ethnic relationships, overcoming prejudice, eliminating xenophobia, increasing tolerance on the side of the majority, and on the other hand they concentrated on freedom, education and finding a place in the society for the Roma community. The sense is to remove or mitigate social exclusion of Roma communities the consequence of which is an increased threat of racial and extremist moods. The projects focused mainly on children and youth, whose value system and habits are more open to positive change.

Since 2004 simultaneously with the Crime Prevention Programme at Local Levels a new programme “Partnership” will be launched. This programme accentuates a more analytical and initiative-taking role of the Czech Police and it assumes close cooperation of the Czech Police with self-governments and civic society. It also places an emphasis on elements of “community policing” within the usual work of the police – the police as a public service and partner in solving problems.

Educational Projects

The objective of educational projects and training activities did not change in 2003. As in the previous year, new philosophical concepts of policing, the priority of which was to satisfy citizens’ needs, was pursued. Projects implemented on the basis of international cooperation with lecturers from the Netherlands, France and Norway concentrated mainly on the work of police within a multicultural society, policing with minorities, and police ethics. Eight policemen – trainers for education in the field of policing in relation to minorities - attended training focusing on the methodology to be used by trainers.

Within the Czech-Dutch project (the Centre for Human Rights and Professional Conduct as a professional centre for the training of Czech Police members in human rights, minority rights and protection and professional ethics) the Professional Documentary and Information Centre for Education towards Human Rights commenced its activities. The Ministry of the Interior and the Secondary Police School in Prague are principal responsible parties for this project.

Meeting assignments arising from the document “National Strategy for Police Work Relating to Ethnic and National Minorities in the Czech Republic” were among other important activities focusing on improving police education (an analysis of current teaching materials and a proposal to draw up further study materials; supplementing a profile of graduates of a new basic professional training with regard to observing human rights and rights of minorities, and including the issue of minorities in the methodological education of teachers of secondary police schools).

In 2003 for example the training course “Multicultural Education – Eextremism – Racism” was held in cooperation with the Jewish Congregation and the Jewish Museum - two two-day seminars dealing with the relations of Czech Police members with ethnic, cultural and religious minorities and focusing on general elements of anti-Semitism.

One-month courses under the name “Preparing Citizens of National Minorities to Join the Czech Police Service” continued at the Secondary Police School in Brno.

In 2004 educational activities took place ensuring that Czech policemen, including middle and top police management, can share foreign experience relating to security, not excluding extremism.

Mass Media

The issue of extremism was publicised by the Ministry of the Interior on its web-sites and on the Radio of the Interior (for example a series of reportages relating to the Report on the Issue of Extremism or discussions focusing on the topic of fan violence). Inquiries made by citizens and journalists were answered on an ongoing basis (questions related to

extremism, criminal acts having an extremist context committed by policemen, questions concerning measures adopted by the Czech Police during performances of extremist music bands, etc). One of the topics for primary school children within the competition “How I See It” was also the issue of spectator violence for which the Press and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of the Interior drew up a brochure for teachers. A table calendar publishing pictures from previous rounds of this competition showing the topic of extremism and racism was delivered to primary schools and other organisations involved in organising leisure activities of children. During the course of the whole year of 2003 the Ministry of the Interior strived to inform the mass media as well as citizens in order to provide awareness of life in asylum facilities and the life of asylum seekers, thus contributing to a change in attitude of the Czech population towards these foreign nationals.

The Ministry of the Interior, apart from its web-sites and the ministerial journals “Policeman” and “Criminalistics”, also owns the Press Service of Crime Prevention. More than 30 press releases are issued every year, and are distributed to about 700 places in the Czech Republic (via e-mail or regular mail services). Press releases are sent to mass media, representatives of self-government and units of the Czech Police. 17 press releases were devoted to the topics of extremism, racism and xenophobia.

5.2.4 Elaboration of the Issue of Extremism Within the Czech Police

Neither organisational background nor staffing relating to the issue of extremism saw considerable change. The issues in question are covered by the Czech Police at a very good level. Within the reorganisation, which was carried out at the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic at the end of 2003, the Group for Combating Extremist Crime operating within the Criminal Police and Investigation Service Office was cancelled. Members of this group were transferred to the Unit for Youth, the Unit of Crimes against Human Dignity and Extremist Crime of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service Office. The issue of extremism was duly solved also at Regional and District Police Administrations in 2003.

5.3 The Ministry of Justice and the Supreme State Prosecutor’s Office

5.3.1 The Ministry of Justice (the MJ)

Court Statistics

In 2003 courts lawfully sentenced 158 persons for crimes having a racial context (-36, 194 persons in 2002), which accounts for approximately 2.4% of the total number of 66,131 lawfully sentenced persons. Of the above number there were 26 juvenile offenders (-11; 37 juvenile offenders in 2002), which accounts for 16.5%. The courts marked 31 convicted persons as repeat offenders (+2; 29 persons in 2002). With regard to nationality, 155 offenders were citizens of the Czech Republic. Most persons were lawfully sentenced by courts of Northern Moravia (85) followed by East Bohemia (22) and South Bohemia (18).

Most persons (64) were sentenced for crimes of support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms under Sections 260 and 261 of the Criminal Code; 38 persons were sentenced for violence against a group of people or an individual under Sec. 196 of the Criminal Code; 22 persons were sentenced under Section 198 or 198a of the Criminal Code for defamation of a nation, race or conviction or incitement of national and racial hatred (incitement of hatred against a group of persons or restriction of their rights and freedoms); fourteen persons were sentenced under Sec. 222 of the Criminal Code for intentional severe injury to another person’s health; and seven persons were sentenced under Sec. 221 (2) of the Criminal Code for racially motivated injury to health. Moreover, six persons were sentenced under Section 238 for violation of domestic freedom; two persons under Section 202 for hooliganism; three persons under Sec. 155 of the Criminal

Code for assaults on public officials; and one under Sec. 179 of the Criminal Code for common danger; however always with a racial motive.

22 – 13.9% (+5; 17 persons in 2002) - sentenced persons received sentences of imprisonment without a suspended sentence, 91 sentenced persons received sentences of imprisonment with a suspension, 34 offenders were sentenced to community service, two had a fine imposed upon them, and 8 juvenile offenders were not punished. 88 persons committed a crime under the influence of alcohol (55.7%).

Activities of the Ministry of Justice

Continuous attention is, within the mid-year and annual evaluation of court activities, paid to crimes with an extremist context (working considerations with chairpersons of regional courts followed by meetings of chairpersons of regional courts with chairpersons of district courts, and supervisory activities of the Ministry of Justice which preferably pay increased attention to closing judicial proceedings by courts, especially those having an extremist context).

In 2003 open cases older than five years at selected district and regional courts and also failures to commence sentences of imprisonment within a period of longer than five years were the subject of supervisory activities monitoring how criminal cases, a part of which are cases with a racial context, are settled. As a consequence, measures aimed at speeding up judicial proceedings were adopted.

5.3.2 The Supreme State Prosecutor's Office (the SSPO)¹⁸

In 2003, compared with 2002, no substantial changes were recorded. The proportion of all crimes motivated by racism, national or other hate in the total number of crimes is far below 1%. Crimes of national, racial or any other hatred were distributed in different regions unevenly. They were predominantly offences committed by juvenile persons or persons close to this age who were almost exclusively skinhead movement supporters, and these were followed by situational conflicts.

The work of state prosecutors' offices was, as in the previous year, complicated by problems related to clearing up and prosecuting these kinds of crime. Even in cases where the nature of a crime was without any doubt racially motivated, it was very difficult to prove this fact. Persons involved in such actions are very well informed on possible criminal prosecution. Therefore they use altered symbols, mottos in English, various signs which have a certain meaning in their community but which however the general public do not understand. A typical example might be alteration of the motto "Sieg - heil" for "Skin - Head".

Criminal prosecution was carried out especially in the case of criminal offences under Section 261 of the Criminal Code, usually against unorganised hooligan behaviour when the crime lay in, as in previous years, crying out a Nazi greeting "Sieg - heil" or "Heil Hitler" in public, frequently under the influence of alcohol.

When punishing verbal criminal offences or other types of conduct which were considered to be unlawful because an offender promoted or propagated a movement pursuant to Section 260 of the Criminal Code or publicly showed his liking for this movement the police bodies sometimes, without any justification, considered the wearing clothes with questionable or controversial symbols which were not publicly known symbols of the

¹⁸ Detailed data on the activities of state prosecutor's offices will be published at the end of May or beginning of June in the 2003 Annual Report drawn up by the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office. This will contain fundamental trends in the development of this type of crime, new phenomena ascertained during prosecution, and the difficulties state prosecutors must cope with. Problems concerning the punishment of publishers of press materials, CDs, CD-ROMs or DVDs with an extremist context will be specifically mentioned.

movement pursuant to Section 260 to be a criminal act which represented unjustified extension of suppression of conduct or behaviour which was not socially dangerous and moreover such criminal suppression did not punish the real perpetrators, i.e. organisers or propagators of such movements.

Criminal offences lying in the spreading of press materials, CDs etc, having an extremist content occurred evenly within all regional state prosecutors' offices, most often in the districts of Pilsen, Brno, and Ostrava.

Traditional cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior continued in 2003. The Supreme State Prosecutor's Office provided the Ministry with monthly overviews of reports delivered by Czech Police bodies on the occurrence of cases showing elements of extremism, racism and xenophobia in individual regions. Such overviews were important background material for gathering data on crimes in question and they served to evaluate which cases should be paid more considerable attention in the framework of supervision by the SSPO over the subordinate state prosecutors' offices. The majority of such cases are monitored until a final and lawful decision has been made and the lodging of an extraordinary remedial measure is considered very thoroughly.

If it is necessary a state prosecutor of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office who specialises on crimes concerned participates in meetings according to the specific requirements and tasks assigned in this area.

When combating this type of crime the specialisation of state prosecutors at all levels of the system of state prosecutors' offices acquitted itself well since it means that highly qualified experts deal with the issue of extremism.

The General Instruction of the Supreme State Prosecutor No. 3/1995 remains effective. The Annex to this General Instruction No. 8/2001 of 13 December 2001, regulating the procedure of state prosecutors in criminal proceedings when using authorisation of the Supreme State Prosecutor under Section 174a of the Rules of Criminal Procedure, as amended, contains a list of criminal offences which are subject to Supreme State Prosecutor's Office verification in cases where criminal prosecution was discontinued or where the case was transferred to another body on the basis of an investigative file. Racially motivated criminal activities are included in the above-mentioned list. Therefore the situation cannot arise that criminal prosecution of this type of criminal acts be discontinued or the case transferred within pre-trial proceedings as a mere misdemeanour until such decision is obligatorily examined by the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office on the basis of relevant files.

State prosecutors paid attention to this type of crime also during trials. The application of regular remedial measures is used and extraordinary remedial measures are thoroughly considered as well, although after the provisions of the Rules of Criminal Procedure which enabled the filing of a complaint of violation of law to the detriment of the accused were repealed, the only possibility is an appellate review; however taking into account the complicated legal regulation of such a review it is quite difficult to use.

In 2003 there was no need to use new powers provided to the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office by the amendment to the Act on the State Prosecutor's Office, namely the provisions of Section 12 (3) of Act No. 283/1993 Coll., as amended by Act No. 14/2002 Coll. (the option to order an examination of any closed case and to adopt measures to remedy respective faults). However, these are important means for due examination of the procedure taken by police bodies and state prosecutors especially in cases which were suspended under Section 159a of the Rules of Criminal Procedure and criminal prosecution was not commenced even though all legal requirements to commence it were met under Section 160 (1) of the Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Overview of Persons Prosecuted and Charged for Crimes Motivated by Racial, National or Similar Hatred ¹⁹												
ČR	Sec. 196/2 prosec. charged		Sec. 196/3 prosec. charged		Sec. 198 prosec. charged		Sec. 198a prosec. charged		Sec. 219/2g prosec. charged		Sec. 221/2b prosec. charged	
1989					44	25						
1990					14	1						
1991					6	4	0	0				
1992					1	1	1	0			3	2
1993					15	9	8	4			1	0
1994					40	36	13	12			3	3
1995	177	162	18	17	112	108	28	22	0	0	13	12
1996	210	179	18	17	74	66	30	29	1	1	90	82
1997	150	119	29	19	107	103	25	20	0	0	56	55
1998	126	111	3	0	124	90	7	6	3	2	40	36
1999	139	123	24	24	103	91	12	11	2	2	42	42
2000	98	84	24	24	150	129	19	14	0	0	22	13
2001	95	92	0	0	127	118	19	16	0	0	28	27
2002	85	81	3	3	105	98	4	3	2	2	21	20
2003	64	56	0	0	81	77	8	7	0	0	28	27
+ - 2002	-24.7%	-30.9%	-100.0%	-100%	-22.9%	-21.4%	100.0%	133.3%	-100.0%	-100.0%	33.3%	35.0%

ČR	Sec. 222/2b prosec. charged		Sec. 235/2f prosec. charged		Sec. 257/2b prosec. charged		Sec. 260 prosec. charged		Sec. 261 prosec. charged		Sec. 261a prosec. charged	
1989							6	4	33	30	0	0
1990							3	1	7	2	0	0
1991							1	0	3	1	0	0
1992	0	0					2	0	14	12	0	0
1993	3	1					8	5	11	6	0	0
1994	13	12					34	32	13	13	0	0
1995	23	23	0	0	6	5	13	11	118	101	0	0
1996	42	41	1	1	27	25	30	27	93	84	0	0
1997	45	43	5	5	18	15	29	18	105	98	0	0
1998	28	28	6	6	16	16	27	15	155	129	0	0
1999	30	28	1	0	16	16	52	37	159	136	0	0
2000	12	12	0	0	7	6	79	67	124	102	0	0
2001	6	6	3	3	2	2	51	41	198	164	1	0
2002	24	24	2	2	3	3	75	67	143	132	1	1
2003	13	13	0	0	6	4	28	17	96	84	1	1
+ - 2002	-45.8%	-45.8%	-100%	-100%	100.0%	33.3%	-62.7%	-74.6%	-32.9%	-36.4%	0.0%	0.0%

¹⁹ Statistics of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office as well as court statistics differ from police statistics with respect to the time period in which a crime is reported. The time when a crime was committed is not what is decisive, but the time when a State Prosecutor prepares a criminal charge, decides on its discontinuation, and so forth.

5.4 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the MFA)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in a number of activities held for example at the level of the United Nations (the UN), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (the OSCE) or the Council of Europe (the CoE).

On 24 – 26 September 2003 the Ministry played host to a regional seminar held by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights which was devoted to the implementation of conclusions of the UN World Conference against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. It was prepared for a group of states of Eastern and Southern Europe (according to the UN regional division). The seminar was divided into three blocks according to relevant topics: 1. Rights of Members of National, Ethnic, Religious and Language Minorities; 2. Romas: Problems and Prospects on the Way towards Equality; and 3. Xenophobia; whilst the issue of racism and extremism projected more or less into all parts of the discussion. It was a so-called expert seminar, which meant that always one expert involved for a long time in the issue in question gave a lecture (speech) related to one of the topics which enabled discussion of the problem specifically and in full detail.²⁰

The issue of national and ethnic minorities ranked among the crucial topics of the Human Dimension of the OSCE. **The Contact Spot for the Affairs of Romas and Sinti** deals with the position of the Roma minority. The MFA supported in 2003 activities carried out by this entity by a financial contribution amounting USD 10,000.

In November 2003 two-year negotiations on the **OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Roma and Sinti Position** were closed. Representatives of the MFA were involved in drawing up this Action Plan as well. It is a document built on the principle of full active participation of the Roma community in preparing and implementing projects and measures aimed at improving their position.

Within the Council of Europe the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was actively engaged in negotiations trying to set up a representative body for Romas at the international level – the European Roma Forum. The objective of this initiative is to strengthen the participation of Romas in public decision-making processes in Europe at all levels (international, national, and local) with regard to affairs concerning Romas.

Currently the draft agreement regulating relations between the above-mentioned Forum and the Council of Europe is being negotiated. In accordance with this draft the Council of Europe will provide a technical background for this organisation (space, information technology etc), and personnel and financial support. In order to finance the Forum funds were earmarked in the budget of the Council of Europe which will be available in the case that Forum is established in the next year.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Human Rights Department of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic started in 2003 to draw up the draft **Action Plan on Combating Racism**. The UN states are called to draw up such a plan on the basis of the final documents of the European and World Conference Against Racism. The plan will be prepared for a two-year period and lays down some partial tasks which should contribute to combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance in the Czech Republic. After two years fulfilment of the task will be evaluated and the plan will be updated, taking into account the current situation.

²⁰ Conclusions adopted at the seminar -see www.mzv.cz

5.5 The Ministry of Defence (the MD)

In 2003, as in the previous year, 2002, the Ministry of Defence paid attention to the protection of human rights and prevention of pathological social phenomena. The issues of racism, xenophobia, and extremism were taken into account in all educational programmes of the Army of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as “the Czech Army”), with special attention on secondary military schools and army academies. Special attention was focused on professional soldiers who were trained for international missions.

Neither Military Intelligence Services nor the Military Police ascertained in the Czech Army units any activities of extremist groups. In 2003 there was only one case of grounds for committing an offence with an extremist context.

On 11 February 2003 two national servicemen verbally offended Roma waiters/waitresses in a hotel in Jince. Both soldiers were suspected of committing the crime of defamation of a nation, race or conviction. The case is under investigation.

5.6 Preventative Activities

The contributions of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs traditionally consist of prevention. Their involvement is crucial because they in general contribute to creating a favourable climate for conflict free acceptance of differences in society and to eliminating racial, xenophobic and other extremist views. In the course of 2003, compared with 2002, no considerable or substantial changes occurred in the programmes of these ministries focused on extremism prevention.

5.6.1 The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (the MEYES)

In general

In 2003 the reform, new objectives and content of education contained in the draft act on pre-school, primary, secondary, post-secondary and other education and on the amendment to some other acts (the Act on Initial Education) were drawn up. Conditions concerning the education of minorities were newly regulated.

The Government of the Czech Republic adopted by its Resolution No. 343 of 7 April 2003 the Strategy of the National Policy for Children and Youth for up until 2007 in which the youth of national minorities, young migrants, refugees, young people, and the accession of the Czech Republic into the European Union, are taken into account.

Minority Education Unit

The MEYS set up, effective of 21 November 2003, the National Minority and Multicultural Education Unit which is part of the Department for Pre-School, Primary and Artistic Education, to improve communication with representatives of minorities and especially for conceptual reasons and to enhance administration of subsidy programmes and due inspection activities

Education and Training

In 2003 the Framework Educational Programme for Primary Education was drawn up. This takes into account education towards tolerance and against racism within the topic “A Human Being and Society” in the framework the subject “Education Towards Citizenship” which is being currently piloted. A similar programme is being prepared for secondary education.

The education of Romas is a priority the MEYS concentrated on.²¹ Some positive results were achieved in the field of secondary education. The education of foreign nationals, especially their children, remained, in compliance with the Strategy on Integration of Foreigners in the Czech Republic, a priority. The Czech School Inspection gathers important findings contributing to knowledge relating to requirements and problems concerning education of children of foreign nationals and monitors, on an ongoing basis, the situation in foreigner education at primary and secondary schools.

Education towards tolerance and against xenophobia and towards the promotion of foreigner integration, is part of the curricula for pre-graduate training of future teachers at Teacher Training Institutes. Consistent attention is paid to multicultural education at primary and secondary schools and apprentice centres. Multicultural education is at a very good level and it is developed especially at schools with higher numbers of foreign pupils, which are experienced with the education of foreigners. Comprehensive conditions for the gradual implementation of the efficient multicultural education of the whole Czech school population are created mainly through the support of *programmes* aiming at multicultural education of pupils.

Projects and Research Financed by the MEYS:

- Monitoring implementation of the Convention on the Rights of a Child and the status, situation and position of children in the Czech Republic drawn up by the Institution of Children and Youth of the MEYS.
- Monitoring of the efficiency of the programme of preparatory classes for children from disadvantaged or deprived environments.
- An analysis of the efficiency of the subsidy programme of the MEYS “Support of Roma Students at Secondary Schools” drawn up by the Faculty of Human Studies of Charles University.

Directly in relation to the issues monitored by the MEYS this ministry developed in 2003 the following activities:

- the Ministry supported a cycle of training seminars for teachers at secondary schools concerning extremism, which were organised by the Institution of Educational System Development operating within the Pedagogical Faculty of Charles University and the National Institution of Professional Training;
- when awarding a certificate of approval, the Ministry requires that textbooks take into account the issues of national and ethnic minorities (textbooks of history, civics, literature are assessed by experts from the Museum of Roma Culture and the Jewish Museum);

²¹ Information of some international organisations that an inappropriate number of Roma pupils attend special school, is, according to the MEYS, presented without an awareness of the whole issue and real situation at Czech schools and the current educational system in the Czech Republic. In five primary schools in municipalities with a considerable number of Roma community members, in cooperation with the civic association League of Community Schools, an experimental project of a school with an all-day programme is implemented (comprehensive all-day operations of a school and school facilities including boarding and a club for mothers). This is a special form of experimental verification for a period of two years during the academic years 2002/03 and 2003/04. Despite current social criticism it is necessary to note that Roma children and youth in the Czech Republic are literate. The majority of them finish primary education and they have natural opportunities to continue in gaining qualifications at secondary schools, especially at apprentice centres and practical schools which have a wide offer of professional branches.

- the Ministry supported the Summer Schools for Teachers of Civics (the issue of extremism and terrorism was considered as well). Seminars for the project “A Citizen” and seminars “How to Teach about the Holocaust” (Terezin Memorial) were held;
- the Ministry has drawn up a number of informative documents for schools containing methodology focusing on support of Roma pupils and a video cassette “An Extremist” determined for teachers at primary and secondary schools.

MEYS’ Subsidy Programmes

In 2003 nine Roma associations (a subsidy of CZK 1.1 million) and another seven associations working with national minorities (a subsidy of CZK 3 million) were supported within the framework of the Programme of National Support for Work with Children and Youth for non-governmental organisations.

The Programme of Education in the Languages of National Minorities and Multicultural Education is determined for all national minorities living in the Czech Republic. The aim of this subsidy programme is to step up awareness of general human coexistence and cultures of other nations, education towards mutual tolerance and against racism and xenophobia. **The programme is divided into three topics. In 2003 altogether 48 projects were accepted and funded by the amount of CZK 8,177, 650.**

5.6.2 Ministry of Culture (the MC)

Mass Media

In comparison with 2002 in 2003 no changes occurred in this area.

Churches and Religious Life

In 2003, as in 2002, no problems with racist, xenophobic or other extremist manifestations were recorded with regard to the entities or representatives of organisations registered with the Ministry of Culture. Neither any new churches nor religious societies were newly registered and no decision on the rejection of registration was issued.²² The Ministry of Culture does not deal with the activities of unregistered associations. However it supports the activities of the Society for Studying Sects and New Religious Movements by way of grants, and, if needed, it uses information gathered by this Society.

The Ministry of Culture is not authorised to monitor the activities of registered churches and religious societies, but it is obliged to respond to impulses which would prove the aforementioned to be dangerous and unlawful activities. First the Ministry calls for the ending of such activities and then it can commence proceedings to cancel the registration of such a church or religious society.

5.6.3 Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (the MLSA)

Due to public administration reform, methodological management of social workers was transferred from 1 January 2003 from the MLSA to regional authorities. As a result the ministry has become an advisory body and cannot directly influence activities carried out by workers in social services under the authority municipalities and regions.

²² Within its registration proceedings the Ministry of Culture always collects information on respective extremist, xenophobic, racial or other similar dangerous manifestations of groups applying for registration.

Activities in 2003

Cooperation with the Probation and Mediation Service

In 2003 representatives of the MLSA participated in meetings of working groups initiated by the Probation and Mediation Service (hereinafter referred to as “the PMS”). The MLSA assisted as an advisory and consultative body in drawing up methodological documents of the PMS necessary for implementing probation and resocialising programmes (cooperation of bodies engaged in social and legal protection and PMS staff along social service providers).

Subsidy Policy of the MLSA

Within the subsidy policy – pilot / innovative projects – the MLSA declared projects focusing on supporting fight against extremism to be one of the subsidised areas in 2003. Two projects were submitted, however they were not supported.

Rapid Intervention Centre

The MLSA included in its publishing plan a booklet on educational programme which was implemented within the project in question. The educational programme is well evaluated by its participants and more persons are keen on attending it (it was repeatedly implemented in 2003 and its implementation is being prepared for 2004). This publication will be issued in the first half of 2004.

Measures within the Competence of the MLSA for Preventing and Combating Extremism in 2004

The MLSA will, in the framework of subsidy provision proceedings, promote projects aimed at preventing and combating extremism, whilst the priority will be support of activities focusing on social and crime prevention.

Within the Operational Programme of Human Rights Development, which is priority number 2, measure 2.1, the MLSA will invite entities to submit projects within the framework of the grant scheme for Social Service Workers Professional Training. This invitation will enable the submission of projects aimed at the education of the staff of the Probation and Mediation Service concentrating on certain specific areas, for example the perpetrators of crimes having an extremist context.

VI. Conclusion

On 1 May 2004 the Czech Republic will become a regular member of the European Union. In this context it may be said that the situation in the Czech Republic does not differ from European trends. The issue of extremism is dealt with both at the prevention and suppression levels. Adopted measures and procedures for solving the issue in question are comparable with mechanisms of the current EU Member States.

In 2003 no substantial changes were recorded on the extremist scene. It remains disunited and fragmented, accompanied by efforts of right-wing as well as left-wing extremist entities to unify this scene and to improve its activities. Illusory, from the outside perceived dampening of the extremist scene, was in direct connection with increasing conspiracy. For their mutual communication extremists used very intensively the internet and other available up-to-date communication media. In the second half of the year monitored music performances with foreign participation dominated activities of the right-wing extremist spectrum.

The National Resistance, on one side, and the left-wing extremist organisation Antifascist Action, on the other side, have remained the most militant organisations.

In 2003, as in previous years, crimes with an extremist context were mostly committed by right-wing extremist skinheads and citizens from the majority society who did not have any links to extremist movements. The victims of such crimes were particularly members of the Roma population and dark skinned foreigners. However clashes between militant anarchist and skinheads have become increasingly dangerous.

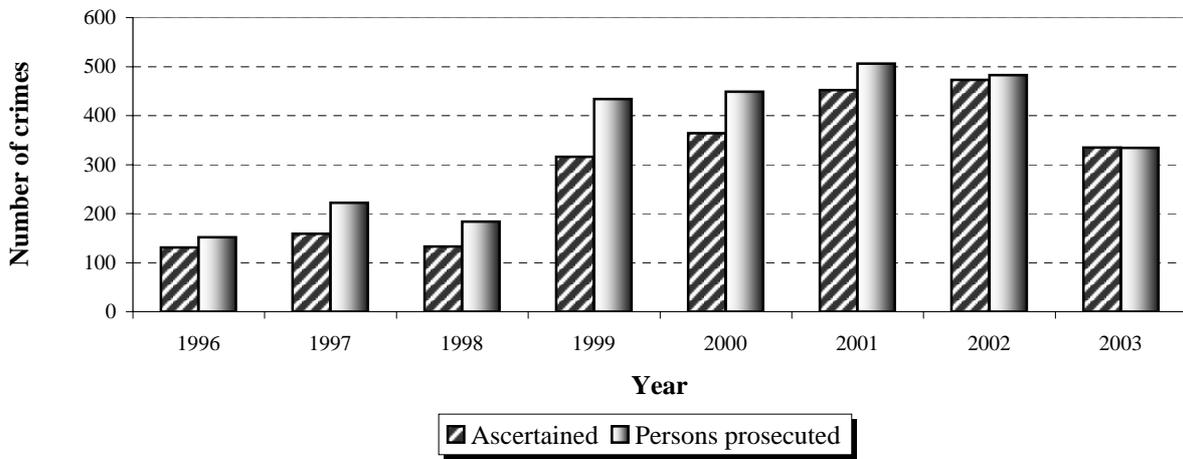
In 2003, compared with 2002, a reduction in crimes by 29.1% (335 in 2003, 473 in 2002) was recorded. The number of offenders decreased by 30.8% (334 in 2003, 483 in 2002). With regard to the manner in which criminal prosecution was terminated the proposal for submission of an indictment prevailed. In terms of the composition of criminal offences, crimes under Sections 260, 261, and 261a (the support and propagation of movements aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms) and Section 198 (the incitement of national or racial hatred) of the Criminal Code prevailed as in the previous year. One case of ecological extremism was recorded (attack against the Biotest). In 2003, as in 2002, no homicidal attempts or murders with a racial context were committed. However, hooligans murdered a homeless man although a racial or other extremist motive was not proven.

In 2003 state administration bodies met, on an ongoing basis, current measures which were considered to be sufficient and no changes occurred with regard to the issue of extremism.

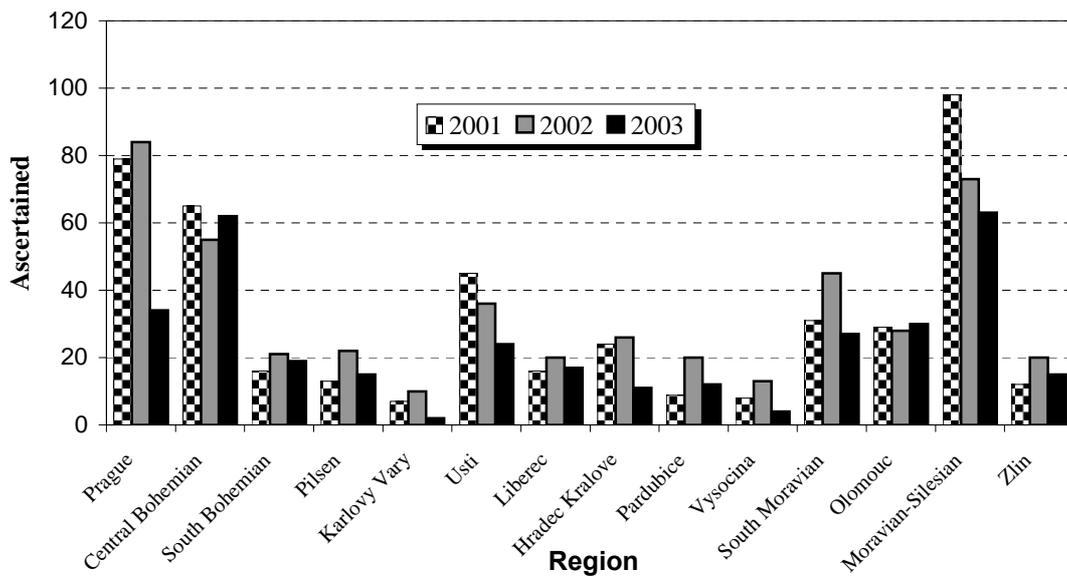
The inter-ministerial Commission for Combating Extremism, Racism, and Xenophobia, which is an advisory body to the Minister of the Interior, after evaluating the situation in the field of extremism in 2003, set up **priorities for 2004**. These are primarily **Islamic extremism, anti-Semitism, misuse of the Internet by extremists, the issue of sects and new religious movements, and a consistent monitoring of the whole extremist scene**.

The international political situation concerning the shift of terrorist activities of Islamic extremist to Europe confirmed the correctness of such priorities. Similarly priorities of the Working Group of the Countries of V4 and Austria for Combating Extremism were set out at its meeting in February 2004. In this situation increased demands for monitoring of the extremist scene and its foreign contacts and the need to strengthen international cooperation to the widest possible extent are being brought to the fore.

The Development of Crimes with an Extremist Context and Their Offenders Ascertained in the Czech Republic from 1996 until 2003



Crimes with an Extremist Context in Regions (according to a new regional division) of the Czech Republic from 2001 until 2003



Proportion of Individual Regions (according to a new regional division) in Crimes with an Extremist Context in the Czech Republic in 2003

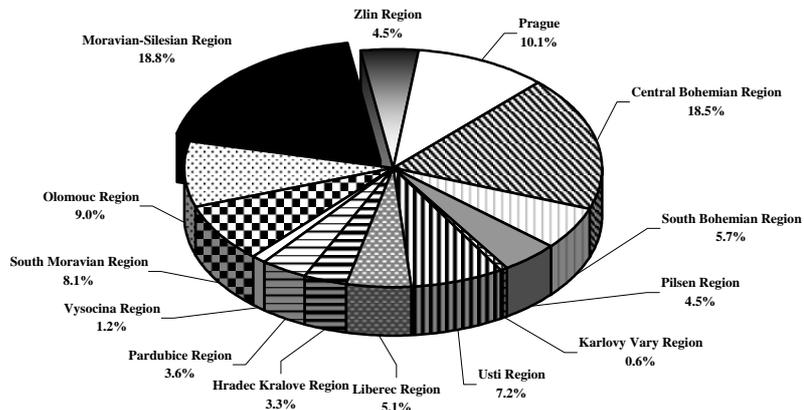


Table No. 1, Diagram No. 2

The Number of Crimes with an Extremist Context in the Czech Republic in 2002 and 2003

Year		2002	2003	factual change	
Region	District	Number of crimes	Number of crimes		
Prague	Praha	84	34	-50	
CB	Benesov	6	0	-6	
	Beroun	4	4	0	
	Kladno	18	7	-11	
	Kolin	5	0	-5	
	Kutna Hora	1	3	2	
	Melnik	5	5	0	
	Mlada Boleslav	3	1	-2	
	Nymburk	3	1	-2	
	Prague - vychod (East)	2	40	38	
	Prague- zapad (West)	1	0	-1	
	Pribram	7	1	-6	
	Rakovnik	0	0	0	
	Total		55	62	7
	SB	Ceske Budejovice	4	10	6
Cesky Krumlov		4	0	-4	
Jindrichuv Hradec		3	0	-3	
Pelhrimov		1	0	-1	
Pisek		4	3	-1	
Prachatice		3	3	0	
Strakonice		2	1	-1	
Tabor		1	2	1	
Total			22	19	-3
WB		Domazlice	6	3	-3
		Cheb	3	2	-1
	Karlovy Vary	3	0	-3	
	Klatovy	1	1	0	
	Pilsen - mesto (City)	11	9	-2	
	Pilsen - jih (South)	0	1	1	
	Pilsen - sever (North)	0	1	1	
	Rokycany	2	0	-2	
	Sokolov	4	0	-4	
	Tachov	2	0	-2	
	Total		32	17	-15
	NB	Ceska Lipa	6	3	-3
		Decin	2	2	0
		Chomutov	4	1	-3
Jablonec n. Nisou		4	1	-3	
Liberec		7	12	5	
Litomerice		11	5	-6	
Louny		2	1	-1	
Most		12	8	-4	
Teplice		3	1	-2	
Usti n. Labem		2	6	4	
Total			53	40	-13

Year		2002	2003	factual change	
Region	District	Number of crimes	Number of crimes		
EB	Havlickuv Brod	2	0	-2	
	Hradec Kralove	11	3	-8	
	Chrudim	2	3	1	
	Jicin	2	0	-2	
	Nachod	7	5	-2	
	Pardubice	15	9	-6	
	Rychnov n. Kneznou	1	0	-1	
	Semily	3	1	-2	
	Svitavy	1	0	-1	
	Trutnov	5	3	-2	
	Usti n. Orlici	2	0	-2	
	Total		51	24	-27
	SM	Blansko	2	4	2
Brno - mesto		21	15	-6	
Brno - venkov		4	2	-2	
Breclav		6	0	-6	
Hodonin		9	4	-5	
Jihlava		2	1	-1	
Kromeriz		1	2	1	
Prostejov		8	2	-6	
Trebic		1	1	0	
Uherske Hradiste		1	4	3	
Vyskov		1	0	-1	
Zlin		5	5	0	
Znojmo		2	2	0	
Zdar n. Sazavou		7	2	-5	
Total		70	44	-26	
NM	Bruntal	5	4	-1	
	Frydek - Mistek	5	3	-2	
	Jesenik	5	7	2	
	Karvina	20	16	-4	
	Novy Jicin	4	3	-1	
	Olomouc	4	12	8	
	Opava	8	5	-3	
	Ostrava	31	32	1	
	Prerov	6	5	-1	
	sumperk	5	4	-1	
	Vsetin	13	4	-9	
	Celkem	106	95	-11	
	Czech Republic - total		473	335	-138

Share of Individual Regions in Crimes with an Extremist Context Ascertained in the Czech Republic in 2003

