Antigypsyism gained strength, politicians became more populist, some media fabricated antigypsyist stories, and the lives of impoverished Roma did not improve.
# Table of Contents

1. Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 2

2. Causes: Racism, stereotypes, frustration with impoverishment ......................................................... 3

3. Repression instead of solidarity ............................................................................................................. 4

4. Specific experience in practice ............................................................................................................. 5
   4.1. Ostrava ........................................................................................................................................... 6
   4.2. Ústí nad Labem .............................................................................................................................. 7

5. The situation in socially excluded localities ............................................................................................ 8

6. The internal enemy and frustrations .................................................................................................... 9

7. The ultra-right ....................................................................................................................................... 9
   7.1. Akce D.O.S.T. and DSSS .......................................................................................................... 10

8. Changes in ordinary people .................................................................................................................. 10

9. Lack of ethics, professionalism persist for some media .......................................................................... 11
   9.1. Invented cases ............................................................................................................................ 12

10. Politicians’ racism, xenophobia and populism ..................................................................................... 12

11. Hate violence ........................................................................................................................................ 13

Appendices .................................................................................................................................................. 14
   11.1. Appendix No. 1: Examples of invented cases reported as true by the media ......................... 14
   11.2. Appendix No. 2: Examples of populist and racist statements by politicians ....................... 17
   11.3. Appendix No. 3: Examples of cases of discrimination and hate violence ............................ 26
1. Introduction

This is the Romea association’s first report on the danger of rising extremism, racism and direct antigypsyism in the Czech Republic. The report covers the year 2012 and part of 2013.

The following topics are covered:

- The deterioration in the societal atmosphere in the Czech Republic and Europe
- Extremism, racism and antigypsyism in the Czech Republic
- The rise in populism and repressive measures from politicians, as well as the rise in antigypsyism among them
- Anti-Romani tendentiousness in the media and the reporting methods that facilitate it; fabricated cases
- Life as an impoverished Romani person in the Czech Republic

One of the authors of this report, František Kostlán, is also vice-chair of the Czech Helsinki Committee (Český helsinský výbor - ČHV). This report overlaps to a certain extent with the ČHV Report on the State of Human Rights in the Czech Republic 2012 (Zpráva o stavu lidských práv v ČR za rok 2012). Romea is endeavoring to describe the topic of the Romani minority in more detail and in a more integrated fashion. This report focuses solely on those aspects of human rights that are of the greatest concern to the largest minority in Czech society, the Roma.
2. Causes: Racism, stereotypes, frustration with impoverishment

Generally speaking, both in European society and in the behavior of several political parties, a deviation away from humanistic ideals was underway in 2012, together with a rise in proposals for “solutions” that would either contravene human rights or directly involve violence. In the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia, these “solutions” concern the Roma first and foremost.

The societal atmosphere has been deteriorating for several years. Hatred, intolerance, racism and xenophobia have been rising, and in the Czech Republic this is primarily through antigypsyism, which is also frequently manifested in a racist way.

Here we shall try to briefly identify several of the causes behind this overall brutalization of Europe and of Czech society specifically. There is more the one. The “time of change” we have been experiencing has always included uncertainty about the future, and people’s values have changed, as has their view of the consequences or purpose of morality. Interpersonal relationships have also changed. This is also fueled by present-day manifestations of globalization in our closely interconnected world.

The immediate causes of this brutalization are racism, the deteriorating socioeconomic situation, and widely-received models of behavior and contemplation, i.e., prejudices and stereotypes. “Thanks” to the internet, such models are being more and more strongly shared in a collective fashion and are therefore becoming much less amenable to transformation.

This societal atmosphere is marked by a hunt for someone to label as “the culprit responsible for the deteriorating situation” taking place among society’s weakest members, those who are somehow different, who stand out, and who are unable to effectively defend themselves against such accusations because of their weakness. In the Czech Republic, these people are primarily Romani (and sometimes homeless people, immigrants, and other impoverished people, including senior citizens).

The identified culprit becomes the “internal enemy” whom it is possible to fight and to defeat, thereby “resolving” the problem. As part of this way of contemplating the current situation, verbal defamation of Romani people is taking place, as are anti-Romani demonstrations that are almost always linked to attempted lynching or pogroms and that do always involve an effort to terrorize Romani people and to thereby displace or push them “somewhere else”. The number of specific cases of hate violence is rising, and discrimination against Romani people is becoming an open matter of which few are ashamed.

Our experience shows that an essential cause behind the rising hatred for this minority is not the behavior or lifestyle of Romani people, but latent racism that is rising to the surface as life in Czech society becomes increasingly frustrating. Proof of this is the fact that ordinary people are joining anti-Romani demonstrations in larger numbers than ever before, people who are not bothered by the racist slogans shouted during these marches and their fundamentally violent nature.
Problems in coexistence here have existed since antiquity, but racism (mainly its narrow, antigypsyist variety) has only gained unprecedented strength throughout all of society in recent years. Racists and other right-wing extremists need this internal enemy, and the Roma are ideal to play this “role”. They are complacent, the media takes no interest in their opinions, and politicians even from democratic parties ostracize them in order to score political points. If the racists “didn’t have the Roma”, then we would see this role of internal enemy being played today much more strongly than ever before by immigrants, Jewish people, political opponents, sexual minorities, or some other group.

The extremists are not interested in improving people’s lives and solving problems, but in getting into power. During the Second World War, instigated and waged by the Nazis, as well as during the Stalinist period at the end of the 1940s and the whole of the 1950s in the former Czechoslovakia, we were able to see how such people wield power.

3. Repression instead of solidarity

The solidarity so key to social cohesion was exchanged by the government of former Prime Minister Petr Nečas for measures which have impacted the most impoverished citizens of the Czech Republic first and foremost (i.e., ridiculous budget cuts and other policies that were ill-conceived). This is a short-sighted policy, as social cohesion is important to the health of all of society, and even the satisfaction of those who are wealthier depends on it. This was well-understood by Western German politicians in the 1950s, who put their war-destroyed country back on its feet by introducing the welfare state. This model was a brilliant European contribution to the discussion on how to resolve issues of coexistence.

Displacing cohesion and solidarity with these other measures has caused many problems. The state should, for example, change its approach in the area of education, as the ongoing segregation in the schools is bad for the Czech Republic’s reputation. There is a complete lack of a much-needed law on social housing. It is also necessary to change several regulations in the new Civil Code that is scheduled to take effect as of 1 January 2014. This new law *inter alia* codifies the option for landlords to evict tenants within one hour for a single breach of contract, to withdraw from contracts without having to provide substitute accommodations, or to demand deposits from their tenants that are equivalent to up to six months’ rent. All of these measures are aimed first and foremost against impoverished people in general and Romani people in particular.

Representatives of the Czech Republic and of its towns and villages are choosing repressive methods of governance more and more frequently. As an example, consider the law through which towns and villages have the opportunity to ban people from their territory for up to three months who repeatedly commit a certain set of misdemeanors. Through this and other similar repressive measures, these problems on the one hand are merely being shunted elsewhere, and on the other hand are causing further difficulties. Some people without means, when pushed into a corner and deprived of the opportunity to share their burden with their extended families seek illegal ways of making a living. Repression therefore also leads to increased crime.
These repressive measures include some municipal ordinances restricting personal liberty. For example, the town of Krupka issued an ordinance entitled “Municipal ordinance No 3/2012 on securing local matters of public order and the aesthetic appearance of the town of Krupka”. This ordinance makes it possible to fine anyone who does any of the following in public: Sitting on a lawn, railing or staircase, or placing a chair or unfolding a blanket on the ground. What is more, the decree does not apply to the entire territory of Krupka, but only to those places where the most Romani residents live. A similar decree was also issued by the town of Litvínov.

While social assistance from public bodies is being pushed to the back burner, community methods of such assistance are not being used at all. “Community methods” include the creation of platforms where locals, irrespective of skin color, can enjoy shared experiences (e.g., following cultural programs or playing sports) and discuss the problems of their coexistence together. If people don’t start conversing together and listening to one another, then any other integration efforts will be very weakened, if not useless altogether.

It is also very necessary that democratic politicians start speaking up about specific racist and xenophobic acts and sentiments. The policy of the former Nečas government, unfortunately, was to exploit such sentiment in order to better conceal its own problems. Even famous advocates of human rights among politicians have disappointed in this regard, as most of them have remained silent on these issues in anticipation of the upcoming elections.

4. Specific experience in practice

What we have directly experienced in the course of our work with respect to these specific topics is ominous.

During the 1990s there were 20 racist murders in the Czech Republic. During the past decade, discrimination in all areas of life has been underway. Much of what was ordinarily considered discrimination and racism just a few years ago is today perceived as “correct”, “predominant”, and even “desirable”. We have briefly described the institutional approach in the above examples, but what does this approach look like in practice?

During 2012 there was a visible change in access to housing for the most impoverished people, many of whom are Romani. We witnessed open discrimination in the form of people being displaced from certain neighborhoods into others, most of them into overpriced residential hotels. Neither municipalities nor the state are doing anything about the unbearable living conditions that predominate in most of the residential hotels. Municipalities are sometimes making money on the “business” of residential hotels and the state is adding more repressive measures, but no one is interested in improving the living conditions of socially

---

excluded people living far below the poverty line. Other phenomena, including crime and indebtedness, then develop from this way of life.

There are many examples of this. More than once we have encountered residential hotels where up to eight people live in one 20-meter-square room, including several schoolchildren. Families are not permitted to store anything in the hallways, so everything takes place in that one room, from drying laundry to doing homework to sleeping. The garbage can is there as well. The result is a total loss of privacy. The families pay up to CZK 3 500 per adult and a little less per child for such a shared room (in 2013 some residential hotels raised their rates by CZK 1 000 per person).

In these residential hotels hot water runs infrequently and around 20 people share a single shower and toilet down the hall. In some residential hotels and shelters there are rules restricting the personal liberty of the residents, who must announce their visitors as well as their own arrival and departure times because the buildings are closed during certain evening hours, and if they come home late they will not be able to get inside because they are not provided with keys to the front door. There are other restrictions applied as well.

Human rights defenders are the only people protesting the fact that Romani people are being forced to move house because landlords have, for example, shut off their water service.

Such discrimination is very often part of the larger problem we call hate violence (or hate crime). When researching information about the reasons Romani people have moved house, we have encountered cases in which Romani tenants were threatened that unless they moved, their children would be beaten up or even killed. It has also happened that some bureaucrats or social workers have threatened to take Romani people’s children away for institutionalization unless they moved house.

No one but us is paying any attention to these cases. It also seems that local authorities and police are sometimes covert fans of these moves.

4.1. Ostrava

The most infamous examples of this kind of discrimination are known from Ostrava and Ústí nad Labem. The Moravská Ostrava a Přívoz quarter of Ostrava has been pushing Romani residents out in order to “cultivate the environment”, as the municipality said in a statement on the issue. Romani residents have had to move out of residential hotels on Božkova Street and out of regular apartment buildings on Palackého and Přednádraží Streets as a result.

When Lukáš Semerák (of the “Ostravák” movement), the town councilor for that municipal department, was asked why he had purchased the buildings on Palackého Street where the
Romani tenants were living (and whom he subsequently evicted), he said the following to news server Novinky.cz:

One of my intentions is to raise the whole locality up so that adaptable citizens return here. Přívoz is one of the oldest parts of Ostrava and there is a great deal of history there. Unfortunately, after the big floods in 1997, when the Hrušov neighborhood was afflicted by the water, Romani residents from there ended up on Přednádraží Street. I regret that this quarter of Ostrava has become a garbage can... We want to ensure a calm environment and accommodate the leadership of the private Karel Engliš College which is headquartered across from our buildings on Palackého Street and will open its doors in September.

4.2. Ústí nad Labem

An example of a municipality that is indifferent to the fate of its own citizens is given by the story of the Červeňák extended family. Ústí nad Labem has evicted several families within this extended family from a building in the Předlice quarter that had been neglected by its private owner and had gradually become uninhabitable. The evictees first lived in a primary school gym before being displaced into a residential hotel in the Krásné Březno quarter. The residents did not want to undertake either move and resisted, but some bureaucrats threatened to take their children away unless they complied.

At the residential hotel in Krásné Březno, for example, a four-member family (two adults and two children) paid CZK 11,500 in rent per month for a studio. Of this, around CZK 7,000 was covered by the state housing benefit. The most impoverished families, of course, still had to somehow come up with CZK 4,300 a month just to make the rent.

In the Předlice quarter from which they had been evicted, it had been possible to rent a larger apartment, electricity included, for CZK 6,800, which meant the tenants only had to come up with around CZK 2,000 on their own to make the rent. Another seven-member family (two adults and five children) ended up paying a total rent of CZK 14,500 per month for a studio unit in the residential hotel in the Krásné Březno quarter. The living conditions in that residential hotel corresponded to our previous descriptions of this particular kind of housing in many respects.

The evicted families (and the extended family as a whole) were subjected to other increases in their cost of living compared to their life in the Předlice quarter, such as the cost of transporting their children to school. The families kept their children enrolled at their school in the Předlice quarter because they doubted they would be permitted to enroll anywhere else, based on their previous experiences. They also did not know what the future held for them, since yet another move was in the cards. One of the mothers made the commute back to Předlice every day with her two children. An adult bus ticket costs CZK 19 and a child’s

---

ticket costs CZK 10. She was paying CZK 112 daily, or CZK 2,240 monthly, just for this commute. Another mother of five was even worse off, as the cost of her monthly commute with the children was CZK 3,440.

Ústí nad Labem proceeded to address these issues through the “ostrich” method of sticking its head in the sand. The municipality did almost nothing for these citizens who had been deprived of their housing, instead providing them information about residential hotels located outside of the town altogether.

Under the leadership of Petr Nečas, the Czech Government did not start taking an interest in this issue until 2013. However, the Regional Development Ministry wanted to replace the missing law on social housing with a promulgation that these residential hotels are to be considered social housing. The Regional Development Minister later agreed that a law on social housing should be drafted, but had only the vaguest notion of what it might look like, as it is to be drafted by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry. The fall of the Nečas government has postponed the solving of this problem.

5. The situation in socially excluded localities

Impoverished people living in socially excluded localities are being exploited by various mafias or “traffickers in poverty” who sometimes collaborate with the governments of towns and villages. Some local politicians, for example, continue to permit new casinos and gaming rooms to open up on their territories (while local politicians in other towns close them) because part of their profits goes either to the municipal coffers or directly into the pockets of the politicians involved. These gaming rooms are often owned by local loan sharks and mafias, some of who are also Romani, a testament to the fact that, in addition to contempt for Romani people coming from the rest of Czech society, there is also a social problem within their own communities.

The impoverished people who play video poker in these places are returning some of that money to whoever loaned it to them at usurious interest in the first place. Out of this and other dubious sources of money, drug producers and pimps finance the startup of their activities.

Because of this vicious circle of indebtedness, petty crime and prostitution has been growing in socially excluded localities. Because of the hopelessness and zero prospects for the future in such places, drug use and gambling also rises. According to various indicators and testimonies given to us on condition of anonymity, all of this is accompanied by the corruption of public officials.

Because of all of this, the effectiveness of integration measures and the opportunities to launch them, as well as specific “inclusion programs”, is declining. Both municipal and nonprofit social workers are grateful to receive even the minimum amount of funding needed to address the everyday problems being exacerbated by the approaches described above.
6. The internal enemy and frustrations

Seeking a culprit who can become an appropriate object for the creation of the “internal enemy” is in all probability phenomenon based in irrationality. After our interviews conducted with the “white” participants in the anti-Romani demonstrations in the Šluknov area, we can say that most of them were not directly racist, but were people frustrated that their standard of living has sharply deteriorated and that they are slowly being reduced to the level of the most impoverished themselves. These people define themselves as the opposite of the Roma, on the one hand because their latent racism is temporarily floating to the surface and on the other hand because to do so is to take the path of least resistance. To say Romani people are to blame for everything costs them nothing, as many will gladly agree with them.

This is yet another reason we have witnessed the slogan “Gypsies get to work” (“Cikáni do práce”) being shouted at demonstrations even by “whites” who have themselves been unemployed for some time, and who should therefore know that there is no more work for anyone in their region (or that there are only spasmodic, short-term job opportunities). For example, two young men who participated in an anti-Romani demonstration in the town of Varnsdorf were overheard to chant “Gypsies get to work” along with everyone else, after which the one told the other that he himself had been out of a job for a year at least. They then came to the following shared conclusion: “I wouldn’t hire a Gypsy, normal people should come first.”

The results of these frustrations among ordinary people (or at least among some of them) are very dangerous. These emotions make it possible for the average person to demonstrate shoulder to shoulder with right-wing extremists, because at that moment they consider radical “solutions”, including violent ones, to be correct.

7. The ultra-right

Even though the number of events held by ultra-right extremists fell in 2012, this turned out to have been the calm before the storm. Fascistic, neo-Nazi and ultraconservative fighting units have been preparing and are preparing for the many elections the Czech Republic now faces – to the Chamber of Deputies (early elections to the lower house), the European Parliament, the Senate, and town or village councils. This was confirmed by the anti-Romani crusades launched during 2013 in České Budějovice, Duchcov, Ostrava, Vítkov and elsewhere, during which the extremists waged their election campaign.

Every election is an opportunity for the ultra-right to advocate for its “solutions” to problems so all of society can hear them. This is done in more than one way. The ultra-right now has several political subjects who collaborate ad hoc or share staffs. The most infamous are the Akce D.O.S.T. initiative and the Workers’ Social Justice Party (Dělnická strana sociální spravedlnosti - DSSS).
7.1. **Akce D.O.S.T. and DSSS**

Akce D.O.S.T. provides the intellectual backing for ultraconservatism in the Czech Republic and in some respects is continuing the ideology of the prewar Czech Fascist movement. Its ranks include “Christian-style” anti-Semites, conservatives, people flirting with clerical fascism, and various “patriots” (nationalistic chauvinists) that have broken away from miscellaneous previous initiatives and small political parties.

The DSSS is continuing the activity of the neo-Nazi Workers’ Party (Dělnická strana – DS), which was dissolved by the Supreme Administrative Court. The party involves the very same people with the very same notions about politics and the world as such. The DSSS closely collaborates with German extremists and neo-Nazis from other countries. Their methods include demonstrations and the publicity they generate, as well as their own propaganda, which is primarily disseminated through the new media.

The DSSS primarily exploits the frustrations described above to score points in places where many Romani people live together in one part of town. During their events they terrorize local Romani residents and vilify them (or at least attempt to do so). Street brawlers participate in these events, the same people who have constantly accompanied all of the neo-Nazi initiatives that have gradually arisen and then died out. Here we can name the most recent ones, the Autonomous Nationalists (Autonomní nacionalisté- AN) and National Resistance (Národní odpor - NO). During 2013, the NO’s activity faded away and was replaced by a new neo-Nazi initiative called the “Czech Lions” (Čeští lvi), which arose as a splinter faction of the DSSS. This “street” section of the ultra-right never hides its racism. Many cases exist in which the main ultra-right perpetrators of violence have been people from the AN, the NO, and other neo-Nazi initiatives.

The ultra-right, due to the existing frustrations and the skill with which it has managed to exploit them, has succeeded in enhancing its instrumentality in the political arena. While its brutal violence still continues to deter many people from joining it (although fewer are deterred as time goes on), the ideas espoused by the intellectuals of D.O.S.T. and the anti-Romani invective used by the DSSS leaders is finding a sympathetic ear among the sharply rising number of frustrated people. In 2012, the DSSS won 4.37 % of the vote during the October elections to the Regional Authority in the Ústí Region, narrowly missing the opportunity to be seated on that body.

8. **Changes in ordinary people**

As an example of the rising danger posed by the growth of anti-Romani violence, we hereby present the dramatic change that has taken place in less than one year’s time. In October 2012, when neo-Nazis were marching in Ústí nad Labem past residential hotels occupied predominantly by Romani people, many locals there took a public stand against the ultra-right. Several months later the tables had turned: Ordinary locals were demonstrating against Romani people together with the right-wing extremists in the towns we have already mentioned, namely, České Budějovice, Duchcov, Ostrava and Vítkov.
Ordinary locals had also demonstrated together with neo-Nazis and other extremists during the anti-Romani unrest in the autumn of 2011. However, as time went by those locals had managed to distance themselves from the ultra-right (for example, in Rumburk and Varnsdorf), with those addressing the demonstrations saying directly that they did not want any right-wing extremists at their events.

9. Lack of ethics, professionalism persist for some media

Most national and new (online) media outlets in the Czech Republic are failing when it comes to ethics. Some media outlets have slightly improved recently compared to their previous performances when it comes to reporting about Romani people, but others are no longer even attempting to mask their racism.

The media have stopped fulfilling the social role previously described by the truism that “journalists are the watchdogs of democracy”. Now they are abetting the deterioration of the atmosphere in Czech society through subjective, unethical news reporting that is sometimes anti-Romani and tendentious. The public thus lacks a corrective to steer it away from its indifference, its populism, and its silence on this approach to human rights and to customary norms of behavior.

In the Czech Republic, the media are ever more strongly influencing public opinion in relation to Romani people in a negative way. They do this most often as follows:

- Publishing completely fabricated “news” about Romani people.
- Publishing the statements of public figures (most often politicians) verbally attacking Romani people as a whole. They do not make it possible for either Romani people or the staff of NGOs to respond to such statements.
- Reporting on specific events in a one-sided way (e.g., on clashes between members of the majority and minority). The media mostly report the claims of the majority-member side of such a conflict as if they were true and give no room to the claims of the other (Roma) side at all.
- Generalizing frequently, most often in cases where an individual suspected of committing a crime is taken to represent the Romani minority as a whole.
- Reporting on crimes allegedly committed by Romani people and specifying their ethnicity, while never specifying the ethnicity of the alleged perpetrators of crimes when they are members of the majority population. The ethnicity of an alleged perpetrator should never be mentioned unless there is a particular reason to do so.
- Using expressions in relation to Romani people that are ordinarily pejorative, for example: “gypsy” (cikán), “inadaptable” (nepřizpůsobilý), and “untouchable” (nedotknutelný). These terms are often used in connection with negative events.

This deterioration in the media’s approach has been caused by the reduced accountability of editors, journalists and publishers for their own behavior compared to the 1990s. The media are practically never criticized. Their behavior during the past decade has also rapidly deteriorated because people in this line of work are no longer aware of the social role of the
media and are privileging the earning of profits over efforts to report the news objectively and to maintain professional ethics.

This is resulting in both news reporting and political commentary that flirts with populist and radical social tendencies. Last but not least, journalists have been allowing themselves to be influenced by the deteriorating atmosphere in society and may also be racists.

9.1. Invented cases

As an example of the media’s work, we would like to highlight its role in publicizing cases that subsequently turned out to have been pure inventions. The number of news items that begin with fabricated reports of someone being assaulted by Romani people is rising. In the year 2012, the most infamous of these cases was that of the “Břeclav lie”. A boy named Petr (age 15) made up a story about having been assaulted by Romani people, and extremists and locals joined forces for an anti-Romani demonstration to protest the incident. Petr later confessed to having caused his own injuries. His mother played a fateful role in the case when she reported that her son had been assaulted by three Romani people, which was not true, and then collaborated with representatives of the extremist DSSS in preparing the demonstration against the alleged assault. We have documented 15 cases in which news reporting of fabricated incidents has subsequently sparked public displays of negative emotions against Romani people.

The media’s negative role consists of the fact that in each of these cases it published the claims of only one of the parties involved (the “white” side) as true without verifying their claims in any way. No room was ever given to the other (Roma) side of the story. In these cases, it was media coverage that contributed to sparking great upheavals of negative emotions and therefore to sparking the subsequent anti-Romani unrest and violence that occurred in response to these incidents.

For other examples of cases that have either been distorted by the media or that were completely invented, please see Appendix No. 1, Examples of invented cases reported as true by the media.

10. Politicians’ racism, xenophobia and populism

An increasing number of politicians in the Czech Republic are making populist, racist, or xenophobic statements without suffering any repercussions – on the contrary, they are scoring political points with them. For the most part, no one ever responds to these statements, not democratic politicians, not nonprofit organizations, and not the media. Many media outlets simply promote such statements.

Politicians’ populism and racism is therefore becoming an ordinary component of public discourse, which we consider to be a very dangerous trend. Recently this has primarily been undertaken by a former MP for the Public Affairs (Věci Veřejné –VV) party, Otto Chaloupka, as well as by Senator Tomio Okamura, but other high-level politicians make similar statements periodically.
Details of this are presented in Appendix No. 2: *Examples of populist and racist statements by politicians*

### 11. Hate violence

One of the results of the politicians’ behavior described above, as well as the unethical work of the Czech media, is that the atmosphere is influenced such that specific cases of violence are being committed because of a victim’s ethnicity. Experts refer to such cases as hate violence (hate crime).

We provide examples of this violence in Appendix No. 3, *Examples of cases of discrimination and hate violence*
Appendices

11.1. Appendix No. 1: Examples of invented cases reported as true by the media

6 September 2007 – Police report that the case of a 45-year-old Slovak man who had allegedly been assaulted by a group of Romani people wielding a baseball bat, causing him serious injuries, was fabricated. The man confessed it was a relative of his who injured him.

8 January 2011 – A 37-year-old man announces he was assaulted in Nový Bydžov by a small group of Romani people (the press referred to them as youths) who stole his wallet full of cash. Police, however, determined that the man had invented the whole story. It only took the detectives based in Hradec Králové a few hours to solve the case. A breath test showed the man’s alcohol level was 1.99 per mille. When investigating the case it came to light that the man had made up the story of the assault because he wanted to cover up the fact that he had embezzled money from a firm. He used some of the money to pay off his tab at a restaurant and lost the rest playing video poker. According to the documentation submitted to the court, he had embezzled about CZK 28 000.

September 2011 – News server iDNES.cz published two news items about an ordinary pub brawl in the town of Šluknov. Each news report made different claims. The first news item stated that the brawl took place because Romani people had demanded a ransom from the barman. After Mayor of Šluknov Eva Džumanová refuted that claim, iDNES.cz reported that the Romani people had made threats because the barman had refused to pay them money they had just won playing video poker. The reporters wrote up the stories in such a way as to intentionally incite readers against Romani people: “In nearby Šluknov three Romani people assaulted customers at the Bohemia restaurant in the early morning hours of Thursday... One Romani man first threatened to slit the throat of one of the customers. The other two Roma threatened to beat him up unless he gave them the two or three thousand crowns they had just won playing video poker. Allegedly they also stole alcohol from the business. One of the customers has a broken nose.” Mayor Eva Džumanová said the following about this incident: “I wasn’t there, but the information I have is that it was a small group of locals and Romani people. The police went to the scene several times, but no one wanted to deal with them and everyone pretended as if nothing were going on... It definitely was not about ransom.”

23 September 2011 - Petr Strkal, chair of the Severočeši.cz association in Louny, claimed to have been assaulted by a group of Romani people. The media published photographs and video footage of him with a black eye, as well as his statement that Romani people had stolen his bicycle and mobile telephone. According to the police, Strkal had repeatedly broken into a residential hotel occupied predominantly by Romani people during the night and had demanded the return of the items he believed they were responsible for stealing without having seen anyone take them and without any proof of who had done so. He first smashed in the glass panels on the entryway doors to the residential hotel and then assaulted a local tenant who responded by giving him the black eye. Later that same night he returned to the residential hotel armed with wooden shovel handles, a firefighter’s helmet and knee guards. He banged on the locked doors and demanded his bicycle and mobile telephone. The police
charged him with rioting and detained him for several hours. Strkal then threatened to convene an anti-Romani demonstration in Louny. In the end he did not convene one, reportedly because the DSSS wanted to join it.

October 2011 – In Ústí nad Labem, Romani people clashed with two citizens of Czech nationality. TV Nova reported this information in a completely one-sided way, presenting the claims of the “whites” as the truth and not reporting what had preceded the incident, namely, that the clash was preceded by the citizens of Czech nationality assaulting the Romani people. “I saw a Romani man, her husband and her son running away from a gentleman brandishing a knife and roaring at them ‘I’ll kill you, you black swine, you black mugs, you’re gonna die here!’ The Romani victims shouted for help and fled into the building and the lady fell down. Her husband went back for her. The assailant was brandishing his knife in her face as she lay on the ground. Her husband pushed him away and they managed to hide in the building. After about three minutes I saw a crowd of people in front of the building,” an eyewitness said. “Then a brawl kicked off between Romani people defending the assaulted Romani family and the Czech attackers with knives and machetes. I really resented the shocking report on TV Nova, which described the whole incident completely differently. They turned it against the Romani people, but that’s not what really happened at all.”

8 December 2011 – The daily Právo reported the case of a 17-year-old girl from Klatovy who claimed she had been assaulted on the street by a group of Romani people who had allegedly caused her injuries for which she was subsequently treated by a physician. The police, however, came to the conclusion that the girl had invented the story of the attack.

23 January 2012 – A 43-year-old man claimed to have been assaulted by two Romani people in the toilet of the Horník bar in Česká Lípa after he refused to give them CZK 50. The man was transported to the hospital with stab wounds to his belly. Several days later the man confessed to having invented the story of his assault and to having caused his own injuries in order to cover up the fact that he had spent all of his money on drinking alcohol and was unable to pay his alimony.

9 February 2012 – The tabloid news server Parlamentní listy published an article by Václav Prokůpek on the alleged founding of a Romani party that was then allegedly robbed by its own treasurer. As news server Romea.cz then proved, that report had been completely fabricated. The fake news item was republished by almost all of the national media outlets in the country without any verification at all. It was read by millions of people and sparked many negative emotions about Romani people. Prior to his journalism career, Prokůpek had run as a candidate for the neo-Nazi Workers’ Party (Dělnická strana). Other ultra-right extremists also write for Parlamentní listy and its affiliated websites.

19 April 2012 – A 15-year-old girl claimed to have been assaulted by three Romani people in Liberec. The small group had allegedly wanted to rob her, but when they learned she had no money on her, they used a razor blade to slice up her entire body. It was eventually proven that the girl had invented the whole story and caused the harm to herself.

23 May 2012 – Police announced that a 15-year-old boy in Břeclav lied when he claimed to have been assaulted the previous month by a small group of three Romani people. According
to investigators, the boy caused himself serious injury by falling from a great height onto a railing in a building where he was showing off his gymnastic skills to some girls.
11.2. Appendix No. 2: Examples of populist and racist statements by politicians

Czech MP Otto Chaloupka (Věci veřejné)

Chaloupka has publicized his proposals for specific legal amendments that are evidently anti-Romani. His proposed “solutions” all involve the concept of a “high-risk” family or person (a family or individual that has long been on welfare, visits casinos/gaming rooms, uses alcohol or narcotics, has used welfare for purposes other than meeting basic living needs, doesn’t support his or her children in regular school attendance, commits criminal activity, etc). “Every so-called high-risk person will be obligated to show up at a certain time during workdays at a certain place. They will have to stay there eight hours and follow the instructions of the person to whom they are assigned. If they do not meet this obligation their welfare will be taken away,” Chaloupka has written.

Other remarks by this MP:

Roman leaders should first and foremost start making a living in a decent way. They are parasites on the Romani community just like the Romani community is a parasite on the majority society….

Roman leaders have established a political party. Again. What are they expecting from this? A bigger lever to gain more benefits? What more benefits could they possibly want?

They don’t have to work today, they just keep complaining, a wave of physical violence is growing against the majority society and we just keep backing down….

I understand the effort to do something about this, to try to include and re-educate the next generation of these inadaptables and give them all of the conditions they need to become decent people who won’t bother others and whom others won’t scorn, but how many years has it already been that we have been doing our best to include them somehow and it hasn’t had any effect?

What is problematic is that this costs a lot of money and doesn’t get us anything, that’s what it’s been like with them for generations, and they are making no effort to change anything. They cost us hundreds of millions of crowns, and what do we get in return? Physical attacks, shoplifting, robbery, etc.

Not working? Then no entitlements. Starting to steal? Into prison you go. I have heard the opinion that if we take away their welfare they will commit even more crime. No, if you do something like that you will go to jail and think better of it next time. Before the revolution it was obligatory to work. The Gypsies had to work hard. They were given a shovel, some of them just leaned on it, but they had to be somewhere during work hours and they at least pretended to work. Today they don’t have to work, they just keep complaining, a wave of physical violence is growing against the majority society and we just keep backing down. What are we waiting for? Until they start slicing us up on the streets with machetes and stealing pensioners’ wallets with impunity?
When someone assaults a Gypsy it’s considered a racial crime and the perpetrator gets the toughest sentence possible, and when a Gypsy beats up a white woman, robs an old lady or rapes, terrorizes and tortures a 12-year-old white boy, he gets the same sentence as if he lifted someone’s wallet. This can’t go on, it’s heading for disaster. If people see the state is not taking care of them, they will take matters into their own hands and it will be bad. I won’t be surprised when it does.

Chaloupka also responded when Romani leader František Tomáš called on the mayor of Duchcov to come to a Romani community meeting by saying the following:

That’s very clever of the gypsy leader. He has no lack of arrogance and presumption. People are on edge, all it will take is a few more gypsy provocations and the fighting will begin. Not even the riot police will protect them then.

Chaloupka then posted an open letter to his Facebook profile that included the following:

Decent people have long had to put up with your aggression, your shoplifting, and your unjustified demands for more and more advantages. However, as every reasonable person knows, this cannot continue forever (...) People have had enough, Mr Tomáš. They have lost patience. You keep crossing the line with each new provocation. You are pushing and something necessarily has to give soon. Don’t rely on the state to protect you and allow you to do whatever you want. People don’t feel protected by the state and it is only a matter of time before they take their own protection into their own hands. Then, Mr Tomáš, things will be bad. Take this from me as good advice. I’m giving it to you for free.

**Selected quotes of Senator Tomio Okamura**

**Gypsies are to blame for their own pejorative image**
“The fact that Gypsies are perceived pejoratively today is not the fault of the neo-Nazis, the Czechs, or the Turks. It is first and foremost the shame of the Roma. Like it or not, their lifestyle, which has been cultivated over the centuries, and their values have always collided with and are colliding with the values of all civilized countries.”
(14 February 2011 in a commentary entitled “Let’s be politically incorrect!” He recycled this paragraph in a 7 November 2012 commentary responding to Senator Eliška Wagnerová’s resignation from the newly created Senate Club for Democratic Renewal because Senators Čunek and Okamura were among its members.)

**Women are less intelligent than men**
“Norway has already introduced quotas for women in corporate management and the theory that men are more creative and dynamic than women was immediately confirmed – the value of the firms that increased their female leadership fell by 18 %. Once we perfect quotas so that every firm has the correct proportion of Romani people, gardeners, Arabs, mulattoes, Asians and pianists, their performance and value will definitely undergo a radical shift…. Human intelligence varies widely, both between races and between men and women. Women have average IQs for the most part – there are fewer geniuses and fewer total retards among
them than there are among men. Men, on the other hand, are more talented, just as more of them are also very stupid and fewer of them are average. These statistics are simply reflected in society – this greater percentage of above-average competent men is reflected in real life.”
(3 August 2011 in a commentary entitled “Women first!”)

Support for deporting gypsies is not extreme
“We write of the Workers’ Party as extremist, but how is it really? What, for example, is extreme about the opinion that Gypsies should establish their own state and that the Czech Republic should support their emigration back to the country of their ancestors?”
(14 February 2011 in a commentary entitled “Let’s be politically incorrect!”)

There is honor, not shame, in endorsing the communists
“The KSČM is a democratic, legal, parliamentary party... If we have civil equality and freedom today, it is thanks to the communards, communists and socialists and their successors, who advocated for equal civil and voting rights in opposition to the conservatives and the so-called right. They advocated for social rights – the eight-hour work day, the right to strike, free schools, health and retirement insurance. They always opposed the right. These ‘communists’ fought and died for today’s democratic and social system, murdered by right-wingers. There is no shame in endorsing such people. It’s an honor.”
(20 November 2012 in a commentary entitled “The specter of communism is running loose here again”)

The National Party abides by human rights and does not promote violence
“The National Party... was in any event a legitimate political subject, registered with the Interior Ministry and meeting the legal condition that its program not contravene the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and that it not promote violence against groups or individuals. The National Party was a properly registered political party and was never the subject of any court proceedings to halt its activity.”
(1 March 2011 in a commentary entitled “The witch-hunt for Bátor is a disgrace to journalists and politicians”)

“The Final Solution to the Gypsy Question” did not promote deporting Romani people
“The National Party, according to the media, objects to the EU, to immigrants, and to Romani people. One of their members has released a publication called ‘The Final Solution to the Gypsy Question’ which includes the idea of moving Romani people to India. I have read this controversial paper. It does not promote deporting our Romani fellow-citizens to India. In the context of discussing the previous waves of Romani emigration abroad, it proposes coordinating that emigration and says the best place would be one of the states in India. Support for this emigration naturally would only be for those who want to leave to establish a new life abroad with state support. Moreover, this would be the subject of a bilateral agreement with the target province or state. This idea may be unrealistic in practice, but it should not be viewed as anything other than drawing inspiration from the old Zionist idea of building a Jewish state and emigrating to it.”
(1 March 2011 in a commentary entitled “The witch-hunt for Bátor is a disgrace to journalists and politicians”)

Anti-Bátora “hysteria”
“An incompetent neo-Nazi was slated to become a Deputy Education Minister - this news has unleashed a wave of hysteria. Its sole pretext is so people can play at fighting for a just cause. It has degenerated into lies, quibbling, and the vilifying of an innocent person. His only flaw is his allegedly ‘extremist’ or ‘politically incorrect’ opinions. The case of Ladislav Bátora has shown in all its nakedness how the game of correctness becomes a dangerous, evil and hateful one. In the name of defending what is correct we are capable of and willing to destroy whomever the mob singles out. Weak individuals are trying out this ‘heroic battle’ against evil without any danger or risk to themselves. The collective hunt gives its actors the opportunity to experience group euphoria and the pleasure of fighting for the right thing. This is no longer about Bátora, but about the psychopathology of the mob. I would just remind everyone who has called and is calling for a ‘dog’s death for a dog’ that they may one day become Bátora, or Hilsner, or Pechanec - condemned in advance, and for life, without any chance to defend themselves even though they are innocent.”
(1 March 2011 in a commentary entitled “The witch-hunt for Bátora is a disgrace to journalists and politicians”)

The National Party’s opinions were not extreme
“Let’s recall that, for example, what people from the extremist National Party said about the dangers flowing from a too-tolerant multiculturalism or from benevolence toward crime and the parasitism of ethnic minorities is already being repeated today both by the Prime Minister and by Mr Kocáb. As far as I know, the National Party was extreme not in its opinions, but because those around it included some who were infatuated with Hitler and similar rabble. However, admiration for the Nazis could also be observed in the remarks of Prime Minister Topolánek’s sidekick Dalík and in his own remarks, which at a minimum have been sometimes inspired by Nazi terminology. I am completely serious when I say that neither one of them is an extremist or a Nazi. If they should leave public life, then it is for other lapses, but then, we know the gods are permitted what mortals are denied.”
(18 October 2011 in a commentary entitled “Dear fellow citizens, get angry!”)

Extremists say what most of us think
“What is so-called political correctness? In practice it is the rule that the media and politicians never say unpleasant truths. What is important is to be socially unexceptionable. The intention is a good one, intellectuals have the feeling that this will ameliorate stress in society, but the road to hell really is sometimes paved with good intentions. If support for so-called extremists is growing today, it is because they are some of the only people who say out loud what most of us think. Without an early diagnosis there is no treatment, a doctor would say, and it’s not possible to seek a correction when we intentionally overlook causes. In the case of Czech ‘extremists’, bans will definitely not solve anything. Freedom of speech is for everyone, even

3 Pechanec is a right-wing extremist convicted of the racially motivated murder of a Romani man in the Czech Republic and imprisoned.
if what someone says is horse feathers of the highest order. The solution is open, truthful discussion, without labeling and ostracizing those doing the discussing.”  
(14 February 2011 in a commentary entitled “Let’s be politically incorrect!”)

**Roma are evidently the Czech Republic’s greatest “multicultural” problem**
“Many so-called public benefit human rights organizations make their living on the fact that these problems exist. Getting rid of them would threaten their very existence. Roma are evidently the Czech Republic’s greatest ‘multicultural’ problem. Those to whom this does not apply should forgive me, but a large proportion of them are an enormous millstone around the neck of this society. Look at the prisons, the neonatal institutions and the orphanages – everyone immediately recognizes that there are many more Romani people in them than corresponds to their proportion of the population compared to the white majority. The number of Romani people in society is growing, but the proportion of them who are generating our shared wealth is not rising, on the contrary. This justifiably angers the vast majority of the public. That’s the problem, and it’s a problem for the decent working Roma as well.”  
(14 February 2011 in a commentary entitled “Let’s be politically incorrect!”)

**It just takes a brain and a little good will**
“If we were to immediately deport every foreigner who commits a crime here, we will save ourselves money and spare our nerves. When the authorities and the courts start using common sense, citizens’ satisfaction will increase. When the bureaucrats and politicians stop warming up overpriced deals for their favorite firms, our wallets will be immediately relieved. We won’t need EU subsidies or higher VAT. All it will take is a brain and little good will.”  
(11 September 2012 in a commentary entitled “Sometimes all it takes for a better life is a brain and some good will”)

**They curse me for being a populist**
“On the one hand people curse me for being a populist because I reportedly promise the impossible, and the other hand I see that I’m bad when I do the maximum to keep my word…. If I were to just shout and play solitaire in the Senate it would get me nowhere, and then it really would be the case that I am a populist who cares more about popularity than results. I’m not in the Senate to be popular, but to do my job as best as I can, to the maximum.”  
(29 October 2012 in a commentary entitled ”Czech Radio Yerevan – Okamura is a populist”)

**Praise for massive whips**
“I have a favorite quote: How did the Egyptians manage to build such massive constructions? They had massive whips. The ideal state must have clear, firm rules, and their violation must result in immediate punishment. I’m not calling for dictatorship, but for the rule of law…. This solution is a simply populist one (what else did you expect?): Massive whips for massive crimes…. Massive whips for massive crimes are within reach. My dear, precious fellow-citizens – take them up at last. They are needed like salt.”  
(28 August 2012 in a commentary entitled ”Massive whips for massive crimes”)

**As a senator I have the region behind me, I want the whole country behind me**
“As a senator for Zlín I have my region behind me. In order to enforce changes, however, there must be more – I need to be able to rely on citizens across the entire country. The
presidential elections are a unique opportunity to earn such support.” (22 October 2012 in a commentary entitled “Why it’s good to run for president”)

**Senator Miroslav Krejča (elected for ČSSD, subsequently unaffiliated):**

The public’s view of Romani people is completely justified. We are too tolerant of this inadaptable, parasitic minority.

With only a few exceptions, I see no effort on the part of the Romani part of society to solve their own problems. These are their problems that they got themselves into. They are profiting from the fact that we, the politicians, are afraid to change the laws so they will be really fair, and they are profiting from the fact that the bureaucrats who specifically decide matters in those places are afraid of being directly, physically assaulted by them and prefer to meet them halfway instead of applying the same rules to them that apply to the majority part of society. This is the real discrimination - against us, not the Roma. This is also our own cowardice.

Before the floods happened, the entire Czech nation was forced to watch the story of the quintuplets born to a Romani family here. Certainly many of our own Czech families with more children were grinding their teeth to see the kinds of bonuses that Romani family received, but that wasn’t publicized. The Romani family was publicized without mentioning that a Czech family who gave birth to quadruplets had also received a great deal of support from the state.

Let’s look at another example of reverse discrimination. Ivan Demeter punched someone and knocked him to ground, killing him over a cigarette. He got two years in prison. Jaromír Šebesta, who killed a scrap-metal thief by shooting him with a crossbow, got 10 years in prison. The courts judge non-Romani delinquents differently from Romani ones. If someone is being discriminated against here, it is the majority society.
Senator Jaroslav Doubrava (previously a member of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, now a member of the Severočeši.cz association):

My opinion is that the army should be readied in any event, because what is beginning to happen already exceeds the limits of toleration... The Government and the responsible bodies of the state administration are ignoring what is literally racism on the part of the Gypsies... Recent events just prove what I am saying. There is an unequivocal need to tighten punishments, to prosecute people to the full extent of the law, and to not be afraid of convicting these crooks. We should tighten up the law and increase sentences. The fun is over. The situation is very serious. Do we want the Gypsies setting our towns on fire like they are in England? ... I am preparing to turn to the appropriate bodies to thoroughly address this situation and in the Senate I will try to submit bills to tighten our legislation. I will be speaking with my colleagues in any event and I will do my best to get them to stop closing their eyes to this aggression and terror. Action must be taken.

I overheard a gypsy teenager say the following to his friend the other day: “Man, it’s no fun fucking my mother anymore, I’d rather fuck my sister, but dad’s fucking her and he would beat me up.” I almost fainted.

Unfortunately, it is still the case that most Gypsies consider work to be the worst possible way to make a living... We don’t want to watch while they destroy our region and we will do something about it irrespective of all this idle talk about human rights and tolerance before it’s too late.

That community is illiterate, but who is preventing their access to education? It is they themselves, because they definitely do not want to learn.

Senator Vladimír Dryml (previously a member of the ČSSD, then a member of the Citizens’ Rights Party for Zeman):

High Roma crime rates and their sense of impunity, together with the application of positive racism by the Czech justice system and the empty, false opinions of these weird human rights defenders in the EU and in this country are bearing fruit... The laws are supposed to apply to everyone the same. Law enforcement must be rapid and in cases of racism it must be harsh, and that applies to everyone, in particular to the Roma.

Senator Pavel Lebeda (ČSSD):

The position of the public on the Roma is understandable given that most of them commit crimes, lounge around, resist working, and are parasites on the majority population, and it is being amplified by this unacceptable positive discrimination in the social arena and even in the justice system. A sense of impunity and protection is leading the Roma, in addition to committing their traditional property crimes, to perpetrate ever more brutal felonies. If we
add in the problems with civil coexistence and the widespread drug addiction among Roman people, no one should be surprised by the aversion to them among the majority population.

**Senator Zdeněk Schwarz (ODS):**

The concept of racism in the context of the problems of the Roma is being abused intentionally by the troublemaking Roma themselves and by some politicians who are parasites on this problem and don’t know how to solve it. Unfortunately, the media further complicate the situation when they report the news to the public in a way that is not objective, not sufficient, or that one-sidedly benefits the Roma. A typical example is the recent scandal of the seriously injured 15-year-old boy from Břeclav, who has been made an invalid for life. Why aren’t the media following that scandal to the same extent and with the same intensity as they did the scandal of the Romani burn victim Natálka?⁴

**Senator Petr Pakosta (BEZPP):**

Gypsies themselves are to blame for the Czech public’s negative position toward them. It is their decision alone to avoid work, to be more and more aggressive, and to lead a way of life that comes at the expense of the majority population.

**MP Ivana Řápková (ODS)**

When she was Mayor of Chomutov, Řápková said the following after a demonstration there by human rights advocates and local Romani people was physically attacked by proponents of the far right as municipal bureaucrats and police simply watched:

*We want calm in Chomutov, and that is why we will not be permitting any such demonstrations in future, whether by left or right-wing extremists or by Romani people.*

**Senator Liana Janáčková**

Janáčková is the current (and former) mayor of the Municipal Department of Mariánské Hory a Hulváky in the town of Ostrava. At a public session of the municipal department’s housing division debating the issue of Romani residents in the Bedřiška settlement there, she was recorded making the following remarks:

*I understand it’s not fair to you all, but I really do not have anywhere else to put those Gypsies unless I get some dynamite and blow them up... I do not agree with integrating Gypsies*
around the district, unfortunately, I am a racist. We picked Bedřiška, so that is where they will be, with a high fence, an electric one for all I care... I’ll tell the whole world that.

Jiří Jezerský (independent running on the TOP 09 candidate list)

Jezerský is the current (and former) vice-mayor of the Municipal Department of Mariánské Hory a Hulváky in the town of Ostrava. At that same public session of the municipal department’s housing division he was recorded saying the following:

Give me a gun license and a permit to shoot and I’ll go do it.

Senator Jiří Čunek (KDU-ČSL)

At the time of the remarks quoted below, Čunek was chair of his party and also a government minister. When asked by readers of the tabloid Blesk in an online chat what other people had to do to receive benefits like the Roma do [sic], he responded:

You’d have to get a tan [alluding to Romani people’s supposedly darker skin color], make a mess with your family, and light fires on the town squares - only then might some politicians stand up for you and say “Oh, the poor guy”.

11.3. Appendix No. 3: Examples of cases of discrimination and hate violence

One ramification of the above-described behavior of politicians and the unethical work of the Czech media on the atmosphere in society is that specific cases of violence are perpetrated against victims solely because of their ethnicity. Experts refer to such attacks as hate violence (or hate crimes).

At the start of 2012, media coverage was dominated by the scandal of a Romani man shot to death in the town of Tanvald. The case worsened the already tense relations between non-Romani and Romani people there. The young man (age 22) was shot dead during the first minutes of the New Year. His brother was also shot and ended up in the hospital with serious injuries. The shooter was released from custody the next day. Both the police and the state prosecutor believed his claim that he had shot the men in self-defense. This sparked a wave of resentment in the Romani community. The shooter claimed he had been attacked by the Romani men with a knife. In a documentary film made for Czech Television, however, an eyewitness came forward to claim that was not true. By then, however, the state prosecutor had already closed the case.

There is also the unclear case of a Romani man who died after a police intervention. He was a 33-year-old father of three from Kynšperk nad Ohří. A relative of his described what happened as follows: “Ludovít, slightly tipsy, elbowed some woman but didn’t harm her. She called the police. They came, handcuffed him, and started beating and kicking him. They used either a stun gun or truncheons, it’s not clear.” A spokesperson for the emergency responders said the following about what they found at the scene: “The man’s heart had stopped and he wasn’t breathing. Doctors managed to revive him after roughly 20 minutes. We took him to the emergency ward of the hospital in Sokolov. He had numerous welts all over his body.” No one has been charged in this case.

The number of physical assaults against homeless people also sharply rose in 2012. In June there were two such attacks in Olomouc, bringing to four the total number committed against homeless people in that town that year. In Ústí nad Labem the former hotel Máj, occupied by about 10 homeless people, burned to the ground. In the Libuše quarter of Prague, municipal police beat a homeless person’s dog to death. Three youths who had confessed to murdering a Romani woman in Prague 3 in January had also been regularly holding people up in the quarter, most frequently homeless ones, who described them as sympathizers of right-wing extremist movements who gave the Nazi salute on the street. A local resident who was attacked by the thugs when walking his dog confirmed that.

The trial of the arsonists who threw a flaming torch through the window of a Romani family’s home in Býchor (Kolín district). The family remains psychologically traumatized by this incident and has moved out of the apartment, which they own, and have not yet returned to it out of fear. Prior to committing the attack, the perpetrators posted anti-Romani, racist comments to Facebook. The longest sentence was handed down against Vojtěch Vyhnánek, who threw the torch. The court sentenced him to four years without parole for
attempted racially motivated grievous bodily harm. There were five adults and four children in the home at the time of the attack. The other three assailants were placed on probation.

In Klatovy **two violent racists faced trial for preying upon a Romani family in Nýrsko.** The defendants first assaulted the family’s children in public for no reason. The children fled and some of them tried to hide at home with their parents. The assailants began forcing their way into the building and used a baseball bat to threaten a girl standing by a ground-floor window. The father of the family opened the door to the apartment and did his best to get the assailants as far away from the children as he could, but one of them knocked him to the ground and started to strangle him with a sweatshirt. The assailants shouted racist epithets during the violence. Both received suspended sentences.

In Chotěbuz (Karviná district) a man **shot and killed a Romani man in the head with an arrow from a crossbow:** the crime was eventually categorized by police as grievous bodily harm resulting in death. Four Romani men had parked their car near the man’s home and testified that they had come there to collect scrap medal from an adjacent ruined building. The police investigation did not confirm the perpetrator’s claim that the Romani men had come there to rob him. Police dogs found no clues indicating the Romani men had actually entered his home. The cousin of the victim, who was an eyewitness to the incident, said the assailant shouted “I’ll kill you, you black whores!” at them. The perpetrator was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Marian Dancso, a **town councilor** in Lom (Ústí Region) and head of the candidate list for the OMMO movement there, was **assaulted** by two unidentified perpetrators who struck him with some sort of object as he left his home. Dancso attempted to defend himself, but was pushed to the ground, kicked and punched. The OMMO leadership said the assault had an indirect connection to the way the entire situation has escalated against minorities, Romani people in particular, in the Most district, the Varnsdorf district, and other places in the region.

**A 14-year-old boy from Ostrava ended up in the hospital with bleeding on the brain.** The boy was standing on the street holding a bicycle that a friend had given him for his birthday when the alleged owner of the bicycle came after him, claiming the bicycle had been stolen. The boy testified that this person, aided by others, pushed him to the ground and beat and kicked him. Police categorized the assault as a mere misdemeanor against coexistence despite the boy’s injuries.

Lastly, in 2012 a man who assaulted human rights activist Ondřej Cakl in November 2008 in Litvínov received his second acquittal from the appellate court in Most. Cakl’s attorney Klára Kalibová said the acquittals prove the Czech justice system is incompetent.