

COLLECTION

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News



## Neo Nazi groups in the Czech Republic and Eastern Europe countries

By Gwendolyn Albert



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All the documents in this Collection have been published between January and August 2010 in English on the website <http://romea.cz/english> after being translated by Gwendolyn Albert.

## 1. How do act the Neo-Nazis ?

### A. Political activities

Prague  
14.1.2010

#### **Workers' Party ideologically and rhetorically linked to Nazism**

Here in the Czech Republic, some journalists and lawyers have gotten used to taking the arguments of Workers' Party chair Tomáš Vandas seriously. To a great extent, the positivistic approach of courts to the law, which focuses more on formal requirements than on the essence of a case, is responsible for this. Why this method of consideration has been taken on by journalists deserves a separate study. Let's look more closely at the main arguments that have been made by Vandas during this ongoing trial.

Vandas's demagoguery

The Workers' Party (Dělnická strana - DS), according to Vandas, is not a neo-Nazi party. If neo-Nazis have appeared in its ranks, he claims he is not to blame, because he does not "screen" party members. The high number of party members who have been sentenced for racially motivated crimes (and run-of-the-mill ones) is said to be compensated for by the clean criminal records of some of the members of the party presidium.

According to Vandas, the National Resistance organization is an entity that cannot be legally defined, so if the government suspects him of contact with people from the National Resistance, it must first prove that the National Resistance even exists. "Can the government show who leads National Resistance, what its structure and membership base are? Can the government show a contract proving these connections between the party and National Resistance? I have never seen any such proof, these are just empty proclamations," Vandas has testified. Another of his claims is that the DS is allegedly a "patriotic" party.

Journalists: Lazy, or just incompetent?

These claims are all obviously demagoguery of the coarsest caliber, but the commentaries of most journalists, commentators and bloggers here make a pretense of considering that Vandas's claims might just possibly be correct. Some editors have invited him, without blushing, to participate in radio and television program discussions, and the print media quotes him as if he were a regular politician. Most writers do this out of either laziness or out of an inability to perform proper research, think deeply, or contextualize.

There is no sense in trying to prove things to Vandas which are completely self-evident – for example, that National Resistance exists. Whoever organizes demonstrations and other events under their rubric, whoever carries the banners reading "National Resistance" to these events, and whoever publishes their internet magazine exists without question, irrespective of what Vandas believes. However, the average court, or in this case the Supreme Administrative Court, will most probably not find such evidence sufficient, because their positivistic approach to the law professes only a formalistic attention to detail. The judges are not interested in the essence of the case. It is only a slight exaggeration to claim that what they are interested in is whether the official stamps appear in the right places. The publicly available evidence of the existence of National Resistance would certainly suffice for the Constitutional Court, which is governed by natural law considerations including common sense and a sense for justice, and which therefore usually concerns itself with the essence of a case, not with formalistic games.

The Workers' Party attracts violent offenders

Let's take a closer look at a few matters in the manner of the Constitutional Court. According to the government's motion to ban the party, the interrelatedness of the Workers' Party and National Resistance is evident from their participation in each other's public events and from the detailed references to the party's activities on the web server Odpor.org, which endorses National Resistance. The Workers' Youth, which is officially connected to the party, has also registered a periodical entitled "National Resistance" with the Czech Culture Ministry. "Are those two words used in that order banned?" Vandas asked in court with his proverbial demagoguery. No, they are not, but they do prove the connection

to the party, has also registered a periodical entitled "National Resistance" with the Czech Culture Ministry. "Are those two words used in that order banned?" Vandas asked in court with his proverbial demagoguery. No, they are not, but they do prove the connection between the party and National Resistance.

Vandas says he will not screen members of the party in order to determine whether they participate in neo-Nazi events or whether they have spent time in prison for racist violence, attempted murder, robbery, shoplifting, or any other crime. Whether he screens them or not is not the point. The important question is: What kinds of people are attracted by the actions, program and rhetoric of the party leaders? The ideologies of the DS, National Resistance and other neo-Nazi groups are close, if not identical. The party offers the same "solutions" to problems as its fellow-travelers do, and attracts the same people: Aggressive brawlers and violent criminals.

For example, one of the arsonists in the Vítkov case is Jaromír Lukeš, a neo-Nazi for many years who in the past was engaged in the organization National Corporativism, where he worked as chair of the local organization in Opava and convened events. He convened a demonstration in Přerov in March 2007, at which Vandas also spoke.

The government has also shown that party candidates Jiří Švehlík, Patrik Vondrák, Simona Skoumalová, Mirko Musil, Ladislav Butz and Milan Hroch have all participated in the public concerts, events and marches of neo-Nazi associations in the Czech Republic and abroad. In the so-called "Protection Corps" of the Workers' Party, which primarily attracts aggressive brawlers, the government has discovered other people who have spent time in neo-Nazi circles, such as Tomáš Kebza (a known violent offender), Jiří Tůma, Lukáš Rod, Jan Strnad and Petr Knor.

Very strange "patriots"

The government has demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt that the party is connected to National Resistance and other neo-Nazi groups. Let's take a closer look at the declared "patriotism" of the party and these groups.

Workers' Youth is the party's youth organization. Its program includes the statement that "our country belongs only to us, not to immigrants and people of different nationalities". Another point of the program says the organization views faith in National Socialism "as the central idea determining the existence and actions of the nation". Workers' Youth is thus programmatically endorsing the legacy of Adolf Hitler. Moreover, this last point is number 18 on the program, a code among neo-Nazis that symbolizes Hitler's initials.

Steffen Pohl, a representative of the German group Free Resistance - Dortmund, spoke at one of the 1 May gatherings convened by the Workers' Party and National Resistance. Speaking in English, Pohl supported Hitler's ideology by stating, for example, that 75 years ago (i.e., at the moment Hitler rose to power), Germany "liberated itself" from the forces of international financial capital. Vandas, who of course also spoke at this event, has now distanced himself from that statement - and he waited until yesterday in court to do so, when his party is at risk of being banned. During the intervening years Pohl's statement did not bother him; on the contrary, as we will show below, he indirectly endorsed it.

The 1 May holiday is evidently a party favorite, as the following story shows. On that day, party demonstrators wielded a banner reading "National Resistance - Free - Social - National". Next to the slogan, the figure of a young man is depicted with a proud, uncompromising expression on his face. Several of the demonstrators were later sentenced for carrying that banner, among other violations. Workers' Youth chair Martin Zbela, a Goebbels-type propagandist who has made a clean sweep of working in editorial posts for extreme right-wing papers ever since the days of the "Republican News" (Republikánský listy) protested their sentencing as follows: "The words 'National Resistance - Free, National, Social' [sic] are just as legitimate and have as much right to be used as any other words, for example, 'Communism - Classless, International, Socialist'."

That might sound convincing to some - in fact, just as convincing as the Nazi propaganda of the 1930s. Zbela has somehow forgotten to mention, however, that the youth with the proud, uncompromising expression has already figured in previous occasions - namely, on a poster promoting "Triumph of the Will" (naturally, the Nazi will). This is the infamous

documentary film about the 5th Congress of the Nazi NSDAP which took place from 1 -3 September 1933 in Nuremberg.

This piece of propagandistic trash was made by the documentary filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl. At the time, the credibility of the film was enhanced by the fact that Riefenstahl was an artist recognized worldwide for her professionalism, and this was one of the many reasons that some well-known intellectuals in democratic countries remained unconcerned about Nazism for quite some time. The designer of the original poster for the film is the graphic artist Hans Schweizer, who preferred to be called Mjöltnir, which in Norse mythology refers to Thor's hammer of thunder (Thor was the warrior of the gods.) Mjöltnir produced many posters as part of Nazi propaganda and was brought into the service of the NSDAP by that first Nazi propagandist, Josef Goebbels himself. As the court told the public when sentencing those who carried the banner in May: National Resistance is a demonstrably neo-Nazi organization, so whoever promotes it is also promoting neo-Nazism.

Ideological/rhetorical affiliations to Nazism

There is a great deal of evidence that the ideology and rhetoric of the Workers' Party is that of Nazi fellow-travelers. For example: An anti-Semitic caricature by Filip Rupprecht, once published in the Nazi tabloid *Der Stürmer*, now republished on the front page of *Dělnický listy* ("Workers' News" - the DS party newspaper); or the tattoo worn by DS media icon Lucie Šlágrová in the form of a drawing of a worker with the motto "My Honor is Loyalty", which was the motto of the SS; or the fact that the party decided to call their updated version of the "People's Militia", organized to terrorize and attack Roma, its "Protection Corps" (Ochranné sbory) - in German, Schutz-Staffel or SS. An earlier logo of the *Dělnický listy* is also distinctive in that it is almost identical to an NSDAP election poster from 1932 featuring the slogan: "The Workers Vote for Hitler, the Soldier from the Front".

To conclude this overview of the "patriotism" of the Workers' Party, here is one more "tidbit" reported to *Romea.cz* by the monitoring section of the League against Anti-Semitism (Liga proti antisemitismu - LPA): The party's current electoral poster is identical to that of the Nazi NSDAP. "The Workers' Party poster was originally available on the web pages of the Autonomous Nationalists. However, about three days ago [Author's Note: At the start of the court proceedings on banning the party] the content of those pages was changed; the Autonomous Nationalists admit the change on their Facebook profile. References to the party have also disappeared from the poster. However, an LPA member told us that the strange term "lžidokracie" [Translator's Note: This combines the word for "lie" in Czech, "lež" and the word for "Jew", "Žid", and can be translated as "Lying-Jew-ocracy"] turns up in several other party materials (for example, here: <http://www.delnickastrana.cz/Hlasmladeze0.pdf>).

The "friendship" pact

Evidence on the National Resistance website also substantiates the Workers' Party's Nazi inclinations, especially a document entitled the "Founding Pact between Czech and German Friends". The introduction to this pact demonstrates the existence of National Resistance: "As part of an informal meeting between friends from the Czech Republic and Germany/Austria we have agreed on the following basic principles and joint policy. This agreement concerns all friends and friendly clubs in active operation under the rubric of the National Resistance movement on the territory of the Czech lands on the one hand and the National Resistance of Germany and Austria on the other."

What did these Austrian, Czech and German "friends" agree to? To abolish the Beneš Decrees, for which the Czech "friends" can "count on limitless support from the German side". According to the pact, this is the only way to maintain collaboration in accordance with the strategic aim of creating a "Europe of nations".

This pact then continues with these key points:

"3. In this sense we are intentionally building on the tradition of the German Reich and its allies as the buttress and core of Europe. Only our joint struggle can halt the adulteration of our nations by enemy powers through the biological and economic burden posed by these foreign influences.

4. We, the Czech and German friendship groups, have agreed to provide one another bilateral support and mutual aid wherever possible.

5. This treaty will serve to end the enslavement of our nations, into which we were plunged by the post-war domination of the victorious allied powers. It will also lead to the removal of the powers behind the scenes (supranational finance). This will then lay the foundation for mutual respect, for advocacy of policies that serve the people by paying attention to their independence and their national specifics, and for creating a pan-European responsibility."

This is really interesting. These alleged patriots are "building on the traditions of the German Reich and its allies as the buttress and core of Europe" - the Reich that wanted to murder off one part of the Czechs and resettle the rest of them in Siberia. We can easily reconstruct how the "national specifics" might actually end up - after all, in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia the German Nazis thoroughly exterminated all such "peculiarities". Notice also that once again the topic is the removal of "supranational finance" (in other words, Jews), just as in the speech by Steffen Pohl, the German neo-Nazi representing the Free Resistance - Dortmund group at the Workers' Party 1 May gathering. Vandas's "sidestep"

A clear aim is expressed in this pact: To recreate the German Reich, or rather a "Europe of nations", under the leadership of Nazi Germany and as a part of it, on the basis of an ideology of anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia to be practiced by the state. Everything here irrefutably indicates Hitlerite Nazism. As can be seen, these "patriots" are planning an "old-new" future for us, even if the chair of the Workers' Party has made his excuses a hundred times over and claims he has nothing to do with such an idea. "We have never endorsed the ideas of Hitler's Germany, we have never endorsed the ideas of the Third Reich," Vandas testified, calling the claims that he venerates Adolf Hitler an "audacious lie".

Of course, it is easy to determine who the liar is here. All we have to do is remember that Tomáš Vandas spoke in the German town of Altenburg in September 2008 at the so-called "Festival of Nations", organized by the German neo-Nazi NPD party. "We reject the vision of the architects of the world order who consider Fortress Europe to be the last obstacle to realizing their centuries-old dream of world domination," Vandas said there (among other remarks), and thus he added his voice to this conspiratorial idea of Jewish world domination, which has been invented and reproduced by anti-Semites throughout history. As can be seen, Vandas actually does endorse the ideas of Steffen Pohl (ideas that are a component of the "friendship pact" between the Austrian, Czech and German neo-Nazis) from which Vandas formally distanced himself before the court. Vandas has also performed a remarkable, almost Címrman-like "sidestep" in which, by temporarily taking up the argument of his opponent, he then attempts to prove his opponent wrong.

A year after the September 2008 speech, this time in the Thuringian town of Pößneck, Patrik Vondrák, chair of the local Workers' Party organization in Prague, gave a speech of his own. This man of Vandas's, an adherent of the National Resistance movement, was arrested by police last October during a raid on right-wing extremists. In his speech, Vondrák called for solidarity between nationalists of different countries and for them to collaborate, as it would be important for the future of Europe and the preservation of their identities. Afterward he thanked all European nationalists for their help, solidarity and support. Once again, in other words, we are at the "Europe of nations" and the all-encompassing Reich.

A Workers' Party regime

According to the government proposal to ban the Workers' Party, the party wants to change the current democratic regime into a quasi-totalitarian or completely totalitarian one. This claim can be easily demonstrated by the rhetoric of DS representatives. For example, Tomáš Vandas told the Prague town hall officials and police officers who dispersed an unannounced DS demonstration last 17 November, in a Gottwaldesque rage: "I can assure you that your turn for all of this will come soon, don't worry. Everything comes in its time." In conclusion, to emphasize

These are too many simultaneous "coincidences" for it not to be clear what is going on here.

It is no longer necessary to demonstrate further, as the proponents of positivistic reasoning demand, what the "intentions" of the Workers' Party are, as from the standpoint of common sense and a sense for justice, everything is clear. The party, beyond any doubt, is linked through its behavior, propaganda and rhetoric to Nazi ideology and symbolism.

Why is the ban on the Workers' Party so important? These parties must be dissolved (the effort should be made) even if the exact same people will immediately turn around and set up yet another party. This is an important mechanism for society to show what it thinks of the ideologies and "politicians" of these parties. At the same time, it restricts their room for movement (their boundaries) to the fringe of society. This is why the Workers' Party and other similar initiatives are considered the "extreme" right-wing.

Everything above would be more than enough for a court that honors natural law to ban the Workers' Party (and there are many other pieces of evidence and arguments of this sort to be made). However, we can be sure of nothing with the Supreme Administrative Court. It depends on the degree to which the judges succeed in suppressing the bureaucratic, pedantic reasoning that, as proponents of positivism, is like a second skin to them.

## B. Public actions

### Prague 18.1.2010 **Neo-Nazi demonstration in Prague a complete debacle**

Last week neo-Nazis announced demonstrations for Friday and Saturday on behalf of Workers' Party members arrested last Wednesday. The demonstrations in Pardubice and Prague were both complete debacles. "There are about 20 of them talking in small groups, the event will most probably end soon," our reporter announced from the scene in Prague on Saturday. That unsuccessful protest ended after 20 minutes, with the neo-Nazis heading to local restaurants.

The neo-Nazi web server [odpor.org](http://odpor.org) had announced that the demonstrators wanted to express their disagreement with "the illegal detentions in custody" of their associates. They also wanted to protest a recent police operation targeting extreme-right promoters.

"The reasons for the police raids were the posting of fliers and stickers, our support for those in prison, the organization of musical events, and mainly our membership in the DS. We view all of these reasons as absurd and completely illogical in a democratic state," the website, which is connected with the illegal neo-Nazi National Resistance movement, writes.

"Friends, as you certainly know already, another police raid took place in the early morning hours on our territory. The system has once again demonstrated its totalitarian practices in all their beauty and has more people to account for. Now is the time to show RESISTANCE!" the neo-Nazis wrote last Wednesday on the Autonomous Nationalists' website after the DS members were arrested. "Organize your own spontaneous demonstration in support of these political prisoners... The time has come to build real RESISTANCE. Don't write on the internet, TAKE ACTION! WE are the ones who will make the rules now," the neo-Nazis threatened on the website.

Police detectives intervened against the extremists last Wednesday, arresting three people whom they charged with supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. During a more extensive action last October, police arrested 24 extremists throughout the Czech Republic.

A group of about 15 extreme-right adherents gathered last Wednesday in Husová street in Prague. They then moved to protest in front of police headquarters in Bartolomějská street. Another demonstration was meant to take place on Friday in Pardubice. Only five neo-Nazis showed up and the event was a fiasco.

During the second half of October 2009, police detectives from the Organized Crime Detection Unit also arrested six people in Kladno and Prague during the "Lotta I" operation. Police subsequently charged two of them, the chair of the Prague branch of the DS Patrik Vondrák and party member Michaela Dupová with supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. Detectives said both had participated in ensuring the production and distribution of materials promoting the unregistered National Resistance movement and its women's branch, Resistance Women Unity. Both remain in custody. The charges against them have allegedly been expanded since then.

Lotta I was one of three simultaneous operations targeting promoters of the extreme right last October. During the other two operations, police detectives arrested 18 people in various places around the country. A total of 16 of them were then charged with supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. Some of those arrested were originally suspected of preparing a terrorist attack on Czech territory.

### Plzeň 25.4.2010 **Nazi debacle in Plzeň: 100 Nazis, six of them detained, 200 counter-protesters**

Yesterday Jiří Strobach, magistrate of the central municipal district of Plzeň, dispersed a previously announced Nazi march shortly after it began. Deputy Regional Police Director Jaromír Kníže later told journalists the demonstration had been dispersed because the

slogans on the clothing of some participants were most probably illegal. High Commissioner Jana Václavová told the Czech Press Agency that police had detained four people at the march, including a foreign national, and detained another two after it was dispersed.

Strobach said the gathering fundamentally deviated from its stated purpose as described to the authorities in January by the conveners, "support for political prisoners". At the time it was announced, officials had no legal reason to ban the event. "Some of the speeches by the participants in this gathering (today) clearly showed that there was a fundamental deviation from the stated purpose of the gathering, and that is a violation of the law on assembly. Other laws were broken by speeches aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. We warned the organizers the law was being broken, but they did not correct the situation," the magistrate said.

"It has been determined that there is a suspicion that the crime of establishing, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms has been committed. Several of the participants of this march committed this crime by wearing t-shirts with slogans that unambiguously gave us cause to initiate criminal proceedings against them," Deputy Regional Police Director Kníže said.

The march of approximately 100 people set off after 14:00 yesterday, about one hour later than originally planned, and was accompanied by hundreds of police officers. The event was dispersed a few minutes later. Czech Press Agency reporters said the participants managed to walk only a few meters. They set off on their route shouting "Freedom for Political Prisoners!" Marchers carried black or red and white flags with the Bohemian lion and several banners. Police had checked the banners and flags prior to the start of the event to make sure they did not violate the law.

Those suspected of committing the crime of promoting the suppression of human rights include a 26-year-old native of Plzeň, a 32-year-old native of Ostrava, and a 22-year-old man from the southern Plzeň region, all of whom were wearing clothing with objectionable inscriptions. Václavová later specified that a 26-year-old foreign national was suspected of demonstrating sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms due to a tattoo of an objectionable symbol on a part of his body clearly visible to others. Police later detained a 40-year-old man from the northern Plzeň region and a 20-year-old Prager over slogans on their clothing. A 29-year-old man from Plzeň was also taken into custody on suspicion of committing a misdemeanor against public order. "The decision to initiate criminal proceedings against specific individuals will be made on the basis of expert evaluations," Václavová said.

A cordon of police officers directed the marchers, some of whom were evidently German and Polish nationals, toward the bus station, preventing them from entering the center of town. At Husovo náměstí (Hus Square) officers recommended various routes for dispersal, and the demonstrators slowly left in small groups for their cars or for the bus station. Police were prepared to monitor the situation in the town for the rest of the day.

Police reported in a press release that "Around 100 people attended the march in support of political prisoners, and officers also noted about 200 counter-protesters dispersed in smaller groups throughout the streets of Plzeň." The counter-protesters ended their gatherings once the extremists' march had been dispersed. "Today we have succeeded in protecting Plzeň from the Nazis, they did not march through town. This is an enormous victory for democracy," the news server Deník.cz quoted Jiří Metod Kasl as saying.

Czech Human Rights Commissioner Michael Kocáb was also in Plzeň. Deník.cz reported he was on hand to observe the march because during his time as minister he had learned that it was best to be directly at the scene of such events and not learn about them second-hand. Deník.cz quoted Kocáb as saying that civil rights protections required that such events not be banned outright, but the decision as to whether to permit a gathering to go forward should be made on the spot.

Police did their best to prevent conflicts between the marchers and counter-protesters, some of whom gathered on náměstí Republiky (Square of the Republic) with a banner reading "We Don't Want Nazis Here", and some of whom were moving around in small groups near the place where the march was to start. There were no direct clashes. "Had the march

gone ahead along the route and at the time announced, we had information that the left-wing scene would gather with the intention of attacking the participants of the right-wing march," Kníže said.

Crowds of people also watched the march from the sidewalks. As many as 500 police from other regions were deployed to assist local officers. An anti-conflict team, police dogs, and officers on horseback were also deployed. Three armored transport carriers were deployed in the streets near the town center and the situation was monitored by helicopter. "The extent of the measures is the same as those we have taken in previous years," Kníže said. He estimated the costs of the deployment at one million Czech crowns.

The right-wing extremists had announced their event as lasting from 13:00 until 18:00 and had counted on anywhere from 100 to 400 people attending. The march was convened by Tomáš Vondrášek, Michal Hilák and Marek Henzl. The Anti-fascist Action group says these individuals are members of the Plzeň Autonomous Nationalists. That group has participated in organizing right-wing extremist marches in Plzeň in the past. This was the third year in a row that extremists have marched through the town, but yesterday marked the first time authorities have dispersed their event on the spot.

Even though police had called on people to avoid the route of the march, residents were evidently not scared off. The main square and the places along the route were calm, with locals and tourists out on foot.

## C. Violence

Warsaw  
4.1.2010

### **Neo-Nazis trying to finance assassination plot are behind theft of Auschwitz sign**

The alleged instigator of the theft of the "Arbeit macht frei" ("Work will set you free") sign from the former concentration camp at Auschwitz, a man living in Sweden, is said to have intended to use the proceeds of the sale of the sign to finance an assassination plot at the Swedish Parliament and at the prime minister's headquarters in Stockholm. The news was reported in the Swedish media on 2 January with reference to that country's intelligence services.

Polish media reported on 2 January that Polish Justice Minister Krzysztof Kwiatkowski had requested Swedish Justice Minister Beatrice Ask to arrest the alleged instigator. Polish investigators have already discovered his identity.

According to the Swedish daily Aftonbladet as cited by AFP, the alleged instigator wanted to sell the sign and use the proceeds to finance bomb attacks on the Swedish Parliament and the headquarters of Swedish PM Frederik Reinfeldt. Saepo, the Swedish secret service, recently announced it had initiated an investigation into a neo-Nazi conspiracy, part of which included an attack on important state buildings.

Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza reported before Christmas that according to the preliminary results of the investigation, a certain Swede had ordered the theft and offered to pay between EUR 10 000 - 30 000. Polish police refused to comment on the news, but did indicate that someone from abroad was evidently behind the crime.

The sign disappeared from the gate of the former concentration camp in the early morning hours of 18 December. Police later found it in the municipality of Czernikowo not far from Toruń in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian voivodeship. It was hidden in the woods under a pile of branches and snow near the home of one of the arrested suspects.

Police arrested five people, three of whom have confessed to the crime. The sign will be repaired and re-installed over the entrance to the former camp, which is now a memorial.

According to historians, 1.1 million Jews, 140 000 political prisoners from Poland, 20 000 Roma, 10 000 Soviet prisoners of war and thousands of other prisoners of various nationalities died at the Auschwitz concentration camp, which was established and run by Nazi Germany during the Second World War.

Prague  
11.1.2010

### **Prvnizpravy.cz: Czech neo-Nazis training assassins**

The analytical section of the League against Anti-semitism (Liga proti antisemitismu - LPA) says it has discovered an instruction portal on the web called Zone18 that is accessible to members of neo-Nazi organizations. The professional site was launched at the start of December 2009.

"The LPA analytical section is a group of our co-workers who perform their activity in total anonymity. They never participate in our public actions, they don't speak to the media," LPA chair Věra Tydlitátová said in an interview for Prvnizpravy.cz.

The LPA has delivered information on the website to Deputy Interior Minister Col. Jiří Komorous. Prvnizpravy.cz reports that he has submitted the information to the Organized Crime Detection Unit.

The Zone18 portal contains a number of instruction manuals for terrorist groups and individuals. Materials entitled "Preparing Assassins" describe how to dispose of people:

"... once the gunman is a few meters away from the victim, he then shoots him dead. On a busy street, no one will notice anything suspicious. The victim, collapsed on the ground, may just look like someone in temporary discomfort to passers-by," says the manual.

The instructions list many other approaches to murder. "Poison can get into the victim's body orally, with his food, or can be absorbed through the skin when mixed into cosmetics. The recommended method is to use poison as an auxiliary to causing the victim's death by other means. Stabbing the victim with a poisoned knife basically increases the possibility of

his potential death even if the wound itself is not fatal," the instruction manual says. The instructions for producing Molotov cocktails are very detailed and are almost identical to manuals which have appeared on other neo-Nazi portals in the past. It is more than likely that the perpetrators of the arson attack in Vítkov last spring drew on information from these sources.

Prvnizpravy.cz reports that the text entitled "Partisan Experience" was allegedly developed by a former member of a WWII-era rebel group and describes armed warfare in natural settings. The neo-Nazis express their thanks to the author for providing the information.

In the article "Training with Specnaz - the Road to Hell!" the anonymous author describes his experiences in Russian military training camps. At the end of the extensive contribution he concisely describes himself as follows: "I am always prepared to use violence against anyone who threatens me or on behalf of the interests I am protecting. I was recently asked how far I would be capable of going in such a case. What is the answer? I can go as far as is necessary. I must admit that my behavior is governed by my own particular conscience, which does not blindly copy Czech laws."

The website operators use classic Nazi vocabulary in their discussions with visitors to the portal. Prvnizpravy.cz gives a sample response to a question for more information: "Heil, I'll definitely take a look and post something."

Shocking Christmas greetings were posted on the web during the holidays. Archived versions of the site show it displayed images of prisoners dying in a concentration camp.

Prvnizpravy.cz also published a sample of the "Code of Honor" from the organization Combat 18:

"As National Socialists we have the obligation to fight for our race and for the cause of National Socialism itself. We are obligated to strive to make the ideal of honor something real in our lives. This is how National Socialists embody everything that is best in our race and in the civilization which our race has created over the millennia. It is no accident that the SS slogan was: 'My honor is called loyalty'. For SS fighters, their honor meant they were loyal to Adolf Hitler until their dying day."

Combat 18 is the armed wing of the British neo-Nazi organization Blood & Honour. The number 18 in the group's name refers to Adolf Hitler, as the letters A and H are the first and eighth letters of the alphabet. Prvnizpravy.cz says Czech Radio first reported on the existence of the Czech offshoot of Combat 18, Division Bohemia, in 2002.

## **Berlin 29.7.2010 Neo-Nazi hackers vandalize web page of the Buchenwald memorial**

Yesterday hackers broke in to the web page of the memorial to the site of the former Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald in Germany. They managed to remove the list of the camp's victims (called the Book of the Dead), replacing it with neo-Nazi symbols and slogans. The hackers also erased pages about the former auxiliary camp of Dora-Mittelbau. The slogan "Brown is beautiful" (in English) - a reference to the color of the shirts worn by Adolf Hitler's SA units - turned up on the web pages. The hacker also left a warning message in German: "We'll be back...."

Reuters quoted Volkhard Knigge, the head of the foundation that manages the monument, as saying, "By destroying the documentation and services we provide, such as the Book of the Dead from the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, the perpetrators are trying to erase the memory of the victims of the crimes of Nazism." The foundation has reported the hacking to police.

The web page now carries a statement announcing that access to the foundation's internet services has been restricted because of the attack. It is unknown how long repairs will take. The foundation says the attack on the web pages of the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora memorial, which are visited daily by several thousand people, and the insertion there of statements supporting the Holocaust constitute an unprecedented crime against the work of the memorial.

The Nazis imprisoned almost 250 000 people at Buchenwald, one of the largest

concentration camps. Most of those imprisoned were Jewish people who were forced to work in German ammunition factories. An estimated 56 000 of them died there of exhaustion, hunger or illness. Some were executed. At the Mittelbau-Dora camp as many as 60 000 people were imprisoned, an estimated one-third of whom did not survive.

## 2. Justice and Neo-Nazism

### A. Arrest

Nýřany  
(Plzeň  
Region)  
25.4.2010

#### **Nazis disturb the peace overnight in Plzeň area after march, police charge three**

Regional Police charged three men today on suspicion of drunkenly shouting neo-Nazi slogans and giving the Nazi salute during the early morning hours at a bar in Nýřany, northern Plzeň Region. Jana Václavová, spokesperson for the Regional Police, told the Czech Press Agency today that police were called to the scene at 1 AM by an anonymous witness. Police did not say whether the men might have participated in the Saturday afternoon march by right-wing extremists in the town of Plzeň which local authorities dispersed almost immediately after it began.

Police charged two men from the Plzeň area aged 34 and 40 and a 19-year-old male from the Klatovy area with the crime of establishing, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, as well as with rioting. The 34-year-old was also charged with defaming a nation, race, ethnic or other group. "Police officers determined that he had verbally insulted and physically assaulted a 24-year-old woman. He punched her in the right ear," Václavová said.

Police detained a total of six people in connection with Saturday's march in Plzeň on suspicion of promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms or of displaying sympathy for such a movement. Those detained had displayed objectionable slogans or symbols either on their clothing or as tattoos. Václavová said police will decide whether to press charges after reviewing the evidence, primarily on the basis of expert evaluations. "Otherwise there were no disturbances in Plzeň yesterday, including during the night," she said. More police were on patrol there than usual; in addition to the dispersed extremist march, there was also a football match and traditional student celebrations.

Prague  
21.6.2010

#### **Two extremists charged, neo-Nazi ideologue Filip Vávra allegedly one of them**

The Nova television channel and its online news server [tn.cz](http://tn.cz) report that police have charged two men with promoting extremism, one of whom is allegedly Filip Vávra. Previous media investigations have fingered Vávra as being behind the creation of the neo-Nazi National Resistance group and connected to the international neo-Nazi organization Blood and Honor in the past. Nova reports that police have charged Vávra with the crime of inciting hatred or suppression of the human rights and freedoms of a particular group. The charges are allegedly related to the distribution of materials with neo-Nazi subject matter.

Police are refusing to reveal any further information about the case. Pavel Hanták, spokesperson for the Organized Crime Detection Unit (Útvar pro odhalování organizovaného zločinu - ÚOOZ) only made a general statement to the television channel that police had charged two men.

"Two more people have been charged as part of the Lott case, both men," Hanták told iDNES.cz, adding that a significant advance in the case occurred about a month ago. Nova reported that police have been following Vávra for some time. He has declined to comment. Vávra was behind an invitation extended last year to former Ku-Klux-Klan leader David Duke, whose visit to the Czech Republic ended in his detention and deportation. Police charged him with denying the Holocaust in his book "My Awakening", which has come out in Czech translation. His prosecution was later halted.

Over the past two years, police have focused greater attention on promoters of extremism. The Security Information Service (Bezpečnostní informační služba - BIS), the country's civilian counter-intelligence agency, reported at the start of May that right-wing extremist activity fell in the Czech Republic during the first three months of 2010. BIS says

developments on the neo-Nazi scene were particularly influenced by last year's police raids against members of the scene and the trial of the Workers' Party (Dělnická strana - DS) which ended in the party's ban. The right-wing radical scene is currently the least united and most fragmented it has ever been.

According to a Czech Interior Ministry report on the issue of extremism in 2009, the number of people charged in relation to extremism last year rose by half the number charged in 2008. The incidence of extremist crime rose by more than one-fifth, but such crimes still comprise only 0.07 % of crime overall. The report said the April arson attack on the home of a Romani family in Vítkov was the most serious extremist crime of last year.

## **Ostrava 28.6.2010 Two witnesses in Vítkov arson case face prosecution for promoting Nazism**

Two witnesses in the Vítkov arson case are now facing prosecution themselves. Police have found material supporting racial intolerance and the ideas of Nazi Germany in their homes. Witnesses Marek Kuděla and Tomáš Vassiov were originally part of the larger pool of suspects in the arson, but police were unable to prove they had a hand in either the preparation or the commission of the attack on a Romani family. Three people were injured during the blaze. The most serious injuries were suffered by an infant, Natálie, who was not quite two years old at the time and was burned over 80 % of her body.

State prosecutor Brigita Bilíková said a motion to initiate criminal proceedings against Kuděla and Vassiov will be filed once the first-instance verdict in the Vítkov case is handed down. "Doing it now would be complicated. The confiscated items are part of that case's file and extracting them from the file would be complicated," Bilíková explained.

Vassiov is a leading neo-Nazi in Opava. He has been sentenced for similar crimes on four separate occasions, most recently receiving a five-year sentence for attacking three Roma in Ostrava. He served three years of that sentence and was released on parole. If convicted of possession of the neo-Nazi themed material he will also have to serve the rest of his previous sentence. Kuděla and Vassiov are close friends of those charged with committing the arson.

Many of the arsonists' acquaintances told the police they learned about the attack and who was involved in it shortly after the crime was committed. No one is facing charges for not reporting the crime. All of them claim they were afraid they would also be prosecuted and that the arsonists would take revenge. There are strong suspicions that some of them even knew the arson attack was being planned, but nothing can be proven in that regard.

Last August police arrested a total of 12 right-wing extremists whom they believed were connected to the Vítkov case. In the end, the involvement of only four of them was proven: Václav Cojocar, Jaromír Lukeš, Ivo Müller and David Vaculík. They face the possibility of extraordinary sentencing, including life in prison, for racially motivated attempted murder. The trial of the Vítkov arsonists continued today with recordings of conversations between the defendants and their friends being played in court. Police obtained the recordings as part of a surveillance action code-named Vítek.

On one of the recordings Lukeš brags to an acquaintance, V. J., about how he has outmaneuvered the police, who have nothing, and openly talks about the crime. "Hamster [Editor's Note: The nickname of a member of the white power band "Adler"] went there to take a look and said it was really well-chosen," V. J. praises Lukeš. "I'd had my eye on it for three months," a pleased Lukeš replies. He then claims he is reconciled to his arrest and the possibility of a long prison term. "Don't you realize what a life sentence is, you cunt?" asks V. J., openly surprised at Lukeš's calm. "No, I'd never get that! Extraordinary means 20 or 25," Lukeš says. "Good thing we're not in America, you'd get 300 or execution," V. J. says, adding that he personally would be most afraid to die by suffocation, burning or drowning. On the recording Lukeš also speaks very openly with V. J. about the night of the arson attack, but does not mention the names of his other three accomplices. The defendants were given the opportunity to comment after the recording was played.

Defendant David Vaculík repeated his traditional, “No comment, my lawyer will speak for me.” Lukeš, on the other hand, commented a great deal on the wiretap. “I thought V. J. was a police agent because his father is a detective,” Lukeš said, adding that the information he gave was all invented in order to test V. J.’s reliability. Defendant Ivo M?ller said merely that he had no idea the crime had been planned for three months. Defendanat Václav Cojocarú responded with “I have nothing to say about these wiretaps.”

The only representative for the defense to speak was Petr Kausta, Vaculík’s attorney, who demanded the state prosecutor confirm or deny as soon as possible whether V. J. had cooperated with police. He also demanded two police officers be subpoenaed over the alleged loss of documents that were part of the investigation. “I believe it is generally inappropriate to reveal any data concerning the police officers working in that particular unit. Mr Vaculík is the person who could best explain their discoveries to us,” Bílíková responded. Kausta said he wants to subpoena the officers in order to demonstrate that the documents concerned were not just lost but were intentionally destroyed. The state prosecutor rejected both his speculations and the idea that the officers should testify. The trial will continue at 9 AM tomorrow.

## **Budapest 9.8.2010 Suspects caught in murders of Roma in Hungary are extreme-right promoters**

The Hungarian State Investigation Office (NNI) has completed its investigation into a series of anti-Roma attacks in 2008 and 2009 during which six Roma were murdered including a five-year-old child, the MTI agency reports. NNI is now suggesting prosecutors indict four detained suspects. News server Novinky.cz reports the detainees are promoters of extreme-right organizations.

The attacks occurred at nine separate places. They involved 78 instances of gunfire and Molotov cocktail attacks on seven homes. Police say the attacks are exceptional not only in the annals of Hungarian crime, but in those of Europe.

Six Roma did not survive the racist incursions, and another five (including another child), were seriously injured. Investigators say the attacks put a total of 55 people in danger.

András Tóth of the NNI said at a press conference that three of the four men detained are suspected of having fired shots at the Roma. Police say the fourth detainee was the driver in two anti-Roma attacks.

The NNI says the motivation for the attacks is also exceptional. They are said to have been revenge for an alleged wrong committed by members of the Roma community a long time ago and an attempt to create fear in the community. The victims were unconnected to one another and the places were selected completely at random. The attacks took place in central and eastern Hungary between July 2008 and August 2009 and prompted international outrage.

The attacks mostly took place at night, when the Roma were asleep. In November 2008, two Roma lost their lives in the village of Nagycséc in the north-east when attackers threw Molotov cocktails at their homes and fired at them with shotguns as they fled. Last February, a Roma father and his young son did not survive an attack in the municipality of Tatárszentgyörgy. Both were killed fleeing their burning home. Last August, in the municipality of Kisléta in the east of the country, a 45-year-old Roma woman was shot and her 13-year-old daughter suffered serious injuries.

In the Czech Republic, a Roma family in Vítkov became the target of an attack last April when arsonists set their house on fire. The family’s youngest member, Natálka, suffered serious burns over 80 % of her body during the blaze. The trial of the four alleged assailants has been underway since May.

The Roma community in Hungary is the country’s largest national minority, comprising 5 – 7 % of its 10 million inhabitants. Along with the country’s growing economic problems and unemployment, Roma are more and more frequently becoming the target of seditious attacks by extremist political parties such as the ultra-right “Movement for a Better Hungary” (Jobbik), which made it into parliament during the recent elections.

## B. Trial and jail

### Brno 1.1.2010 **Czech Supreme Court rejects appeal by neo-Nazi who attempted murder**

The Czech Supreme Court (Nejvyšší soud - NS) has rejected an appeal by Lukáš Vorobel, a neo-Nazi who is currently serving a 12-year prison sentence for attempted murder. Last year in Strakonice, Vorobel stabbed a young man in the neck who confronted him after Vorobel gave the Nazi salute and yelled anti-Semitic slogans. The victim suffered serious injury. The NS made the final decision recently, without holding a public hearing, and made its decree available through its internet database today. The victim's name is not revealed in the decree.

"In the case of defendant Vorobel, his right to a fair trial was not violated. The lower-level courts devoted sufficient attention to evaluating the evidence presented, and their conclusions as to the facts of the case derived from that evidence correspond to the principles of general logic," the decree says. The NS criminal panel was chaired by Justice Jindřich Urbánek.

Vorobel listed many objections in his appeal. He claimed to have been extremely drunk at the time of the crime and that his drunkenness influenced his capacity for self-control. He denied having aggressive tendencies and claimed the knife ended up in his hand by accident. The NS summary of his defense says, "He denied understanding that he struck the victim in a place that would immediately endanger his life." Vorobel also requested a change in the legal qualification of the crime from attempted murder to grievous bodily harm.

Vorobel's friend Martin Vachta, who received a three-year prison sentence without parole from the Regional Court in České Budějovice, also filed an appeal. However, the NS database shows he later withdrew the application.

Vorobel and Vachta also committed the crimes of support for a promotion of a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. In addition to their extremist speeches in public, the courts also referred to the Nazi symbols on their bodies - for example, Vachta has a tattoo of the SS symbol and Vorobel has one of a swastika. Vachta is also guilty of illegal arms possession, as police found an illegal military assault rifle and ammunition during a search of his home.

The incident took place on 10 May 2009 in Strakonice at the intersection of Ellerova and U Náhonu streets. Vorobel and Vachta were yelling "Sieg Heil" and "Jews to the gas" and giving the Nazi salute. After a courageous youth confronted them, a debate ensued which ended in Vorobel attacking the youth and a friend of his at the scene. The friend was only lightly injured.

### Prague 9.1.2010 **Czech soldier discharged over SS symbols may return to Afghanistan**

Jan Čermák, the former commander of a rapid reaction brigade platoon who was discharged from the Czech Army for wearing Nazi SS symbols on his helmet during his service in Afghanistan, has allegedly gained lucrative private employment there. Yesterday's Mladá fronta Dnes (MfD) reports that Čermák will return to Afghanistan and his salary will greatly exceed his pay in his position as lieutenant.

One of Čermák's friends has told MfD that Čermák has allegedly signed a very advantageous contract with a Western security agency. However, Čermák issued a statement to the paper through his attorney, Ondřej Moravec that he is not planning to go to Afghanistan.

František Punner, the Trutnov-based detective who is investigating Čermák on suspicion of promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, was surprised by the report of Čermák's supposed return to Afghanistan. "In the event that he were to be charged, I cannot imagine being able to deliver that information to him somewhere in the mountains of Afghanistan. That would probably be very difficult," he said. Should Čermák leave for Afghanistan, Punner is considering investigating him as a fugitive from justice.

Attorney Karel Brückler says Čermák does legally have the opportunity to return to Afghanistan. However, he would have to announce his departure to the police and give them an address where he could be found there. This would be enough for police to believe that he was not trying to avoid trial, and any trial could eventually be held in his absence. Another Czech soldier, Hynek Matonoha, also wore SS symbols on his helmet during his service in Logar province. Czech Defense Minister Martin Barták discharged both Čermák and Matonoha from the military in November and cancelled their rights to all military retirement benefits. He also placed their superiors, including General Jiří Halaška, off duty until the investigation is completed.

**Brno** **Day 2 of the Workers' Party trial: Chair admits neo-Nazi was active in the party**  
**13.1.2010**

Tomáš Sokol, the prosecuting attorney in the Workers' Party trial, said yesterday in court that the party shares "personnel" with the radical Czech neo-Nazi association National Resistance. Sokol, who is representing the Czech Government, made the assertion at the start of the second day of the Supreme Administrative Court's proceedings on the government's motion to dissolve the party. Party chair Tomáš Vandas denies the alleged connections, saying the party has 950 members and the leadership cannot know the precise biographies and activities of each and every one of them.

"Can the government show who leads National Resistance, what its structure and membership base are? Can the government show a contract proving the connections between the party and National Resistance? I have never seen any such proof, these are just empty proclamations," Vandas said.

Sokol admitted that National Resistance does not exist as a legal entity in a form that can be clearly understood. "However, it does objectively exist as a certain form of a civic group," he said. The government documented what National Resistance's actual activity is through the testimony of an expert witness and a report from the police's Organized Crime Detection Unit.

The government says the interconnectedness of the Workers' Party and National Resistance is evident, for example, from their participation in each other's public events and from the detailed references to the party's activities on the web server Odpor.org, which endorses National Resistance. The Workers' Youth, which is officially tied to the party, has also registered a periodical with the Czech Culture Ministry entitled "National Resistance". "Are those two words used in that order banned?" Vandas asked.

The party allegedly also collaborates with the Autonomous Nationalists, National Corporativism and Resistance Woman Unity, the women's analog to National Resistance. As far as the Autonomous Nationalists are concerned, Vandas said he does not know their representatives and has nothing to do with them, but admitted to speaking at their events. "These were events we felt a kinship with, for example, the tribute to St Václav and support for Serbia against the breakaway of Kosovo," Vandas said. He characterized his attendance at these events as a kind of "dark past", which he said "everyone has".

Further evidence of the links between the Workers' Party and neo-Nazi organizations is provided, for example, by the management of concerts under the National Resistance rubric and materials about such concerts found by police when they searched the home of suspected neo-Nazi Tomáš Kebza. Under direct, repeated questioning, Vandas admitted Kebza once was a Workers' Party member, the very first time he has admitted a neo-Nazi has been active in the party ranks. "He was a member, but that was at least two years ago," Vandas defended himself.

Yesterday the court also focused on the Workers' Youth, the party's youth organization. Its program includes statements such as "our country belongs to us alone, not to immigrants and people of different nationalities." Elsewhere the program states that it sees faith in National Socialism as "the central ideal driving the existence and actions of the nation". The government says the group is programmatically espousing the legacy of Adolf Hitler through such statements. Moreover, on the party program that particular point is number

18, a code among neo-Nazis that symbolizes Hitler's initials.

Martin Zbela, head of the Workers' Youth, testified before the court yesterday as well. He refused to answer any questions regarding its program. The Czech Interior Ministry is said to have already called on the Workers' Youth to give an explanation for its program and has established a February deadline for them to file their response. "We will make use of that deadline," Zbela said.

In the afternoon the court focused on the past of various Workers' Party candidates, members and officials. For example, the government demonstrated that candidates Jiří Švehlík, Patrik Vondrák, Simona Skoumalová, Mirko Musil, Ladislav Butz and Milan Hroch all participated in public events, concerts and marches by neo-Nazi associations in the Czech Republic and abroad. Documents submitted by the government show that other people in the party's "Protection Corps" are also said to have passed through neo-Nazi circles, for example, Tomáš Kebza, Jiří Tůma, Lukáš Rod, Jan Strnad and Petr Knor.

Some of these people have criminal pasts. They have been either accused of or prosecuted for supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms, and some have even physically assaulted members of the Roma minority.

Dozens of minutes of the proceedings were spent in projecting photographic evidence in which individuals were seen at events convened by National Resistance and other groups. Some of the snapshots captured their tattoos of Nazi symbols, while others showed them giving the Hitler salute. The evidence submitted included pictures from a National Resistance costume party.

Sokol referred to the criminal pasts of some of the Workers' Party members and promoters. "It is unthinkable that any other political party would have so many activists, members and officials who have been so often prosecuted for so many crimes. This is no coincidence. The Workers' Party has been permanently connected over the long term with these extremist, neo-fascist entities," Sokol said. Vandas submitted the clean criminal records of several members of the party presidium to the court and claimed he could not be expected to have an overview of the records of rank and file members or promoters. "I do not screen anyone," Vandas said.

Vandas himself currently faces prosecution over the content of one of his public speeches. He also said the former chair of the party's organization in Most, Jiří Löschner, who has been convicted of various crimes, is no longer in that post.

At the close of the proceedings the court began to address the public events with which the Workers' Party has somehow been involved. The most time was spent on the 1 May 2008 gathering in Prague, at which Steffen Pohl, a representative of the Free Resistance Dortmund group in Germany, gave a speech. Speaking in English, Pohl is alleged to have supported Hitler's ideology. For example, he said that in Germany 75 years ago (i.e., at the moment of Hitler's rise to power), the country "liberated itself" from the forces of international financial capital.

Vandas, who also gave a speech at the event, which was convened by the Workers' Party, distanced himself from that particular statement of Pohl's yesterday. He said he had not asked Pohl to come to the event and had not seen him since. However, he supported some of Pohl's other statements. "I stand by those words about idlers and parasites, I don't see anything wrong with them," Vandas said.

Court officials have finally succeeded in delivering a subpoena to Jiří Šlégr, whom the court has been attempting to summon as a witness. Šlégr was not available at his permanent residence and the court had not been able to deliver the summons to him, but Romea.cz discovered that Šlégr was in fact present in front of the courthouse on the first day of the trial. He can be seen posing in photographs with Vandas, who has refused to give the court Šlégr's current address. Supreme Administrative Court spokesperson František Emmert confirmed to Romea.cz that the subpoena was delivered to Šlégr yesterday morning directly at the courthouse.

The hearing continues today. Judges will focus once again on the party's public events and will depose the first witnesses. The hearing will continue tomorrow as well. It is not clear whether the court will issue a verdict tomorrow or whether it will postpone its

announcement until later.

Brno  
13.1.2010

### **Workers' Party trial Day 3: Chair says German NPD is an uncontroversial partner**

Today was the third day of the Supreme Administrative Court's proceedings in Brno on banning the Workers' Party. Topics to be covered included, among others, the attempted pogrom on the Roma at the Janov housing estate in November 2008 and other public events convened by the Workers' Party. In the afternoon the court was to depose the head of the party's Prague organization, Patrik Vondrák. Police arrested him last October during a raid on ultra-right adherents. Vondrák is connected with the National Resistance organization. Police experts also testified today.

Karel Bačkovský, who is representing the Czech Government along with Tomáš Sokol, drew attention at the start of today's proceedings to a collection announced by party chair Tomáš Vandas in support of imprisoned neo-Nazis. The money is meant to insist Patrik Vondrák and Michaela Dupová. Bačkovský says the Russian analog of National Resistance is informing its members of the collection and calling for "aid to our Czech friends imprisoned for their political opinions", reports iDNES.cz.

The contacts between the Workers' Party and neo-Nazis in Germany and Slovakia were also reviewed before the court. Vandas said he does not see anything wrong with collaborating with the National Democratic Party (NPD) of Germany. He also refused to distance himself from the statements made by a speaker from the Slovenská pospolitost ("Slovak Solidarity") organization at a Workers' Party event in Hradec Králové in 2008. The speaker said the current political system is "larded with Zionists".

Karel Bačkovský, who works for the Czech Interior Ministry's Security Department, told the court that the German NPD is a very radical political force. "The NPD is a properly registered party in Germany. What's wrong with political parties communicating internationally? The NPD is represented in the state parliaments," Vandas responded.

The extreme-right NPD is represented in the parliament of Saxony and of Mecklenburg - Upper Pomerania. The German Government and Parliament each did their best to ban the party in the past, but the German Constitutional Court rejected their attempts. The party is now encountering financial difficulties.

According to the Czech Government, the Workers' Party also collaborates with many other radical German groups. On Tuesday the court discussed the 1 May 2008 event convened by the Workers' Party in Prague. Steffen Pohl spoke there as a representative of the Free Resistance Dortmund organization about the "Zionist-occupied European Union."

According to the Czech Government, Pohl also made statements supporting Hitler's ideology, stating that Germany had "liberated itself from international financial capital" 75 years ago (i.e., at the moment Hitler rose to power). On Tuesday Vandas said he had not invited Pohl to the event and had not seen him since. However, today it came to light that Pohl evidently also spoke in Hradec Králové in August 2008 at an event organized by the Workers' Party. "I participate in a great number of events. I cannot remember the names of all of the speakers," said Vandas when asked to explain his error.

The party has been collaborating with radicals from Slovak Solidarity for a long time. Vandas did not want to distance himself from their speaker's statement about the Zionist system. "I do not need to distance myself from someone else's statement. If you look at our program, you will not find any expressions such as 'Zionism' there," he said. Today he also admitted that he had recently torn up a copy of the Czech Constitution in public as a protest against the criminal conviction of a party member.

The Supreme Administrative Court gradually reviewed the party's public events today. It also addressed three incidents at the Janov housing estate in Litvínov during the second half of 2008. The party's so-called "Protection Corps" first visited the problem-filled locality where many socially vulnerable people live on 4 October, but were chased out by local Roma, two of whom were later convicted of verbally assaulting a party activist.

On 18 October, right-wing radicals then convened a "protest against black racism" at the Janov housing estate, which the government in its presentation said was an attempt at revenge. Vandas does not endorse that event, which was dispersed by the town hall, even though party members spoke at it. The protest ended in battles with police. Attorney for the government Tomáš Sokol said the obvious aim of the event was to invoke and provoke tension. "This is clear evidence of how they are able to escalate unrest," Sokol said.

The biggest event took place in Litvínov on 17 November 2008, which the government is now calling the "battle of Janov". The event was organized by the Workers' Party. Hundreds of police officers and party promoters conducted street fighting around the Janov housing estate for more than two hours. Approximately 1 000 riot police stood against roughly 500 extremists looking to march on the estate. Both demonstrators and police officers were injured on the scene.

Vandas admitted the party convened the gathering, which was followed by the march and battle. However, he does not endorse the conflicts. "No one can hold the party responsible for the 'battle of Janov'," he said. The government has submitted as proof of the party's responsibility an edition of its *Dělnické listy* ("Workers' News") including an article on Vandas visiting a youth who was injured by an explosive during the battle and expressing support for him.

Sokol also submitted documentation of the party activists' willingness to openly stand up to the security forces. "When the police call on participants [of a public gathering] to do something, and the participants resist instead of obeying, then they are disturbing the public order even if the original reason for their gathering is considered comprehensible or legitimate," Sokol said.

The court summoned three witnesses for the afternoon session. Two were police officers and the third was the alleged ultra-right activist Patrik Vondrák, who was escorted to court from prison but refused to testify.

The news server Týden.cz reports that the Organized Crime Detection Unit (ÚOOZ) allegedly planned to arrest more promoters of the extreme right today. ÚOOZ spokesperson Pavel Hanták refused to confirm the information, telling the Czech Press Agency that the unit was currently performing "several operations". Týden.cz then reported police arresting several people in Brno and Prague.

#### **Brno 15.1.2010 DS trial Day 4: DS linked to Hitler's legacy, Šlégr and Švehlík refuse to testify**

Yesterday, the hearing before the Supreme Administrative Court on the Czech Government's motion to dissolve the Workers' Party (Dělnická strana - DS) entered its fourth day. The government presented a great deal of irrefutable evidence on the connection between the party and neo-Nazi groups.

Presiding judge Vojtěch Šimíček began the proceedings by asking whether the government had any other evidence to introduce. Representatives of the government submitted a text to the court of a right-wing speech given in German at a march in Munich in May 2009. Patrik Vondrák, the head of the Prague DS branch, also spoke at the march. "In our view, this documents the fact that the neo-Nazi movement is internationalizing, and within that framework, a highly-placed representative of the Workers' Party is making speeches," Czech Interior Ministry lawyer Karel Bačkovský explained to IDNES.cz.

Texts downloaded from the DS website served as a second piece of government evidence. The press department of the party published its "Invitation to Svitavy" on that website, calling for a demonstration against the imprisonment of Vlastimil Pečanec, who was sentenced several years ago to an extraordinary sentence of 17 years in prison for racially motivated murder. DS head Tomáš Vandas denied the party had convened the event. The DS leader evaded responsibility by characterizing the announcement as "just general information that the event is taking place, nothing more."

According to right-wing extremism expert Michal Mazel, the party is inspired by German National Socialism and the ideology of Adolf Hitler. This can be seen, for example, in their classification of people according to nationality. "In many of their speeches there is a

tendency to distinguish among people according to their ethnicity, according to their racial origin, to separate people into 'us, the good' and 'them, the bad'," testified Mazel. The DS was said to primarily target Roma. Vandas has long denied any connection to Nazism.

Mazel also found Nazi connections in the DS symbols. The party logo, which shows the initials "DS" at the center of a gear wheel, is strikingly reminiscent of the logo of the German Labor Front (DAF), which was a Nazi labor union analog. A similar logo was also used by the Free German Workers' Party (FAP), which has been dissolved; that party was associated with neo-Nazis, and Mazel testified that its aim was to establish a Fourth Reich.

Vandas responded by submitting photo documentation to the court of other badges in which a gear wheel is used. Most of them were from Czechoslovak industrial enterprises, such as the Královopolská Machine Works. The image was used in a medal given to the winners of a competition to save fuel. DS promoters in the hall laughed as Vandas submitted the evidence. Mazel admitted that the gear wheel is a general labor movement symbol. "The question, however, is whether the Workers' Party was inspired by the example of Královopolská or by examples from elsewhere," he suggested.

Another symbol reviewed was a drawing of a worker holding a hammer which was used by the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Národně socialistická německá dělnická strana - NSDAP) during the presidential elections in 1932, in which Adolf Hitler made an unsuccessful bid for the presidency. The exact same drawing has been used on various DS materials in the past.

Mazel testified that the DS writes about the issue of national interest in almost the exact same way as the press did during the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. "The impression I have received is that there has to be a direct influence at work," Mazel said. The DS press was said to also evidently embody a kind of worship of political struggle and violence, especially after the conflicts at the Janov housing estate in Litvínov.

Mazel also testified to the party's connection to the dictatorial principles professed by Hitler, which can be seen in the party's speeches. "Some of the speeches to the outside world in which the party chair is referred to as the High Commander (of the Protection Corps), along with specific articles in the party press, led me to the conclusion that there is an attempt to apply the dictatorial principle here. However, what actually happens in practice is another matter," Mazel said.

Vandas has previously labeled any sort of connection with the ideas of Adolf Hitler an "audacious lie". The party says it has taken the National Socialism of the First Czechoslovak Republic as its model; the politicians they reference include Milada Horáková, who was executed by the communists.

Mazel says the DS is also attempting the kind of political propaganda specific to Hitler's Germany. "They continuously hammer away at the same topics, impressing on the public the sense that a threat is posed to them by some all-powerful minority," Mazel said. While the national socialism of the past made use of the Jewish minority, the DS is said to present the Roma in this light. The party's animosity towards homosexuals, foreigners, liberalism and capitalism was also said to be symptomatic.

Mazel originally submitted an expert evaluation to the court as requested by the government. For procedural reasons, the judges refused to recognize it as an expert report in the proper sense of the term and are handling the document as yet another of the many papers submitted. Mazel is a political scientist, lawyer and historian and has worked for the Czech Interior Ministry in the past. The court deposed him as a witness.

One judge noticed that Mazel is not a registered court expert and that he had prepared the evaluation under the rubric of the Institute for Criminology and Forensic Disciplines at the College of Karlovy Vary. This institute was established only recently. "What sort of professional background does he have?" Justice Josef Baxa asked. However, in the end the judges recognized Mazel's expertise. Vandas labeled the evaluation a "subjective little work". In his view, Mazel cannot be considered independent because he is a member of the TOP 09 party; Mazel confirmed that he is a member of that party.

The court also heard from North Moravian detective Rostislav Chobola, who testified on the connections between the DS, neo-Nazis and radicals in northern Moravia. Chobola

submitted profiles of several people who have run as DS candidates in the Olomouc and Moravia-Silesia regions and have long been active in the skinhead community, attending National Resistance events and concerts by radical groups.

Just as on Wednesday, the court projected photographs from privately held events at which the DS candidates are shown giving the Nazi salute. "I call them either naughty children or sick people," Chobola said, adding that it was clearly demonstrable that Jakub Kotlář and Jiří Švehlík, who ran as DS candidates, are part of the neo-Nazi community. "I am basing this on my many years of experience," the detective said.

The court wanted to depose Švehlík as a witness today as well, but the young man refused to testify on the grounds that he did not want to incriminate either himself or anyone else. Jiří Šlégr, another party member, also refused to testify.

Other police specialists on extremism testified to the connection between the DS and neo-Nazis on Wednesday, for example, that those suspected of the arson attack in Vítkov attended DS events. Chobola confirmed the claim again yesterday without providing details.

The Supreme Administrative Court (Nejvyšší správní soud - NSS) has adjourned the hearings on the future of the extreme-right Workers' Party (Dělnická strana - DS) for an indefinite length of time. Judge Vojtěch Šimíček said the court would probably issue its verdict on the government's motion to dissolve the party at some point in February. The court reviewed evidence for and against the party over the course of four days last week. The next step will be the announcement of a verdict.

In his closing arguments, Tomáš Sokol, the attorney for the Czech Government, said the evidence introduced confirmed the reasonableness of the proposal to dissolve the party. Sokol argued that the DS is racist, violent, and xenophobic, provoking unrest and collaborating with the National Resistance and other ultra-right wing organizations in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Sokol referred to photographs in which DS members are shown giving the Nazi salute or are standing together with known neo-Nazis. "I have seen no other party whose members would so frequently forget themselves as to give the Nazi salute," Sokol said. "By labeling the DS a neo-fascist subject, I have probably even pleased those of its members who feel they are indeed neo-fascists."

DS chair Tomáš Vandas labeled the trial "political" in his closing argument. In his view, the government filed the motion for the DS to be dissolved due to the party's growing popularity. Vandas claimed that none of the evidence submitted had proven the DS was engaged in illegal activity. He also indicated the possibility that the party events which had culminated in violence had been intentionally disrupted by "agents" who wanted to discredit the party. He did not say what sort of "agents" he believed they were.

Vandas also said the party will run candidates in the next parliamentary elections even if the court dissolves it. "That would be an excellent start to the election campaign for us," he said. The party, for example, could run candidates under a new name, such as the affiliated Workers' Social Justice Party (Dělnická strana sociální spravedlnosti).

The most important testimony was heard on Thursday from Michal Mazek, an expert on right-wing extremism. Mazek said he was in no doubt that the DS was closely connected to neo-Nazis and inspired by German National Socialism and the ideas of Adolf Hitler. He based his analysis on DS publications, speeches and symbols used by party leaders and other speakers at events convened by the party.

Vandas denies the party is inspired by Nazism and calls the charges an "audacious lie". He also distanced himself from all the events that ended in violence, including the street battles at the Janov housing estate in Litvínov, claiming the party was not one of "hooligans".

Vandas also denied any connection to National Resistance, which in his view does not exist. Experts on extremism consider National Resistance to be an active, decentralized, unofficial organization of Czech neo-Nazis. "I would love to see someone explain what National Resistance is. I don't know whether this is a trial of the DS or of National Resistance," Vandas repeatedly said.

Police detectives from North Bohemia, North Moravia and Prague who specialize in extremism also testified. All of them said, on the basis of their experience, that some DS candidates, officials and promoters have longstanding ties to the neo-Nazi community, the skinhead subculture, and various ultra-right associations. Some of them have repeatedly faced criminal prosecution in the past. The testimony was also heard that those suspected of the arson attack in Vítkov also attended DS events.

Three witnesses who are either members or promoters of the DS were subpoenaed and refused to testify. One of them, the representative of the Prague branch of the party, Patrik Vondrák, had to be escorted to the court on Wednesday from prison, where he has been in custody since the October 2009 police raid on right-wing extremists. Another police raid on the extreme right was conducted last Wednesday, during which police arrested at least three people.

While Vandas made a self-confident impression on the first day of the trial, he became less agile as time went on, repeating himself frequently. The court sometimes did not allow the questions he wanted to ask the witnesses, as they were formulated inappropriately. Vandas decided to defend the party on his own even though he is not a lawyer by training. He was silently assisted by another DS leader, Martin Zbela, for two days of the trial. On the last day he was assisted by DS Vice-Chair Jiří Štěpánek. A small group of DS promoters sat in the courtroom every day, wearing DS badges and scarves.

The first motion to dissolve the DS last year was rejected by a special panel of judges for lack of evidence and overall formal incompleteness. This time the government submitted a 70-page long motion accompanied by 85 appendices in the form of police reports, articles from the internet, DS publications and police snapshots from the street fighting at the Janov housing estate. The government submitted other documents into evidence directly during the trial.

Plzeň  
21.1.2010

### **Court acquits youth suspected of supporting Nazism, state prosecutor appeals**

A court in Plzeň today acquitted 21-year-old Marek Žák of Prague of allegations that he shouted the slogan "National Socialism Now!" during a neo-Nazi march in Plzeň last March. Photographs and video were submitted as the main evidence; the state prosecutor says Žák is clearly identifiable in the images even though he is wearing a hood. The youth denies shouting the slogan and told judges he was chanting a different slogan together with other demonstrators; he then refused to testify further.

The court acquitted Žák, finding that the deed described in the lawsuit did not constitute a crime. According to Judge Martina Modráková, there is no doubt the youth chanting the slogan in the video footage is Žák. However, she based the rationale for the acquittal on previous Czech Supreme Court verdicts, according to which the crime of supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms must concern an actually existing, contemporary movement. In Žák's case, the court said it was not possible to identify such a specific movement existing today and that the lawsuit referred to the movement of fascist-era Germany.

While shouting the slogan, the youth raised his fist above his head. "Had he raised his arm with a flat palm, I would have been in no doubt," Modráková said. Žák also yelled the slogan at the start of the march, not, apparently, in response to any speeches being given. Modráková admitted she had also considered reclassifying the deed.

That was the approach taken by another judge on the Plzeň court who recently sentenced the convener and organizer of the march, Tomáš Babek, to 300 hours of community service. Instead of sentencing him for the original charge of supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights, the court found Babek's anti-Semitic statements constituted the crime of inciting hatred vis-?-vis a group and restricting their rights and freedoms. The state prosecutor has appealed the verdict and the regional court will now take up the case.

The state prosecutor has also appealed in the case of Žák, which will go to the regional

court as well. Expert witness Ivo Svoboda told the court earlier that given the name of the demonstration ("March against Zionism"), the only possible meaning of the slogan "National Socialism Now!" was as a reference to "the national or nationalist socialism of the fascist or NSDAP type, which made every effort to expand through aggressive war and to exterminate several groups in the population."

**Brno**  
**17.2.2010** **Workers' Party is dissolved for illegal Nazi ideology**

The Supreme Administrative Court in Brno has decided that a second motion filed by the Czech Government to dissolve the Workers' Party is grounds for the party to be dissolved. In the opinion, presiding judge Vojtech Simicek mentioned several points of the party's program which contravene the law. According to the opinion, the party is "populist, homophobic, chauvinistic, and demonstrates racist tendencies." The court also evaluated the content of the party's campaign ads, which Czech Radio refused to broadcast due to their references to "Gypsies", as the party calls Roma. The court found that the ads were racist as they passed judgment on the Roma ethnicity as a whole. While the court recognized that many of the topics raised by the party are actual social problems, generalizations about a particular group of people on the basis of their ethnicity are unacceptable under the law. The party defines itself through generalizing about the Jewish, Roma, Vietnamese and other minorities, as well as about homosexuals, immigrants, etc., creating the impression that the majority is threatened by the existence of these minorities. According to the Supreme Administrative Court, the party attacks the very basis of the democratic state system.

At around 13:00 CET today, riot police intervened against Workers' Party promoters after they refused to obey police instructions to leave the area in front of the courthouse. Followers of Workers' Party chair Tomas Vandas chanting "Long Live the Workers' Party", "Freedom", "Down with the Police" and "Police State" moved into Pricni street, where Vandas and his fellow party member Martin Zbela were speaking. Police succeeded in ending the march at around 13:00. The daily Pravo reports one protester was detained.

The government proposed banning the Workers' Party because authorities viewed it as posing a threat to democracy, collaborating with neo-Nazis, and having totalitarianism as its aim. The party contests the charges and sees the proposal as an attempt to silence inconvenient political competition. Party members and promoters gathered this morning in front of the courthouse. Writing on Facebook, party chair Vandas said the party promoters stood "against the government mafia and corrupt crooks." The party issued a press release stating that after today's hearing, Vandas, vice-chair Jiri Stepanek, and party presidium member Martin Zbela have been summoned to a police station for interrogation regarding speeches they gave at a 1 May event in Brno in 2009.

This is the government's second attempt to dissolve the party. The court rejected its first proposal for lack of evidence. Experts say the government submitted better material this time around. "This is what the legal culture should look like," said lawyer and political scientist Miroslav Mares. "This is good news for the citizens of the Czech Republic," Czech Interior Minister Martin Pecina said upon hearing the verdict.

The government argued, for example through expert testimony, that the party's symbols and verbal displays referred to Hitler's National Socialism. Attorney for the government Tomas Sokol submitted dozens of pages of evidence to the court. The special seven-member panel viewed video recordings of the street battles in the Janov quarter of the town of Litvinov and heard from police officers who investigate extremism. Workers' Party members who were summoned to testify refused to do so; Vandas provided legal representation for the party on his own and was the only party member to communicate with the court.

In its previous verdict on the first motion to dissolve the party, the court indicated the conditions under which a political party might be dissolved. First and foremost, the government must gather sufficient evidence of the party's illegal behavior. According to the

law on association in political parties, it is illegal, for example, to strive to overturn the democratic basis of the state, to attempt to usurp power, or to suppress equality before the law. The actions identified as illegal must be attributable to the political party concerned. The government must also prove the party represents an immediate threat to the democratic order and the rule of law. It is also necessary to prove that the suppression of the right to associate in that political party is balanced by the need to protect other important values, such as state security and public order.

Vandas and his followers make no secret of the fact that they do not intend to end their political activity. They now have two options: Establish a new party, or exploit an existing one. It is most probable that they are now considering joining a party established by Vandas's mother, the Workers' Justice Party. The similar name would make it easy for Workers' Party supporters to identify the party's successor in the next elections.

Approximately 30 000 people voted for the Workers' Party in the most recent elections to the European Parliament. Political scientists expect the party to achieve similar results in the upcoming parliamentary elections. According to research performed by the Median agency, the Workers' Party could receive 1.8 % of the vote. The Center for Public Opinion Research predicts it will receive 1.5 %.

According to the Supreme Administrative Court, the party may appeal the verdict by complaining to the Constitutional Court. The appeal will delay the verdict taking effect until such time as the Constitutional Court rules. Speaking after the verdict was announced, Vandas told journalists the party will avail itself of this opportunity.

Attempts to ban extremist parties in other countries

Belgium: In November 2004, the Belgian Supreme Court upheld a lower court verdict charging the extreme-right Vlams Bloc ("Flemish Bloc") party with multiple violations of the laws against racism. The party was ordered to end its activities. After a few days it voluntarily dissolved itself and resumed its activities under the name "Flemish Interest". The party is currently in parliament.

Germany: The German Government and Parliament officially requested a ban of the extreme-right NPD party in 2001. In March 2003, the German Constitutional Court rejected the request and also halted the proceedings which would have led to a ban because it came to light that the alleged party activists on whose actions the charges were based were in fact secret service agents.

Russia: In 2005, a lower court ordered the dissolution of the National Bolshevik Party (NBS). The ban was upheld by the Supreme Court. The NBS is an ultra-left nationalist organization also known as the "Limonovs" after its leader, controversial author Eduard Limonov, who founded the party after returning to Russia in 1991 from years of emigration in France and the USA. The party was labeled extremist and the court justified its ban by demonstrating that the party called for the violent overthrow of the government and for ethnic conflicts. Party representatives claim, however, that the party has developed over the years and is now closer to the liberal opposition. Limonov, for example, is a regular participant in events convened by the main opposition group, Another Russia.

Slovakia: In March 2006, the Slovak Supreme Court banned the nationalist party Slovak Solidarity - National Party, which espoused the legacy of former Slovak President Jozef Tiso, who governed during WWII. The party, led by Marian Kotleba, proposed restricting voting rights, which is unconstitutional. After the party was banned, members went on to found a civic association called Slovak Solidarity, which continues to operate today despite efforts by the Slovak Interior Ministry to dissolve it.

Spain: The Spanish Supreme Court decided in 2003 to ban the Basque radical separatist party Batasuna, which is considered the political wing of the ETA terrorist organization. The party was banned on the basis of a new Spanish law (valid since June 2002) which makes it possible to ban and dissolve any political party whose activity disturbs or threatens freedom and the democratic system. The party was established in April 1978 as a bloc of four parities and independent "abertzales" ("patriots") including both nationalist radicals and social democrats. The original name of the party was Herri Batasuna. It was recognized as a legal party in 1986.

**Teplice 6.4.2010 Man gets four years in prison for throwing beer glass, iron bar at neo-Nazis**

A man who threw a half-liter beer glass and an iron bar at those attending an event convened by the racist Workers' Party last year in Krupce (Teplice district) has been sentenced by a court in Teplice to four years in prison for attempted grievous bodily harm. The Mlada fronta DNES newspaper published the news in today's North Bohemian insert. The extremist party convened the event on 25 April 2009 at a housing estate where most of the residents are Roma.

Approximately 100 right-wing radicals traveled to Krupce and were met by about 400 Roma, one of whom found an iron bar in the park and concealed it, allegedly to defend himself with. The man first threw a full beer glass into the crowd of right-wing extremists, hitting a youth and staining his t-shirt. He then took the iron bar from his sleeve and threw it, but no one was hit. The right-wing extremists charged him, but police officers blocked their way and took the man to a nearby police station.

The man was accused of attempted grievous bodily harm, for which the maximum sentence is 10 years in prison. "He was given a heavier sentence because the crime was motivated by his aversion for the political convictions of those he attacked," Judge Roman Dobes said. Commenting to the news server Naseadresa.cz, Dobes said: "Moreover, at the time the crime was committed, the man was on probation for assaulting a public official. The terms of his probation included a ban on visiting restaurants where high levels of alcohol are consumed." The man's probation had expired exactly on 25 April 2009.

The verdict has yet to take effect and the accused is considering an appeal. The state prosecutor was satisfied with the verdict and will not appeal.

**Prague 12.4.2011 Neo-Nazis sentenced without possibility of parole for attack on Romani man**

On 8 April the Regional Court in Prague sentenced brothers Ondřej and Jakub Neuman to sentences without the possibility of parole for brutally attacking a Romani man in Beroun last year. The verdict, which has yet to take effect, sentenced Ondřej Neuman to four years in prison for attacking the man with a garden hoe, while Jakub Neuman was sentenced to one year in prison, according to Mediafax.

Jakub Neuman, who is 27, will serve his sentence in a minimum security prison. His 24-year-old brother will serve in a maximum security prison.

The conflict occurred last February in Beroun. At 1 AM, a small group of young people, including the two brothers, were trying to convince another youth they had met on the street to go the pub with them. Even though the youth had previously been friends with the brothers, he refused their invitation out of fear. Mediafax reports that the youth testified in court, "I had been told they wanted to beat me up." At that moment, a 30-year-old Romani man passed by and asked the youth whether everything was all right. The question irritated the younger brother, who responded with insults like "What do you want, nigger?" and "Get out of here, scum".

The Romani man fled, but the younger brother caught up to him in the middle of the street and punched him in the face. The Romani man punched him back and fled again, but the brothers followed him home. A garden hoe was leaning against the gate, which the older brother grabbed and used to repeatedly strike the Romani man in the head. The brothers then left, shouting racist slogans and the Nazi salute.

Police found the suspects through a mobile phone that was dropped at the scene of the incident and contained videos with fascist topics. A search in the younger brother's home turned up other material with military and Nazi content. The younger brother did not hide the fact from the court that he was also in contact with the neo-Nazi "Autonomous Nationalists" movement.

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#### **Ostrava 13.4.2010** Brutal neo-Nazi attack will not be punished

Today the Regional Court in Ostrava acquitted two youths charged with attacking people at a concert in Rýmařov. One of them, David Vaculík, is also a suspect in the arson attack on the home of a Romani family in Vítkov. The district court gave him a suspended sentence for the attack on the concert audience, but today the appellate court overturned the original verdict. Judge Milan Ihnát said the prosecution failed to prove the defendants had committed the crime.

The district court sentenced the other alleged attacker, Tomáš Vassiov, to two years in prison. A larger group of right-wing extremists had a hand in the attack, but the identities of the other perpetrators could not be proven.

"Certain suspicions do exist," the judge admitted, but the evidence against the defendants is only circumstantial. "No one recognized them at the scene of the crime. No one can bring the charges home," the judge said, adding that the police and the state attorney had performed their work poorly. "The court is entitled to its opinion," the prosecutor told the press, adding that he will probably file an extraordinary appeal.

According to the prosecution, both of the men on trial and at least 10 other accomplices threw a tear gas smoke bomb into the Erno club in Rýmařov. When the audience ran out of the club, the attackers beat them with sticks and collapsible clubs. One person was injured, a young man who was hospitalized for a brain concussion and broken nose. After the attack the group traveled to the town of Bruntál, where police stood them off on the town square.

When issuing the first verdict, Judge Vladimíra Kikerlová of the Bruntál district court called the behavior of the defendants very dangerous to society. "This was a planned, organized action," Kikerlová said. Both defendants appealed the verdict, as did the prosecutor, who felt the punishments were too low.

Vassiov and Vaculík have had similar problems with the law before. Vassiov has been sentenced four times before, once to a five-year prison sentence for attacking three Roma in Ostrava; he spent three years in prison and was released early on parole. Vaculík was sentenced for his participation in a violent attack committed by 40 neo-Nazis on the Hangar music club in Opava in 2003; because he made financial restitution to the victims, he served no time.

At the start of May the Regional Court in Ostrava will start proceedings in the matter of the arson attack on the home of a Romani family in Vítkov. Three other right-wing extremists will stand trial together with Vaculík on those charges. The prosecution claims they threw three Molotov cocktails into the single-family home last April. The blaze completely destroyed the house. Of the nine-member family, three people suffered severe burns - Anna Siváková, Petr Kudrik, and their daughter Natálka, who was not even two years old at the time and who suffered burns over 80 % of her body. Police charged four youths from the Bruntál and Opava districts with the crimes, one of whom is Vaculík. They face between 12 and 15 years in prison, or perhaps even extraordinary sentencing.

#### **Strakonice 23.4.2010** Czech soldier with Nazi tattoos to stand trial

Yesterday in Strakonice the trial began of a former soldier from the local garrison who had Nazi symbols tattooed on his body. The symbols were discovered during an audit focusing

on extremism in the Czech Army. Mira Třebická, spokesperson for the Chief of the General Staff, told the Czech Press Agency the Army stripped the soldier of his rank in March and discharged him.

The soldier had served 10 years in the Army when his tattoos were discovered during a swim test. The soldier, who worked as a driver at the Strakonice garrison, had a German-language tattoo of the SS slogan "Meine Ehre Heist Treue" (My Honor is Loyalty) on his back. The soldier was also wearing a chain around his neck with a ring on it that was engraved with a swastika.

The audit was ordered last year after it was discovered that two Czech soldiers in Afghanistan wore SS symbols on their helmets while serving in Logar province. Czech Defense Minister Martin Barták discharged them in November; both lost their right to their pensions and other advantages after the completion of their service. He also suspended their commander from service.

**Benešov**  
**29.4.2010**

### **Targeted neo-Nazi attack in Benešov finally goes to trial**

At the start of October 2008, a group of 15-20 neo-Nazis attacked an 18-year-old youth in the town of Benešov as he was walking past the town's Jewish cemetery to meet a friend. The victim believes he was randomly selected by the attackers, who caused him serious injuries with permanent results.

After assaulting the youth, the group continued its frantic hunt for other victims around town. The neo-Nazis attacked another young man who was also hospitalized, although he fortunately only suffered light injuries. Witnesses said the group shouted racist slogans during the attacks. The daily MF Dnes reports that some of the defendants are connected with the neo-Nazi organization White Justice, which organized training camps in hand-to-hand combat for interested neo-Nazis.

Like many others, this serious crime has almost been completely forgotten. For a long time, both police and the state prosecutor refused to provide any further information on the case, saying they wanted to first track down and charge a maximum number of suspects. The delays have meant the trial is now beginning a year and a half after the crime was committed. The court did not issue a press release about the start of the proceedings.

The life of the main victim in the Benešov case was placed in acute danger as a result of the attack. In addition to bruises all over his entire body, he suffered serious injury to his spleen, which he eventually lost, and damage to his kidneys. He was hospitalized for almost three weeks and continued his treatment afterward at home. He had to interrupt his studies and the permanent damage caused him has hampered his chances of future employment.

The local paper described the event as follows: "I was going to visit a friend at Spořilov at 8:30 in the evening and I walked by the cultural center near the Jewish cemetery. Near the garage below Klášterská street I noticed a band of about 20 masked people. Two girls were walking in front of me, and the group let them pass without any problem. Suddenly I had a strange feeling - I was listening to music on my MP3 player and I thought they would leave me alone as well, but I was no match for them. One of them pushed me down on the ground and the others mercilessly kicked me. They didn't swear at me, but one of them ridiculed me when they were leaving - 'That hurts, right?' They just kicked me like a dog and left," the student said.

"The man was physically attacked on Friday, 10 October at 20:30, when a group of 20-year-old males dressed in black and white camouflage, black and blue trousers, and military bomber jackets attacked a man using brass knuckles, collapsible nightsticks, and by kicking him. Their faces were masked with bandanas. The victim has been hospitalized with serious injuries," police spokeswoman Zuzana Stránská said at the time.

Suspects have been charged with the crime of grievous bodily harm, rioting, and racist violence against members of a group. According to the version of the Criminal Code in force at the time the crime was committed, they face prison sentences between two and

eight years if convicted.

The trial will continue on Friday, 30 April 2010 at the District Court in Benešov at 8:40 AM. We will report on the outcome.

Ostrava  
12.5.2010

### **Arson trial: Nazis blame each other, contradict themselves, were after "gypsies"**

The trial in Ostrava of the four men behind last year's arson attack on a Roma home in Vítkov entered its second day today. Defendant David Vaculík said yesterday's testimony by co-defendants Václava Cojocarú and Ivo Müller had been untruthful, but continued to refuse to testify himself. Defendant Jaromír Lukeš has also refused to testify.

The defendants were escorted into the courtroom at around 9:15 AM. The trial was to have continued with Cojocarú's testimony, but he refused to testify further and did not want to answer questions, angering the attorneys for defendants Lukeš and Vaculík. The cross-examination of Cojocarú and Müller had been postponed by the presiding judge until today. "Our rights to cross-examine are being curtailed," Vaculík's attorney said. Lukeš's attorney expressed the same complaint.

The court then attempted to hear testimony from Vaculík, but he would only say that Cojocarú and Müller's testimonies had been untruthful. "Müller's testimony is a lie, and Cojocarú's is just as untruthful," Vaculík said.

The presiding judge said Vaculík has refused to testify from the very beginning of the investigation and that no testimony from him was available for consideration. It is Vaculík who made regular financial contributions to the Workers' Party (Dělnická strana - DS) and is listed as the convener of one of their demonstrations.

Jaromír Lukeš has refused to say anything about yesterday's testimony by his co-defendants. Both Cojocarú and Müller stated that Lukeš organized the attack. They also both claim to have been unaware that the house was occupied.

The presiding judge read Lukeš's testimony from the preliminary proceedings into the record, in which Lukeš claimed to police that he had operated on the information that the house in Vítkov was an unoccupied storehouse for stolen electronics and gasoline. He called the house an "appalling kennel". "I told them it was condemned," he said. He also claimed not to know whose idea it had been to throw Molotov cocktails at the house or how many his co-defendants had thrown, and emphasized that he had stayed in the car and had not thrown anything.

During his second interrogation by police, however, Lukeš essentially labeled Müller as the initiator of the attack, claiming Müller had asked him where such an abandoned house might be. Lukeš then told him about the house in Vítkov. Lukeš also said one of the other defendants expressed the desire to throw some Molotov cocktails during the drive to Vítkov. "That is when I realized they wanted to try Molotov cocktails," Lukeš said, describing himself as just the driver. Today in court, both Müller and Vaculík labeled that part of his previous testimony a lie. Lukeš also previously told police he was an active sympathizer of the Workers' Party. "I did my best to make it to their demonstrations," he said. The presiding judge then announced a 30 minute recess shortly after 10 AM.

When the trial resumed, Müller's previous testimony was read into the record. His statement to police during the preliminary proceedings did not completely correspond to the testimony he gave yesterday. During the preliminary proceedings, Müller said he knew the attack was targeting Roma and also admitted that the house could have been occupied. He admitted the group had wanted to attack a house used as a meeting point by "inadaptable citizens" regardless of their skin color. He also stated that Lukeš had said there were "gypsies" in the house. "We said we were going after Gypsies, to burn their house down, to do something bad to them, but we had no idea such a large family might be living there," he said.

The presiding judge took exception to the contradictions in Müller's testimony and demanded an explanation. "Your testimony is contradictory. This was a targeted attack," he said. Müller responded as follows: "I was under stress. I just said that so the police would

leave me alone. They took me into custody." After consulting with his attorney, Müller said he would not testify further. Vaculík then labeled all of Müller's testimony a lie. Lukeš would not comment on it. Cojocarú said he had not heard anyone in the car say they were going after Roma.

Attorneys for Lukeš and Vaculík said at the end of today's hearing that their rights had been violated because they had not been permitted to cross-examine Cojocarú and Müller. The presiding judge adjourned the hearing shortly after 11:30. The trial will continue tomorrow at 9 AM.

The four men attacked the Romani family's home during the early morning hours of 19 April 2009. Three of them each threw a Molotov cocktail through the windows while Lukeš waited in the car. Three people were injured during the subsequent blaze. A little girl who was not yet two years old at the time was the most seriously injured and suffered deep burns over 80 % of her body. The indictment charges that the crime was meant to gain publicity for extremist groups and the 120th anniversary of the birth of Adolf Hitler.

### **Benešov** **26.6.2010** **Benešov court hands down sentences to group of neo-Nazis over brutal attack**

Yesterday the District Court in Benešov handed down sentences to a group of youths suspected of sympathizing with neo-Nazism. Five of them will go to prison for attacking several people in Benešov in October 2008. One of their victims lost his spleen as a result. Three of the assailants will go to maximum-security prisons, while the two juveniles will go to a special juvenile facility. Six youths also received suspended sentences and one was sentenced to community service. The trial was closed to the public because some of the defendants are juveniles.

The verdict has yet to take effect. One of those sentenced has forfeited his right to appeal, but his friends still have that right. Both the other defendants and the prosecutor are taking time to consider appeals.

The attorney-in-fact for one of the victims, Jakub Polák, appealed on the spot against the amount of damages awarded. Polák does not agree with the court's finding that only five youths participated in the attack on his client and is convinced that all 12 defendants should be sentenced for the crime. Polák believes the injured youth, who lost his spleen as a result of the attack, would stand a better chance of being compensated if more defendants were found guilty. "The damage award is mistaken as to the number and the determination of those who caused the damage," Polák told the Czech Press Agency.

A total of 12 youths were on trial. They were convicted of rioting, grievous bodily harm, and violence against a group or individual members of that group. Each defendant faced different criminal charges. The longest sentence handed down by the court to two of the youths was 30 months in prison without parole. The other defendants received two-year sentences. The judges also sentenced two youths to one year in juvenile prison.

Presiding judge Ivana Doubková said the sentences without the possibility of parole concerned serious behavior which she labeled as simply "unnecessary, a heinous assault and maiming." The judge said that particular victim had been targeted because he was dressed like a "skateboarder".

Those convicted include 24-year-old Filip Stránský, who has been punished before for racist offenses. He also features in the White Justice case, which police say was a neo-Nazi terrorist cell. In the Benešov case the court sentenced him to 400 hours of community service. "In our opinion all of the sentences are adequate and commensurate, they take into account all of the aggravating and mitigating circumstances," Doubková told the press.

The group of masked youths attacked several random passers-by in Benešov. Witnesses said they attacked at least eight people. The most seriously injured victim was an 18-year-old student who had to have his spleen removed as a result. The assailants also beat up a Romani man, but the court did not consider his injuries to have been serious.

**Ostrava Arson trial: Neo-Nazi refuses to testify, wiretaps show arsonists' cynicism**  
30.6.2010

The neo-Nazi who provided burn medication to one of the defendants after the Vítkov arson attack exercised her right not to testify in court today. Judge Miloslav Studnička read a transcript of her testimony from the preliminary proceedings into the record instead, the Mediafax agency reports.

In her previous testimony, Martina Ondřejková said Jaromír Lukeš had knocked on her window after the attack looking for something to treat burns. "I gave him an aerosol can of panthenol and asked what he needed it for. He said it was for David and didn't want to say more. When David Vaculík came by a few days later to say good-bye because he was going to Ireland, I saw his hand was burned," Mediafax quotes from her original testimony.

During a later conversation, she was apparently joking with Lukeš: "So that's why you needed that panthenol for burns. He just waved his hand and said: Well..." The witness had met the defendants at neo-Nazi concerts; her husband plays in one such band. Mediafax reports police originally suspected her of having prior knowledge of the attack. "I first learned of the attack when it was reported on the radio. It did occur to me that his burns might have been related to the arson, but I wasn't sure. I didn't report it to the police because I was afraid of revenge from whoever did it, the neo-Nazis or the Roma. I have a young daughter and I'm pregnant," she told police.

The trial continued with more police wiretap recordings of the defendants. The recordings seem to show that two months after the attack - while the victim Natálka was fighting for her life - Müller and Vaculík were having a fine time, making jokes, laughing and singing. News server iDNES.cz reports they evidently did not suspect the police were on their trail and could hear every word they said.

According to Markus Pape, the attorney-in-fact for the victimized Romani family, at least two of the defendants committed other crimes after the arson. For example, iDNES.cz reports they defaced several police stations in the Bruntál district with paint. "Defendant Müller at one point clearly tells Vaculík, with whom he is travelling in a car, that he purchased the paint. That's what they used that night to deface police buildings in several places," iDNES.cz quotes Pape. "The detectives were listening live while those two attacked the police buildings."

Pape insists that while the Vítkov arson attack may have been the largest of its kind, it is only one of many such actions perpetrated by neo-Nazis from Moravia and Silesia. "It's too bad the police did not thoroughly investigate the many other Molotov cocktail attacks previously committed in the Bruntál district. If they had investigated those matters as attempted murders, not just as misdemeanors or reckless endangerment, they could have asked for wiretaps earlier and Vítkov might not have happened, because they would have apprehended these neo-Nazis long ago," iDNES.cz quotes Pape as saying. He is concerned police may never successfully complete their investigations of the earlier, unexplained Molotov cocktail attacks.

**Prague National Resistance trial starts in the Czech Republic**  
8.7.2010

**Neo-Nazis could serve long prison terms for what were allegedly "childish pranks"**

It would seem that the words of former Czech Interior Minister Martin Pecina are finally coming true. After taking office last May, he promised to deliver a harsh blow to domestic "extremists", and the police on his watch did actually manage to track down the alleged perpetrators of the Vítkov arson attack on trial today in Ostrava.

What can those who are the leaders of the neo-Nazi scene be prosecuted for? They have not participated in violent actions for years - or rather, the police have not managed to prove their participation in such actions. That was the basic question the Organized Crime Detection Unit (Útvar pro odhalování organizovaného zločinu - ÚOOZ) asked itself when it started this work at the end of 2008. After several raids and an "above-average" investigation conducted by Prague state prosecutor Zdeňka Gálková, at least some of the

alleged heads of the neo-Nazi movement in the Czech Republic were charged in mid-June with promoting Nazism. Czech daily Lidové noviny reports that the trial will start in mid-July at the Prague 1 District Court.

The case file is more than 2 500 pages long and includes the Supreme Administrative Court and Constitutional Court verdicts banning the Workers' Party. Commentator Tomáš Pecina posted the 30-page indictment on his website at the start of July, calling it a "Husák-style indictment" [Translator's Note: Husák was the long-term Communist leader of Czechoslovakia]. He criticizes the state prosecutor for bringing the indictment over the mere posting of stickers or organization of public gatherings. He criticizes phrases such as "social defectiveness", found in political scientist Ivo Svoboda's expert testimony, which he publishes along with the photographic documentation of the propaganda materials confiscated from the accused. The commentator does not indicate how he managed to get a hold of these documents, which are redacted to refer to those indicted and the witnesses by their initials alone, with the exception of two Austrian citizens. Those familiar with the neo-Nazi scene, however, will easily guess who is specifically being referred to.

The aims of groups such as National Resistance (Národní odpor) were commented on some time ago by the spokesperson for the Security Information Service (BIS), Jan Šubert: "Their political program is unambiguous, there is no doubt: Political dictatorship, the creation of a racially pure state, and merciless combat with whomever disagrees." Political scientist and expert on extremism Miroslav Mareš says of the current indictment of the National Resistance members: "The crimes for which they are now indicted are not really what most of those charged should be tried for."

Eight people are charged with the crime of supporting and promoting Nazism as part of an organized group, for which they face up to eight years in prison. Among these "worthy 30-year-olds" is the accountant F.V., who has been previously convicted of many other crimes. He is the alleged founder of National Resistance, which although never officially registered was nevertheless banned by the Supreme Court in 2006. He is also a former leading functionary in the Workers' Party which was recently disbanded by the court. The long-time leader of that party's candidate list in Prague, the student P.V., currently spending his ninth month in custody, and the administrative staffer M.H., who until recently was the leader of the party's candidate list in Vysočina, are the other Workers' Party leaders indicted. Another "celebrity" is the dispatcher P.F. of Prague, who is famous from the "Blue Star" case. That was the name of a restaurant in České Budějovice where, at the end of 1999, the hard core of the recently-formed National Resistance and roughly 30 young neo-Nazis brutally attacked the unsuspecting guests at a Roma party. The angry gang then proceeded through the town and attacked the guests at a club where left-wing youth usually gather. After many long years of court delays, more than 20 youths were eventually sentenced for their roles in these attacks, but only a few of them served actual prison sentences.

The youngest defendant in the National Resistance case is sales manager M.D., who represents its women's branch, Resistance Women Unity. Only one of the defendants has done time before; for committing a crime while on probation, the court changed his previous sentence to a total of six weeks in prison.

#### **The state's covert response to the "battle for Janov"**

The prosecution of this alleged neo-Nazi elite covers a total of four crimes committed between November 2008 and June 2009. A significant portion of the investigation took place under former Czech Interior Minister Ivan Langer, specifically after the infamous (second) "battle for Janov".

On the 2008 anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, the Workers' Party organized a political demonstration in the North Bohemian town of Litvínov. From the demonstration point, hundreds of these "proponents of law and order" set off, accompanied by police, for the Janov quarter of Litvínov. Their fierce clashes with 1 000 police resulted in many injured police officers, demonstrators, and local onlookers. Almost none of those who committed this violence were ever criminally prosecuted, inspiring those who participated in the battle to commit further violent acts. According to police, those indicted for the April 2009 arson attack in Vítkov also participated in the Janov battle. Klára Kalibová, an expert on

extremism from the In Iustitia association, told CNN that the primary aim of the battle in Litvínov was not to attack police officers, but to attack the Roma living there, whom the police managed to protect after several hours of unprecedented tenacity.

After this “battle”, Langer praised the police for their “selfless engagement” and later gave some of them medals. At the same time however, he faced harsh criticism from human rights organizations who claimed the police must have known in advance that the neo-Nazis had been publicly calling for armed conflict. Since the police had sufficient advance evidence of this, they therefore had a reason to disperse the entire action and arrest its participants from its very first moments instead of allowing it to proceed.

Even after Janov, it seemed for quite some time that the Interior Ministry would be taking no other steps against the neo-Nazis. At the start of April 2009, similar street clashes took place in the Moravian town of Přerov, which police units again used force to disperse. Here too, only a fraction of the total number of those committing violence were ever criminally prosecuted; those who were prosecuted were only charged with disturbing the peace.

After this, the most serious racist crime in the country’s modern history took place, a night-time Molotov cocktail attack on a Romani family in Vítkov. Two months later, the so-called “middle management” of the neo-Nazi movement was arrested, namely the producers and sellers of neo-Nazi music. Proceeds from the sale of this music have been financing the movement for years, including its organization of violent demonstrations and its pricey lawyers’ bills.

### **Childish pranks or the revival of the Third Reich?**

Thanks to commentator Pecina, the public is learning today that the police did start taking action after the second “battle for Janov”. At the end of November 2008, immediately after Janov, police put wiretaps on the Czech section of the country’s neo-Nazi leaders and followed their preparations for a “strong action”, the posting of propaganda material the night before an “Anti-fascist Action” gathering against racism in mid-December in Prague. When the anti-fascists marched through Prague’s Old Town, they were greeted along the route by brand-new posters advertising the National Resistance web address which the defendants had allegedly posted.

Defendant P. V.’s attorney, Robert Cholenský, has been quoted in the media as saying the posting of the materials was “not a crime”. Cholenský, who used to work for the League of Human Rights, has successfully represented Roma attacked by police officers and participants in the CzechTek music festival. Since last year he has also been defending one of those arrested during the “Power I” police action. These defendants have either refused to testify or have claimed they were “randomly” on the scene and posted nothing.

“According to the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, which is part of the Constitution of the Czech Republic (...) censorship is impermissible. However, it seems the Constitution has become merely a worthless shred of paper which our overlords are simply not interested in.” Such is the opinion of Petr Kotáb on the indictment. Kotáb is the former vice-chair of the Workers’ Party and the lead candidate of the Workers’ Social Justice Party in the Ústí district for this year’s parliamentary elections. He was recently sentenced to probation for supporting and promoting neo-Nazism. The verdict has not yet taken effect.

Some of the defendants are being prosecuted for organizing a “commemoration” in Jihlava at the start of June 2009. Five of the defendants together with leading neo-Nazis from Austria allegedly wanted to pay homage to the German soldiers who died in Jihlava during WWII. Those invited included 50-year-old Gottfried Küssel, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 1993 in Vienna for the crime of attempting to revive the Nazi state; he served six years of his sentence. Jihlava was also visited by 85-year-old commentator Herbert Schweiger, a former member of Adolf Hitler’s SS Leibstandarte military unit which committed war crimes during WWII. This past April, Schweiger was sentenced to seven months in prison for the crime of attempting to revive the Nazi state by the Municipal High Court in Graz.

In the end, the Jihlava town hall dispersed the commemoration because it diverted from its officially announced purpose. The participants then set off on a protest march through the town. They laid their wreaths on the soldiers’ graves the following day. Attorney

Cholenský says it is not possible to sue someone for organizing a public gathering. Here again, the defendants have refused to testify; some have simply said the action was announced as legally required. They allegedly did not participate in organizing it, and they allegedly did not intend to violate any laws by participating in it.

The main defendant - 20-year-old M. D. of Prague - has supposedly participated in all four of the crimes being prosecuted. She is the only one being prosecuted for creating and operating the neo-Nazi website of Resistance Women Unity (RWU), the women's branch of National Resistance. Here the key witness is the famous co-founder of the League against Anti-Semitism, V. T. of Plzeň, who managed to convince the US-based server hosting the RWU website to take it down. The website was allegedly listed under another name without the server's consent. The RWU website creators subsequently transferred its contents to another website and carried on until M. D. was taken into custody. According to the indictment, she operated the website alone. She refused to testify to police. She is also the only defendant charged with organizing, arranging and holding the "White Power Music" concert in the town of Srby u Kladna, where on 2 February 2009 neo-Nazi bands promoted hatred against "Jews, Roma and non-white immigrants".

According to the file, M. D.'s underbelly is tattooed with the SS motto "My honor is loyalty" - in German. She was born in the year of the Velvet Revolution.

## Prague 15.7.2010 **Neo-Nazi trial postponed, Dupová, Vondrák still in custody, Lang released**

The Prague 1 District Court postponed today's trial of eight people whom experts say are the leaders of the Czech extreme right scene and former high officials in the now-banned Workers' Party. The postponement occurred before the arraignment could be read out.

One defendant did not appear in court, allegedly due to a transportation problem. The judge was unable to start the trial in his absence without violating his legal right to participate. She postponed the hearing until 18 August. Because an associate judge had an essential medical appointment at noon, the hearing had to end before then, but that was not the reason the trial was postponed. The court had previously not managed to deliver its summons to two of the defendants, so Judge Věra Bártová delivered the summons to them in the courtroom today.

The three judges did, however, publicly review three of the defendants' requests to be released from custody. Only Richard Lang was released from custody; he had no prior criminal record, was not on probation, expressed regret for his actions, and assured the court he would not continue his previous activity. "I got involved with this all through friends. I didn't pay attention in history class, I'm a loner, I didn't learn anything until I was taken into custody - I did a lot of reading there. I've changed, six months was enough time for me to learn my lesson," said Lang. News server Lidovky.cz reported that Lang claims to have read Kundera and Marx while in custody.

Michaela Dupová, a member of the now-dissolved Workers' Party (Dělnická strana - DS) and Patrik Vondrák, the former chair of the DS in Prague, remain in custody for now. Dupová would only make a general statement to the court: "I would like to say that after the nine months I have spent in prison I have learned a lot." When asked by news server Lidovky.cz whether she was avoiding contact with her previous friends, she would not give a direct answer: "They are my friends, I'm 20 years old - the price would be too high for me. My parents are divorced and I guess I was seeking refuge." She also refused to promise to have her Nazi tattoo removed: "I haven't thought about it. I can't make any promises - it would be expensive." The judge ordered her release, but the prosecutor immediately appealed. Dupová must now wait for the Prague appellate court to rule.

Patrik Vondrák's only statement was: "I would like to promise that in the future I will never commit any crimes." That did not satisfy the judge, who remanded him into custody once more. Vondrák had been on probation for rioting. His father claims to have had no knowledge of his son's record. He was also unable to explain why he tolerated certain decorations in his son's room, such as a pillow embroidered with a swastika.

Roughly 30-40 promoters of neo-Nazism, including Tomáš Vandas, chair of the Workers' Social Justice Party, came to the courthouse to support the defendants but did not make it into the courtroom as most of the seating was already taken by journalists. The trial is taking place under slightly increased security measures; police officers patrolled in front of the building in the morning and were also posted in the halls.

In August the court will hear testimony from Dupová, Vondrák, former chair of the DS regional organization in Vysočina Milan Hroch, and Filip Vávra, a longtime activist on the ultra-right scene. Prosecutors have charged some of the defendants with posting stickers for the neo-Nazi National Resistance organization and for convening demonstrations in support of fallen Wehrmacht soldiers. One defendant is being charged with operating a neo-Nazi website and organizing white power music concerts. Some of the defendants are concurrently being tried for other crimes.

Dupová and Vondrák were arrested by the Organized Crime Detection Unit (Útvar pro odhalování organizovaného zločinu - ÚOOZ) during one of three police operations targeting right-wing extremism last October. Detectives charged a total of 16 people during the other two operations.

### 3. Struggling Neo-Nazism

#### A. Understand the functioning

Prague  
14.7.201

**The image of right-wing extremism in the Czech media**

Newton Media and Open Society Fund Prague have completed an extensive media analysis of the image of right-wing extremism in the Czech media. More than 31 000 media pieces from 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2010 were reviewed in order to capture how the media has reported on events related to right-wing extremism during this recent period of rising numbers of extreme-right demonstrations and marches.

The period covered coincided with the European Parliamentary and Czech regional elections, during which the extreme right campaigned for voter support. Klára Kalibová of the In Iustitia organization, an opponent of the extreme right, says the analysis is “a significant undertaking in the effort to grasp how the media reports on the extreme right.”

Media evaluations of right-wing extremism gradually changed over time, along with a transformation in the thematic structure of the reporting. While reports during the first eight months of the period under review were predominantly about extremist events and marches, after the arson attack in Vítkov more space was devoted to the topic of extremist crime and efforts to wipe out extremism.

These reports were often more neutral than negative. “The finding that 52 % of the reports were neutral during the first half of the period reviewed might be considered alarming. What is positive is that during the second half of the period under review, the proportion is reversed and 62 % of the reports are negative”, says Eva Dobrovolná of Amnesty International. “The analysis shows that the extremist groups have intentionally taken action to get media attention. They have easier access to the media than many of their civil society opponents.”

The most-covered event with respect to right-wing extremism was the arson attack on a Roma home in the North Moravian town of Vítkov. The second most-frequently mentioned item was the Supreme Administrative Court hearings on the motions to ban the Workers’ Party. The third most-covered event was the Workers’ Party demonstration in Litvínov which led to the march on the Janov housing estate in November 2008. Condemnations from national-level politicians were extensively publicized by the media after the events in Vítkov in particular and greatly contributed to the negative publicity.

Regional-level media devoted the most attention to right-wing extremism, with the most reports (print and radio) produced in the Ústí region. The Mladá fronta DNES newspaper produced the most articles on the topic. The vast majority of pieces were news reports; only 15 % were analyses, commentaries, or interviews.

The Workers’ Party achieved the most publicity at more than half of the total devoted to extreme-right organizations, primarily due to the trials on whether to ban it. Workers’ Party representatives were the names most frequently mentioned in relation to extreme-right groups and their activities. The name of Workers’ Party chair Tomáš Vandas, for example, was mentioned in every tenth report. Other party functionaries were also mentioned frequently, such as party vice-chairs Petr Kotáb and Jiří Štěpánek. One clear exception is the name of Filip Vávra, the third most frequently mentioned person. Vávra is considered the main ideologue of the neo-Nazi National Resistance organization, the second most frequently mentioned group in the media survey.

## B. Act against the movement

Plzeň  
25.4.2010

### Nazi debacle in Plzeň: 100 Nazis, six of them detained, 200 counter-protesters

Yesterday Jiří Strobach, magistrate of the central municipal district of Plzeň, dispersed a previously announced Nazi march shortly after it began. Deputy Regional Police Director Jaromír Kníže later told journalists the demonstration had been dispersed because the slogans on the clothing of some participants were most probably illegal. High Commissioner Jana Václavová told the Czech Press Agency that police had detained four people at the march, including a foreign national, and detained another two after it was dispersed.

Strobach said the gathering fundamentally deviated from its stated purpose as described to the authorities in January by the conveners, "support for political prisoners". At the time it was announced, officials had no legal reason to ban the event. "Some of the speeches by the participants in this gathering (today) clearly showed that there was a fundamental deviation from the stated purpose of the gathering, and that is a violation of the law on assembly. Other laws were broken by speeches aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms. We warned the organizers the law was being broken, but they did not correct the situation," the magistrate said.

"It has been determined that there is a suspicion that the crime of establishing, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms has been committed. Several of the participants of this march committed this crime by wearing t-shirts with slogans that unambiguously gave us cause to initiate criminal proceedings against them," Deputy Regional Police Director Kníže said.

The march of approximately 100 people set off after 14:00 yesterday, about one hour later than originally planned, and was accompanied by hundreds of police officers. The event was dispersed a few minutes later. Czech Press Agency reporters said the participants managed to walk only a few meters. They set off on their route shouting "Freedom for Political Prisoners!" Marchers carried black or red and white flags with the Bohemian lion and several banners. Police had checked the banners and flags prior to the start of the event to make sure they did not violate the law.

Those suspected of committing the crime of promoting the suppression of human rights include a 26-year-old native of Plzeň, a 32-year-old native of Ostrava, and a 22-year-old man from the southern Plzeň region, all of whom were wearing clothing with objectionable inscriptions. Václavová later specified that a 26-year-old foreign national was suspected of demonstrating sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms due to a tattoo of an objectionable symbol on a part of his body clearly visible to others. Police later detained a 40-year-old man from the northern Plzeň region and a 20-year-old Prager over slogans on their clothing. A 29-year-old man from Plzeň was also taken into custody on suspicion of committing a misdemeanor against public order. "The decision to initiate criminal proceedings against specific individuals will be made on the basis of expert evaluations," Václavová said.

A cordon of police officers directed the marchers, some of whom were evidently German and Polish nationals, toward the bus station, preventing them from entering the center of town. At Husovo náměstí (Hus Square) officers recommended various routes for dispersal, and the demonstrators slowly left in small groups for their cars or for the bus station. Police were prepared to monitor the situation in the town for the rest of the day.

Police reported in a press release that "Around 100 people attended the march in support of political prisoners, and officers also noted about 200 counter-protesters dispersed in smaller groups throughout the streets of Plzeň." The counter-protesters ended their gatherings once the extremists' march had been dispersed. "Today we have succeeded in protecting Plzeň from the Nazis, they did not march through town. This is an enormous victory for democracy," the news server Deník.cz quoted Jiří Metod Kasl as saying.

Czech Human Rights Commissioner Michael Kocáb was also in Plzeň. Deník.cz reported he was on hand to observe the march because during his time as minister he had learned that

it was best to be directly at the scene of such events and not learn about them second-hand. Deník.cz quoted Kocáb as saying that civil rights protections required that such events not be banned outright, but the decision as to whether to permit a gathering to go forward should be made on the spot.

Police did their best to prevent conflicts between the marchers and counter-protesters, some of whom gathered on náměstí Republiky (Square of the Republic) with a banner reading "We Don't Want Nazis Here", and some of whom were moving around in small groups near the place where the march was to start. There were no direct clashes. "Had the march gone ahead along the route and at the time announced, we had information that the left-wing scene would gather with the intention of attacking the participants of the right-wing march," Kníže said.

Crowds of people also watched the march from the sidewalks. As many as 500 police from other regions were deployed to assist local officers. An anti-conflict team, police dogs, and officers on horseback were also deployed. Three armored transport carriers were deployed in the streets near the town center and the situation was monitored by helicopter. "The extent of the measures is the same as those we have taken in previous years," Kníže said. He estimated the costs of the deployment at one million Czech crowns.

The right-wing extremists had announced their event as lasting from 13:00 until 18:00 and had counted on anywhere from 100 to 400 people attending. The march was convened by Tomáš Vondrášek, Michal Hilák and Marek Henzl. The Anti-fascist Action group says these individuals are members of the Plzeň Autonomous Nationalists. That group has participated in organizing right-wing extremist marches in Plzeň in the past. This was the third year in a row that extremists have marched through the town, but yesterday marked the first time authorities have dispersed their event on the spot.

Even though police had called on people to avoid the route of the march, residents were evidently not scared off. The main square and the places along the route were calm, with locals and tourists out on foot.

#### **Bratislava 7.8.2010 Police disperse right-wing extremist march in Slovakia**

Slovak Police intervened today against a march by extremists from the Our Slovakia People's Party (Lidová strana Naše Slovensko - LSNS) in front of the castle in Bratislava. Ten people were arrested, including Marián Kotleba, leader of the Slovak Brotherhood. Authorities allowed the event to take place, but participants then decided they wanted to march to the statue of Prince Svatopluk on the castle grounds, which police did not allow. Police arrested about 10 participants during the subsequent clash; local media reported that one detainee's head was bloodied.

"We want to express our patriotism by marching," organizers said prior to the start of the march. Dozens of participants then held up Slovak national symbols and shouted abuse about homosexuals, liberals, and "Zionists". The extremists chanted slogans on the way to the castle such as "Slovakia for the Slovaks" or "Go to hell, SAS [party], Israel!"

Fully armed police officers were waiting for the marchers in front of the castle gate and refused to let them into the castle courtyard. Kotleba and Mišún, who had convened the gathering, gave their speeches on the spot, primarily verbal attacks on the Freedom and Solidarity Party (Strana Sloboda a Solidarita - SAS), whose leader, Richard Sulík, is now the chair of parliament and is considering removing a statue of Prince Svatopluk from the castle courtyard. "All these liberals, these coveys of Zionists, aren't bothered by Svatopluk - what bothers them is the double cross, which is an ancient Christian symbol and a symbol of the Slovak nation," Kotleba declared.

Andrej Petrek, mayor of the Old Town quarter of Bratislava, announced to the marchers more than once that their gathering was not permitted at the castle and dispersed it at 14:00. Shortly thereafter, riot police began expelling the extremists from the castle gates. The marchers then chanted their favorite slogan, "Police state!"

Officers had to intervene more than once at the castle gate. Kotleba's followers first refused to leave the area where they were not permitted to gather, and several of them sat down in solidarity with him. Others moved to the staircase that leads to the National Assembly of the Slovak Republic. Officers also intervened there.

Civic activist Alojz Hlína was also on the scene and as usual stole the extremists' flag. Police arrested him as well. Approximately a half an hour after the intervention began, police finally expelled the rest of the marchers into Zámecká street.

A counter-demonstration of anti-fascists and civic activists also headed for the statue of Svatopluk in order to express their disagreement with the Slovak Brotherhood and discuss the controversial statue. Approximately 50 people gathered in front of the National Assembly of the Slovak Republic. Robert Mihály, a civic activist from the UM! ("REASON!") initiative read greetings to the crowd from representatives of the human rights organizations Amnesty International, People against Racism, and others. Even though 150 MPs had also been invited to attend, the only one to do so was Ondrej Dostál (Most-HID).

In the end, organizers cancelled the planned discussion about the statue, because neither sculptor Ján Kulich nor former Slovak PM Robert Fico had shown up. "If we were to start talking about the statue it would be a one-sided discussion and I can't identify with such an approach," the SITA press agency quoted Mihály as saying. Those protesting at the parliament building, unlike the extreme right-wing groups, had requested and were granted permission to march to the statue.

Controversy over the statue broke out recently when news server [Aktuálně.sk](http://Aktuálně.sk) reported that Svatopluk's shield bears a cross with two bars of equal length inside a circle, identical to the fascist symbol used by the Hlinka Guard. "They started using that symbol in 1938. It intentionally copied the model of the swastika in a circle, the emblem of the NSDAP, just like the emblem of the Hungarian fascist Arrow Cross Party a cross tipped with arrows enclosed in a diamond shape," said Ladislav Vrtěl, the secretary of the Slovak Interior Ministry's Heraldic Commission. "There is no question that the double cross with two bars of equal length fulfilled the function of the Nazi swastika in Slovakia," [Aktuálně.sk](http://Aktuálně.sk) reports the expert as saying.

The extremists first began associating in the Slovak Brotherhood movement, which the government is in the process of attempting to ban. This past spring, nationalists led by Marián Kotleba succeeded in infiltrating and then taking over the "Friends of Wine Party" and renaming it the "Our Slovakia People's Party".

The party fielded candidates in the June parliamentary elections but did not exceed the 5 % limit required to gain seats. The extremists, whose representatives wear uniforms reminiscent of the Hlinka Guard, are demanding the establishment of a corporatist state.