

Report on manifestations of antisemitism in the Czech Republic (2016/2017).

Summary:

While there have been certain antisemitic incidents in 2017, the Czech Republic can be still regarded a very safe country for the Jews. Rates of antisemitism in the general society seem much lower than elsewhere in the region and are better than in most Western European countries as well. There are some unfortunate phenomena that could pose a threat for the future, such as affinity of a small group of political and cultural elites to a conspiracist way of thinking. The affinity of certain political and cultural elites to “alternative facts” lends a significant leverage to the otherwise fringe ideas, making them louder and more visible than they would have deserved. While the society usually reacts with strong rejection to an antisemitic incident, the conspiracists and antisemites manage to slowly push limits of what is considered acceptable.

Islamophobic sentiments, supported by the news coverage of the refugee crisis, allowed far-right, conspiracist, pro-Russian party, SPD (see below), to get hold of important security-related posts in the Czech parliament. Local pockets of latent antisemitism became visible during the Prostějov cemetery dispute. Hate-speech online remains an issue especially due to the growing contribution of pro-Kremlin websites, which have replaced the neo-Nazi websites as the main source of antisemitism online.

About this report

This report is an overview, written originally at the request of the Kantor Center, Tel Aviv University. The author represents a secular, non-Jewish, state-funded academic institution (Department of Middle-Eastern Studies, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic). The report is based on author’s own observation and research as well as on secondary sources, with references listed in the footnotes. The core of this report was written before the Donald Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as an Israeli capital in November 2017.

General Overview

The Czech Republic has been experiencing a period of prosperity in 2017 with GDP growing by more than 3 % and unemployment rate holding below 4 %.¹ While the 2015 Refugee crisis has had little factual impact on the country itself) only about 1 500 refugees have crossed the Czech border) it was extensively reported in the media and commented upon, which created a paradoxical situation of “refugee crisis without refugees” (see below). The country continues to receive high rankings in the fields of safety & peace² and freedom of expression.³ The international relations between Czech Republic and Israel remain strong. This was reflected in the trade and economical relations, with Israel being the third largest destination for Czech exports, right after the United

1 Zaměstnanost, nezaměstnanost. *Czech Statistical Office*, available at: https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/zamestnanost_nezamestnanost_prace [cit. 27-1-2018].

2 Czech Republic ranked a #6 on the Global Peace Index. See: <http://www.czechcompete.cz/politics/macro-economic-indicators-economic-growth/2017-global-peace-index-czech-republic-remains-among-most-peaceful-countries> [cit. 27-1-2018].

3 Freedomhouse report on the Czech Republic ranks the country as „free“ with 94 points out of maximum 100: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2017/czech-republic> [cit. 27-1-2018].

States and China with trade exchange reaching about 117 000 000 EURs in 2016.⁴ About 170 thousand Israelis have visited the country in 2016, which is usually considered a very safe destination for Israeli tourists.⁵

There are no accurate data on the size of the domestic Czech Jewish community, but estimates range between 3 and 4 thousands, with only couple of hundreds forming the active core of the community.⁶ Czech Jewish communities can be usually found only in larger cities, with Prague being possibly the only Czech city, where the Jewish community might be having somewhat sustainable demographic profile.

Despite several verbal incidents and increased activity of the extremist movements within the electronic domain, the Czech Republic remains a safe country for the Jews. However, fresh statistical data for 2017 are mostly unavailable – the reports by the Federation of the Jewish Communities have not been published in 2016 and 2017. The last report covered the year 2015 and stated that most of the antisemitic manifestations in the Czech Republic have taken place online, while at the same time, there were almost not violent acts and only isolated cases of vandalism or harassment. Despite the growing incitement online, the Czech Jewish community perceived no immediate threats.⁷

The last survey on Czech Republic by the *Antidefamation League* was performed in 2014, when it concluded that about 13 % of the population (far below Eastern and Western European average) might be holding antisemitic beliefs.⁸ The last survey on the social distance of Czechs towards various national groups was performed in Spring 2016. At the time, the Czech attitudes to the Jews are neutral to slightly positive and Jews were placed within the best ranked category together with Americans, British, French and Slovaks. No other research of similar coverage, method and sample size has been performed since then.⁹ Due to the lack of fresh data, this report has to rely on secondary indicators, such as online activity of the antisemitic movements, publication activity of the extremists, election results or police reports.

The parliamentary elections in October 2017 have shuffled the cards on the Czech political scene in a significant way. The movement Association of Dissatisfied Citizens (ANO) led by the “Czech Berlusconi” Andrej Babiš, received almost 30 % of valid votes and in a situation, in which other democratic parties refuse to form coalition with it, it attempts to build its parliament majority by using the support from the far-left Communist party and the far-right Direct Democracy Party (Strana přímé demokracie, SPD). As government negotiations are under way at the time of writing this report, it is difficult to predict, how will the new political situation influence the discourse on Jews or antisemitism.

For the first time in the post-communist history, a right-wing populist party, Strana přímé demokracie (SPD) has gained more than 10 percent in the elections. While the party is not openly antisemitic, some of its members are heavily influenced by conspiracy theories, such as

4 Israel: Trade and economic relations with the Czech Republic. *Businessinfo.cz*, available at: <http://www.businessinfo.cz/cs/clanky/izrael-obchodni-a-ekonomicka-spoluprace-s-cr-18664.html>

5 Statistics of tourism in the Czech Republic: Tourists in Czechia. *Aktualne.cz* 25 June 2017, available at: <https://zpravy.aktualne.cz/ekonomika/turiste-v-cesku/r~39181512571f11e7898e002590604f2e/>

6 Sergio Della Pergola estimated the Czech Jewish community to about 3900. DellaPergola, Sergio: World Jewish Population. *Berman Jewish DataBank* 2013. Appendix A. Accessed February 20, 2016, <http://www.jewishdatabank.org/studies/downloadFile.cfm?FileID=3113> [cit. 27-1-2018].

7 Výroční zpráva o projevech antisemitismu, *Federace židovských obcí*. 17.5.2016, available at: <https://www.fzo.cz/3031/vyrocní-zpráva-o-projevech-antisemitismu-v-cr-za-rok-2015/> [cit. 27-1-2018].

8 Global 100 – Czech Republic. *Antidefamation league*. dostupné z: <http://global100.adl.org/#country/czech-republic/2014> [cit. 27-1-2018].

9 <https://www.stem.cz/jaky-je-vztah-obcanu-cr-k-ruznym-narodum-a-etnikum/>

„Chemtrails“, „Illuminati“, „New World Order“ or “vaccination conspiracy“.¹⁰ According to multiple testimonies, on November 10, 2017, SPD member, MP Jaroslav Staník, voiced a desire to „gas the gays, Jews and Romanies right after birth“. The party never apologized for these remarks, which the MP himself has denied.¹¹ The fact that representatives of such a party, which openly promotes pro-Kremlin ideas and might be having contacts to Russian secret services, have been elected to oversee the Security Department of the Czech parliament (a body that oversees the national secret services) is observed with serious concerns in the intelligence community. What elevated the party into the Parliament was its islamophobia, not antisemitism. The leader of the party, Tomio Okamura may not be antisemite himself, but as the abovementioned incident shows, some of the party’s MPs may well be. In the end, it was islamophobia that led to election of antisemites into the Parliament. This boomerang effect is yet another reason for the Jewish organizations not take the threats of islamophobia lightly. It is also a warning for some of the more radical Jewish activists who might be tempted to toy with islamophobia themselves.

Election results for the Czech far-right parties during the past five years

Type of elections	Party title	Results – percentage, where counted (total amount of valid votes)
2017 Parliamentary elections	Direct Democracy Party	10,64 % (538 574)
	The Reasonables (incl. National Democracy)	0,72 % (36 528)
	Workers’ Party of Social Justice	0,2 % (10 402)
	Order of the Nation	0,17 % (8 735)
2016 Regional Councils elections	Workers’ Party of Social Justice	In coalition: 0,7% (22 432 for the entire coalition)
	National Democracy	0,15 % (3 934)
2014 European Parliament elections	Workers’ Party of Social Justice	Abstained
	National Democracy	0,46% (7 109)
2014 Municipal elections	Workers’ Party of Social Justice	(63 794)*
	National Democracy	(2166)*
2013 Parliamentary elections	Workers’ Party of Social Justice	0,86% (42 986)

Source: Czech Statistical Office (www.volby.cz)

10 Zelenka, Jakub: Podívali jsme se pod ruce Okamurových poslanců. Jejich stopa je dlouhá. A Rusko je opravdový přítel. *Aktualne.cz* 30.10.2017, available at: <https://zpravy.aktualne.cz/domaci/chteji-z-eu-i-nato-a-fandi-putinovi-seznamte-se-s-okamurovym/r~e979ebb8bb2111e7811f002590604f2e/> [cit. 27-1-2018].

11 'Střílet po narození.' Tajemník SPD urážel ve sněmovně gaye, Židy a Romy, tvrdí Marksová a Černochoch. *iRozhlas*. 10 November 2017, available at: https://www.irozhlas.cz/zpravy-domov/strilet-po-narozeni-tajemnik-spd-urazel-ve-snemovne-gaye-zidy-a-romy-tvrdi_1711101320_kro [cit. 27-1-2018].

* No national percentage is given for Municipal Elections

Antisemitic literature

There have been about half a dozen book titles published by the neo-Nazi and far-right publishers in the Czech Republic in 2017, thus confirming the certain decrease after the record-breaking year of 2015, when 15 such books were published.¹² This decrease is possibly caused by the 2015 police crackdown on one of the most active publishers at the time, Adam Benjamin Bartoš, also known as a leader of the National Democracy political party. Bartoš is currently facing trial in multiple charges, including incitement to violence, genocide denial and manifestation of support of movements aimed to curb human rights.¹³

Amounts of antisemitic books published by the far-right publishing houses in the Czech Republic

Publisher name / Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Guidemedia etc.	0	0	0	0	2	4	7	2	1	0
Bodyartpress	0	5	0	2	2	4	3	9	3	3
Adam Bartoš	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	3	3
Kontingent press	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: author's own bibliographic research

Titles of antisemitic books published by the far-right publishing houses in the Czech Republic in 2016 and 2017

Title	Author	Year of publication	Publisher
Our era and the depths of secrecy	Jan Fiksa	2017	Bodyartpress
New World Order	Ralph Epperson	2017	Bodyartpress
Liquidation of the white race	Radek Velička	2017	Bodyartpress
Adam B. Bartoš: Interrogation	Adam B. Bartoš	2017	Adam B. Bartoš
The End of Liberalism in Czechia: What Next?	Ladislav Malý	2017	Adam B. Bartoš
Fundamentals of Political Incorrectness	Josef Hausman	2017	Adam B. Bartoš
National Democracy 2014	Adam B. Bartoš	2016	Adam B. Bartoš
Hilsner's Affair and TGM	Jan Rys	2016	Adam B. Bartoš
The Great War of Continents	Alexander Dugin	2016	Adam B. Bartoš
American Conspiracies	Jesse Ventura	2016	Bodyartpress
The Myth of Six Millions	David Hoggan	2016	Bodyartpress
Masters and Slaves of the 20 th Century	Traian Romanescu	2016	Bodyartpress
Dissecting the Holocaust	Germar Rudolf	2016	Guidemedia etc.

¹² Based on author's own bibliographic survey.

¹³ Horák, Jan: Antisemita Bartoš popíral holocaust. Je to nejrozsáhlejší kauza, říká žalobkyně. *Lidové noviny*. 10 April 2017, available at: https://www.lidovky.cz/bartos-jde-k-soudu-za-popirani-holocaustu-fga-/zpravy-domov.aspx?c=A170406_120709_In_domov_jho [cit. 27-1-2018].

Source: author's own bibliographic research

However, the table above shows only activity of the far-right publishers. It should be noted that in the recent years some mainstream publishers, notably *Naše Vojsko* (Our Military) have been publishing books of the convicted holocaust denier David Irving. When the copyright of *Mein Kampf* has expired in 2016, *Naše vojsko* published the book including the swastikas on its cover and promoted it actively on its websites. These incidents are to be considered a significant editorial failures on the part of the publishers, especially of *Naše Vojsko*, which was originally established in the late 1940s by the former Czechoslovak anti-Fascist resistance fighters and should thus, with respect to such heritage, promote certain national and moral values. It should be noted, though, that with more than 17 thousand book titles published in the Czech language every year,¹⁴ this one dozen of antisemitic books actually represents a tiny drop in the ocean of the Czech book market.

Antisemitism online

According to my analysis, there were about 112 antisemitic websites in the Czech language in 2017, ranging from large web-portals to small blogs. This number would mean a certain increase in comparison to 2016, when about 107 such websites were found. These numbers should be regarded as estimates due to the subjective nature of evaluation and the possibility of some smaller, less visible websites having escaped our attention. The year 2017 has confirmed the continuing transformation of the Czech antisemitic scene. While most of the antisemitic content was being published by neo-Nazi and far-right websites ten years ago, the most active source of antisemitism today are the so-called conspiracist or “fake-news” websites.

Main ideological background of the Czech antisemitic websites since 2010 to 2017.

Year / Ideological background	Conspiracism ('fake news')	Christian Traditionalist	Neo-Nazi	Workers' Party (political party)	National Democrats (political party)
02/2010	8	2	57	9	0
08/2011	22	4	44	8	2
2012	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data
2013	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data
11/2014	33	5	24	13	5
08/2015	54	4	17	8	3
2016	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data
07/2017	78	6	18	8	2

Source: author's own analysis. Data for 2012, 2013 and 2016 are not available.

14 V Česku loni vyšlo 17.815 knih, z toho 5559 titulů beletrie. *Czech Press Agency* 5 May 2017, available at: <http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/zpravy/v-cesku-loni-vyslo-17-815-knih-z-toho-5559-titulů-beletrie/1481530> [cit. 27-1-2018].

For the purpose of this report, “conspiracism” is defined as a pseudo-religious tendency to explain the surrounding world by the optics of conspiracy theories. “Fake-news” are defined as false, made-up stories, usually created by using content that was distorted, manipulated or taken out-of-context in order to provoke negative emotions on the part of the reader. To much extent, the conspiracist and the fake-news scenes tend to overlap, although “fake-news” are written by people, who know that their stories are lies, while “conspiracism” may be a manifestation of a sincere political or quasi-religious worldview.

Unlike the neo-Nazi and far-right antisemitic websites of the past, the conspiracist and fake-news websites are capable to target much wider audience of eurosceptics and anti-Globalists, including those, who would reject political extremism or antisemitism under normal circumstances. These websites usually acquire a role of fake opposition by portraying themselves as sources of “alternative” information. With names like “Czech Free Press”,¹⁵ “Outsidermedia”,¹⁶ “Free Press”,¹⁷ “Curious Fellow”,¹⁸ “New World Order Opposition”¹⁹ or “Against The Current”,²⁰ they claim to provide “different” information for those, who seek “alternate” life style. Many of them combine the antisemitic conspiracy theories with the mainstream commercial esoterica – alternative medicine, mysteries, U.F.O.s, perpetum mobile, parapsychology, talismans, amulets, oriental medicine etc.

While the fake-news phenomenon is usually being linked with the Russian-Ukrainian war, many of these websites are actually far older. For example, *The Curious Fellow*²¹ or the conspiracist esoterica website *Fate*²² have existed at least since 1999 – years before Facebook, Twitter or YouTube. Similarly, websites like *Czech Free Press*²³ or *New World Order Opposition*²⁴ have a history reaching years before the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2014. It is true, however, that the activity of conspiracist and “fake-news” scene has grown significantly since 2014. New websites popped up, such as *Aeronet*,²⁵ *AC24*,²⁶ *OutsiderMedia*,²⁷ *Orgo-net*,²⁸ *Svobodné Noviny*,²⁹ *Leva-Net*,³⁰ *Free Transmitter*³¹ etc.

The degree of antisemitism on these websites is somewhat diverse. It is true that not all of the conspiracist, fake-news and pro-Kremlin websites must be antisemitic, but almost all antisemitic websites are also pro-Kremlin. Some, such as AC24 seems to be carefully avoiding Jewish issues and antisemitic hate-speech appears there only in the discussion boards below the articles. On the other hand, websites, such as *Aeronet*, *LevaNet*, *New World Order Opposition*, *Czech Free Press*, *OutsiderMedia* or *Free Transmitter* have manifested their antisemitism openly.

15 <http://www.czechfreepress.cz> [verified on 3 December 2015].

16 <http://outsidermedia.cz> [verified on 3 December 2015].

17 <http://svobodnenoviny.eu> [verified on 3 December 2015].

18 <http://www.zvedavec.org> [verified on 3 December 2015].

19 <http://www.nwoo.org> [verified on 3 December 2015].

20 <http://protiproud.parlamentnilisty.cz> [verified on 3 December 2015].

21 *Zvědavec*, available at: <http://www.zvedavec.org/index.htm> [cit. 27-1-2018].

22 *Osud.cz*, available at: <http://www.osud.cz/> [cit. 27-1-2018].

23 *Czech Free Press*, available at: <http://www.czechfreepress.cz> [cit. 27-1-2018].

24 *New World Order Opposition*, available at: www.nwoo.org [cit. 27-1-2018].

25 *Aeronet*, available at: <http://aeronet.cz/news/> [cit. 27-1-2018].

26 *AC24.cz*, available at: <http://ac24.cz> [cit. 27-1-2018].

27 *OutsiderMedia*, available at: <http://outsidermedia.cz> [cit. 27-1-2018].

28 *OrgoNet*, available at: <http://orgo-net.blogspot.cz> [cit. 27-1-2018].

29 *Svobodné noviny*, available at: <http://svobodnenoviny.eu> [cit. 27-1-2018].

30 *Levanet*, available at: <http://leva-net.webnode.cz> [cit. 27-1-2018].

31 *Svobodný vysílač*, available at: <http://www.svobodny-vysilac.cz> [cit. 27-1-2018].

The certain decline of the neo-Nazi activities online brought another phenomenon and that is the fact that almost two-thirds of the Czech antisemitic websites today are being run (hosted) from within the Czech Republic and thus within reach of the Czech jurisdiction. In the past, the neo-Nazis tended to use American hosting services in order to avoid the Czech jurisdiction, but the newly established conspiracist websites use different methods. They either manifest their confidence by operating freely with names and addresses visible in the public databases (Who.is, CZ.NIC), or use fake names of persons and organizations as well as hiding their true locations via multiple proxies to conceal their true identity.

Surveying the databases of domain names and comparing them with other publicly available sources reveals direct personal links between the various websites. There are cases in which one person runs several of these websites at once (for example Pavel Hlávka, who runs the *Free Transmitter* and *InfoWars.cz*). Some of the personalities behind these websites are known as petty scammers in their neighborhoods, while others run various esoterica enterprises, such as “meditation gardens” or esoterica bookshop etc. Others, such as the founder of the Aeronet website are extremely secretive and tend to become aggressive in response to any attempts to uncover their identity.

Large hub of antisemitic websites in 2016 and 2017 was the website *Parliamentary papers*.³² This website, which has currently more readers than some of the large mainstream medial houses,³³ creates a link between the conspiracist scene and the wider public discourse. Not only that it acts as an echo chamber for the more explicit and radical fake-news websites, it also lent its sub-domains to some of these websites, like the Counter Current (<http://protiproud.parlamentnilisty.cz>) or Freeglobe (<http://freeglobe.parlamentnilisty.cz>). The Parliamentary papers also use their “officially” sounding name to speak to the Russian audience as if they were “official” mouthpiece of the Czech parliament, thus providing content for the purposes of Russian propaganda. The website is owned by the Our Media company, majority owner of which is the Senator Ivo and gambling tycoon Ivo Valenta.

It is not the only case of important public personality actively providing stage for promotion of antisemitism. Another case would be Petr Hájek, the former political advisor of the Czech President Václav Klaus. Hájek openly manifested his beliefs in 9/11 conspiracy theories and who currently runs the antisemitic website *Counter Current* (Protiproud). Another antisemitic website, *The New Republic* (Nová Republika), is run by a former social democratic health minister Ivan David. Antisemitic content on Facebook is being commonly shared by the Senator Jaroslav Doubrava. Pro-Kremlin antisemitic conspiracy theories were promoted by the Senator, former MP and former Highest Court judge, Jaroslav Vyvadil. After the 2017 elections, additional about one dozen MPs influenced by conspiracist thought were elected to the Parliament for the Direct Democracy Party. Such affinity of certain political elites to conspiracism and antisemitism could become a dangerous trend for the future.

Characteristics of the contemporary Czech antisemitism

1. *Antisemitism without Jews* – Antisemitism survives even without Jewish presence. „Jewish“ visual characteristics are being attributed to non-Jewish personalities in cartoons. Lists of

32 *Parlamentní listy*, available at: <http://parlamentnilisty.cz> [cit. 27-1-2018].

33 According to NetMonitor statistics, *Parlamentní listy*, have almost the same amount of visitors as some of the large news sites, such as *Lidovky.cz* or *iHned.cz*. Source: Statistika NetMonitor – Přehled českého internetu: Podrobná statistika, Den 16.7.2017. *Kurzy.cz*, available at: <http://www.kurzy.cz/~nr/tema/netmonitor/?sf=ru>

- perceived Jews containing mostly non-Jewish names are being compiled. Names of non-Jewish politicians being intentionally distorted to sound „Jewish“.
2. *Latent antisemitism* – survives hidden within the society in a form of innocent looking phrases and speech patterns, only to manifest itself, once the Jews become identifiable as Jews. This became apparent in the case of Prostějov cemetery (see below).
 3. *Bi-partisan* – contemporary antisemitism in the Czech Republic is not limited to one side of the political spectrum only. It neither „left-wing“ nor „right-wing“. The most rabid antisemitic movements cannot be described by using the left/right spectrum at all. Studies show that adherents of the far-left (such as the Communists) read, like and share a very similar online content as their far-right counterparts.
 4. *Pro-Kremlin orientation* (see above) – while there have been some initial quarrels within the antisemitic and neo-Nazi scenes about the 2014 Maidan Uprising in Ukraine, almost the entire antisemitic scene in the Czech Republic today displays strong support to the Vladimir Putin’s establishment in Russia and plays an important, active part in the phenomenon of ‘fake-news’. Out of the 112 antisemitic websites in the Czech language, about two thirds were pro-Kremlin (the last third did not express explicit opinions on Russia or was too small/one-purposed to estimate its true attitudes to such issues). While not all the ‘fake-news’ websites are necessarily antisemitic (some avoid direct references to the Jews), all antisemitic websites tend to share the pro-Kremlin ‘fake-news’ pieces, including the official Russian propaganda (Sputnik, RT etc.). The antisemitic movements also tend to follow the Russian line, when talking about international affairs, geopolitics etc.
 5. *“Old antisemitism”* – Despite the current scholarly focus on the “new” antisemitism in the West, the “old” antisemitism (racial antisemitism, conspiracy theories, blood libel) remains an issue in the Eastern Europe. With the growing importance of the conspiracist ‘fake-news’, this “old” antisemitism seems to be even returning as it plays an important role in the pro-Kremlin conspiracy theories.
 6. *Different problems from the West* – Unlike in Western Europe, Islamism remains marginal issue for the time being, mainly due to small size and particularist nature of the domestic Muslim community. Relative insignificance of the Czech Republic for Islamist propaganda may play its role as well. Isolated attempts to promote BDS have also remained mostly unanswered, mostly due to the excellent nature of Czech-Israeli relations and very poor medial image of the Palestinians. Attempts to introduce labelling of Israeli goods were rejected by the Czech government.

Other notable events of the late 2016 and the 2017.

2016 – Explicit antisemitic speeches on a public political rally. On 17 November 2016, a joined rally of neo-Stalinist and far-right movements took place on the Letná plain in Prague. The event was organized by the civic association, *Association for our Culture and Safe Country* (Spolek za naši kulturu a bezpečnou zem),³⁴ which is personally linked to National Democracy.³⁵ During the rally, violent antisemitic speeches, including explicit references to “a 4,000 year old conspiracy”,

34 “Zdravice Národní demokracie účastníkům demonstrace za naši kulturu a bezpečnou zem,” *Národní demokracie* 17.11.2015, available at: <http://narodnidemokracie.cz/zdravice-narodni-demokracie-ucastnikum-demonstrace-za-nasi-kulturu-a-bezpecnou-zem/> [cit. 27-1-2018].

35 “Kandidáti Národní demokracie do senátu ČR,” *Národní demokracie*, available at: <http://narodnidemokracie.cz/kandidati-nd/> [cit. 27-1-2018]. The leader of the association, Lucie Hašková, ran for the 2016 Senate elections as the party’s candidate.

“the conspiracy of Judeomasonic lodges” and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion were made,³⁶ without drawing much attention from the police or the media. Although such conspiracist antisemitic content had been appearing for a long time on the web, this was the first time in many years that such violent antisemitic speeches had been made publicly at a legal demonstration in the Czech Republic.



Examples of antisemitism without Jews – non-Jewish politicians depicted in cartoons with “Jewish” attributes for the purpose of dehonouration. Both of the cartoons were made by a university student Ondřej Sidor. Cartoon on the left depicts the ANO leader and finance minister at the time Andrej Babiš, being flushed into a toilet by a hanged body of Miroslav Kalousek (also former finance minister from the TOP 09 party). Jewish star is put onto Babiš’s head, while an attire of an orthodox Jew, a kipa and suitcase with a Shekel logo are attributed to Kalousek. The cartoon on the right is an interesting example of using antisemitism as a weapon for internal quarrels within the far-right scene. It smears the leader of the anti-Muslim movement *Islám v ČR nechceme* as a Jew with name Konvička distorted to “Cohen-Weetschka”. Martin Konvička is not Jewish

2016/2017 – Series of antisemitic manifestations, harassment and vandalism in response to a Jewish cemetery renewal project. Since about 2013, there was an initiative to rehabilitate physically and morally the site of a destroyed Jewish cemetery in the Moravian city of Prostějov. The initiative was originally loosely coordinated with the Jewish Community in Prague, but later

36 Jaroslav Vencl’s speech given at the rally on Letná plain, Prague, 17 November 2016. Personal observation and recording by the author.

taken over by the Jewish foundation Kolel Damesek Eliezer, founded by rabbi Louis Kestenbaum and represented in Czechia by Tomáš Jelínek. A replica of the destroyed tombstone of Rabbi Tzvi Yehoshua Horowitz, former Chief Rabbi of Prostějov, was ceremonially dedicated at the site in 2013 with participation of orthodox rabbis from the United States and Prostějov Mayor.

Despite the positive beginning of the whole project, with the locals actively cooperating in search for the stolen tombstones (having often found that previous house owner used them as paving), a petition was started in 2016, asking the City Hall to stop the entire project. Authors of the petition spread manipulative information about the nature of the project, threatening that “the Jews” plan to wall off an entire square. The real background and possible motives of the petitioners remains unknown, although one of them expressed beliefs that are in line with the Christian replacement theology in an e-mail correspondence with the Municipality. The Municipality in Prostějov also received few antisemitic letters and leaflets accusing the municipality staff of “allowing a Zionist conspiracy to take place”. Local newspaper Prostějovský večerník controlled by a member of municipal coalition launched a campaign in which they depicted the case – originally a normal civic dispute on how should be a public space used – as a conflict between the Czech nation and the global Jewry. The Municipality itself handled the case in a somewhat insensitive way as if it was a sort of annoyance, accusing the Kolel Damesek Eliezer foundation of harming the good image of Prostějov. The whole case culminated in April 2017, the memorial tombstone of rabbi Tzvi Yehoshua Horowitz was damaged. Vandalism with antisemitic motives is suspected, but there is not enough evidence to identify the exact cause of the damage.

There could be legitimate discussion, whether the Kolel Damesek Eliezer foundation could have approached and handled the issue more sensitively. However, not even a significant PR mistake would have justified some of the hostile responses, we have observed. Despite the generally low levels of antisemitism in the country, one has to be careful about local cultural context as there are local niches of communities where antisemitic beliefs persist.



Cartoon published by the local electronic newspaper *Prostějovská pravda* in response to the Prostějov cemetery case. The cartoon, depicts Jewish zombies rising from their graves, trying to harm a child, who is trying to get to his school. The cartoon is titled: “The night of living Jews in Prostějov!”. “Shut the f—k up! We’ll get there before the class starts!” (*Prostějovská pravda*, January 2016).

Občanům a úředníkům města Prostějov

Vážení,
ve městě Prostějov se vede broj proti zlu za celou Českou republiku, proto vás podporujeme z celé České republiky!
Zásadně neustupujte teroru židů, který se jen roztahuje a konají hrubý nátlak na slušný Český lid. Za posledních 27 let nám tady židí ukázali co jsou zač a co dovedou. Židí jsou nepřizpůsobivé kořistnické hyeny, které jen terorizují všechny hostitelské národy a pracují na jejich vyhlazení, toto vyhlazení nežidů obsahuje podrobné jejich zločinný spisek, kterým se řídí, jménem TALMUD! Kam se hrabe Hitlerův Mein Kampf, to je čajíček! 27 let se tady židí snaží o likvidaci všeho Českého, o likvidaci obžvy pro Český národ. 27 let tady židí krádou, zadlužují, vykořisťují, vyhlazují Český národ, je to genocida, ano, co to je když se vytvoří zebřákové podmínky pro Český národ, které neumožňují zakládání Českých rodin a tedy narození Českých dětí, ano to je genocida, holocaust Českého národa páchaná židý, tady a teď, vážení, probuďte se, naši vrazi žijí mezi námi a podle se usmívají, jak jim to v roce 89 vyšlo, ten odporný podraz, a blběčkové cinkali!

Židáci jsou imigranti a nežádoucí imigranti, tady je vidět kam vede nemístná tolerance k imigrantům, k vyhlazení hostitelského národa, jako v celé evropě. Imigranti ven! A ještě by tu chtěli mešity a sinagogy a pomníky, NE!!

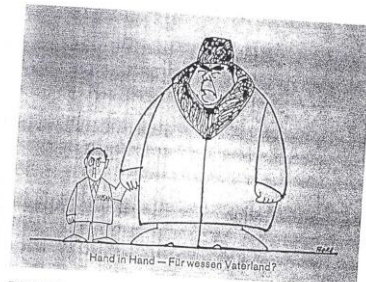
Občané zlu se nesmí ustupovat! NE židům, naprosto nic, žádný pomník!! Žid nelže a nekradne jen když je mrtvý!! To je historická zkušenost všech minulých generací! **Se židý není soužití možné!!** Ještě v 19. století bylo běžné, že židovský věteřel chodil omrdávat ženu a deery dlužníka!! Dejte pozor, ředitel gymnázia je taky židák, Michal=žid, Smuc=žid, to je totiž Schmutzter. Nejsme žádný židoprotektorát! Nebudeme otroky židů!! Židý tady nechceme, ven!!! A nebudou nám poručet podělaný americký rabini, dost!!! Už víme na co byl užitečný Auschwitz!!! V parlamentě máme 280 židáků, pro koho myslíte, že pracují? No pro Čechy určitě ne!!!

Lidi dejte si pozor. Konfident Spidla je taky židák, kurva podlá zrádkovníká!!! Tady je Česká země, tady budou věci podle Čechů a ne podle imigrantů židáků!!!

Pokud chtějí židáci napravit křivdy tak v německu a u těch co platili Hitlera, a to byli židáci!! Vraždit Slovany na východě se jim líbilo, ale když to odneslo pár židáků tak budou kvílet paraziti!!

Náš děti nebudou chodit kolem vyhlané připomínky něčeho vyhlaného a židovského, NIC nedovolíme v celé České republice, vše židovské pryč a hned!!! Tady není židostán!!! Přestože se o to snažej!!!

Chtějí najít řešení, ano, řešením je vše židovské pryč, odnesťe si to židáci do Israele, TADY NE!!! Divejte se, kdo má zarostlou dršku je žid!! Těž Roman, egon, daniel, miša, bára viki, dany, esterky, atd. **Kopírujte pro lidi!**



1968
SKVĚLÉ
A. POKUS
NEVŠEL
BRŽIŽNĚV
HRDINA
HUSÁK
PAŠÁK



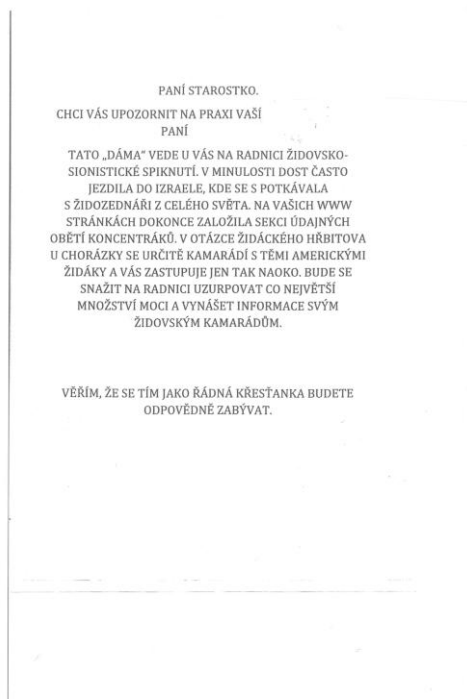
1989
2. PODVOD
VYŠEL
JEN
DOČASNĚ
VÁŽENÍ
JUDÁCI

Dobová karikatura týdeníku Die Zeit: "Ruku v ruce - za či vlast?"
NO PŘECĚ ZA ŽIDOVSKOU

Anonymous flier distributed in Prostějov during the cemetery dispute in September 2017. It reads, among others: "The Jew does not lie and steal, only when he is dead. Living together with Jews is not possible!!" (Prostějov, 2.9.2017, personal archive of Tomáš Jelínek).



Desecration of the memorial in April 2017 (photo: personal archive of Tomáš Jelínek)



Anonymous letter to the Prostějov Municipality (November 2016): *“Dear Madam Mayor // I want to inform you about the practices of your lady // This “woman” leads a Judeozionist conspiracy at your Municipality. She was visiting Israel often in the past, where she was meeting Judeo-Masons from the entire world. At your websites, she even established a section about alleged victims of the concentration camps. In the question of the Judaic cemetery U Chorázky, she certainly befriended those American Kikes and only pretends to represent your interest. She will attempt to acquire as much as power as possible into their hands and to leak information to her Jewish friends. // I believe that, as a proper Christian, you will investigate this issue responsibly.”* (personal archive of Tomáš Jelinek)

Suggestions to the Jewish communities:

- Maintain the current strategy of “low media profile”. Czechs tend to demand homogeneity. Even positive reports in which Jews “stick-out” or can be identifiable as “Others” could still turn into negative reactions in some areas.
- Do not underestimate the local cultural context. Note that especially some areas of Moravia could be culturally closer to Poland or Slovakia, rather than Bohemia, when it comes to religious values etc. Other regions, like North Bohemia, are struck by social issues and concentration of low-educated work-force. In a country that is generally not considered antisemitic, there still could be local, isolated “pockets” of communities that hold antisemitic convictions.
- Take additional care when reacting to reports of antisemitic incidents. Verify the veracity of the reports from independent sources and use your right to ask the media to give you time for thorough investigation. Certain foreign propaganda outlets, namely in Russia and Ukraine, have been recently utilizing false reports of antisemitism for justification of aggressive policies, using Jews as “scapegoats” or “collateral victims”. The Czech police is currently investigating at least one attempt to perpetrate a false-flag terrorist attack³⁷ and

37 The Czech police has charged the 70-years old perpetrator, who cut down trees to railway track with intent to cause a train accident. The man, who is a supporter of the right-wing populist Freedom and Democracy Party, left notes written in poor Arabic at the crime-scene in order to create a notion that the attack was committed by the ISIS. See: Muž způsobil srážku vlaku se stromy, aby se Češi báli muslimů. *Aktuálně.cz* 28.2.2018, available at: <https://zpravy.aktualne.cz/domaci/muz-zpusobil-srazku-vlak-u-se-stromy-aby-se-cesi-bali-muslimu/r~b1d2b6601c5e11e8bacfac1f6b220ee8/>

there is another similar case from Poland.³⁸ It is possible that such attacks or provocations could target the Jews at some point.

- Avoid being connected with islamophobic movements and their rhetoric, even if it these movements manifest their support to the State of Israel. Avoid contacts with these movements, which might be abusing such contacts with the Jewish community for legitimization of their agenda.
- Avoid using islamophobic rhetoric yourself. Remember that Israel is not in a war with Islam as such. The State of Israel has signed peace agreements, built strategic alliances or at least pragmatic relations with multiple Muslim and Arab countries. Islamophobic rhetoric opens door for movements and ideologies that could be also antisemitic and thus dangerous for security of the Jewish communities in the long term. Even if such movement or its leaders themselves are not explicitly antisemitic, its middle-rank members and possible MPs could well be.
- Keep existing safety precautions, but improve security's behavior. While the Czech Republic ranks among the top most secure and peaceful countries in the world, possible attackers might attempt to attack the local community as a "substitute target". This in itself is a reason to keep the current precautions in place. In the same time, make sure that the security officers behave in a friendly and welcoming manner to legitimate visitors and tourists.

38 Members of the Polish pro-Kremlin far-right movement Falanga have thrown fire-bombs at the Hungarian cultural center in Uzhorod, Subcarpathia, with the intent to instigate ethnic tensions between Ukrainians and Hungarians. Poles suspected of arson attack on Hungarian centre in Ukraine, *Radio Poland* 27.2.2018, available at: <http://thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/351494,Poles-suspected-of-arson-attack-on-Hungarian-centre-in-Ukraine>.