

Attacks against Roma in the Czech Republic January 2008-June 2009

This is a (non-exhaustive) list of attacks against Roma in the Czech Republic.

There were (at least)

- three arsonist attacks,
- several marches by ultra-right wingers toward Roma-settlements
- several punch-ups

At least

- three people suffered life-threatening injuries, one 2-year-old child among them.

Arsonist attack in near Prague

Location Zdíby, Czech Republic

Date, Time 24 May 2009

On a Sunday evening, arsonists attacked a Roma family in the village of Zdíby near Prague. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at their home. Czech Television reported no injuries. The family succeeded in putting out the fire in time. Zdeněk Chalupa, spokesperson for the Praha-venkov district police, told ČTK that the initial damages were estimated at CZK 10 000.

Police are investigating. The unidentified perpetrator is suspected of reckless endangerment. "We can neither confirm nor deny that this was a racially motivated act," Chalupa said.

The perpetrator threw bottles containing an unknown fuel along one wall of the house, causing an electrical wiring unit to explode. Police officers sent the evidence gathered at the scene to detectives for expert analysis. They are evaluating clues and interrogating witnesses.



Photo (romea.cz): traces of the attack

Sources http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_1231

Arson attack on Romani house, two-year-old girl heavily injured

Location Vitkov, Czech Republic

**Date,
Time** 18 April 2009

In an arson attack on a Romani house in Vitkov in northern Czech Republic, three people suffered serious injuries. Among them was a two-year-old girl who suffered burns on 80% of her skin. Her mother also suffered second and third degree burns on 30% of her skin.

The unknown perpetrator(s) threw at least one fuel-filled bottle through a window shortly before midnight. The house was mostly destroyed before the fire-brigade arrived.

The police considered a racial motivation possible because a witness report that a car stopped in front of the house before something was thrown, and a voice yelled "now you burn, gypsies!"

Additionally, as the grandmother of the attacked family was trying to extinguish the fire, she found that the water supply had been turned off, making it impossible to distinguish the fire.

"It's still possible that the background was a different one, but I very much assume it was racially motivated", said Michael Kocáb, Czech minister for minorities and human rights.

To read the story, follow the [link](#) below.
(by Catherine Twigg)



Photo (romea.cz): the 2-year-old victim

Sources

<http://www.praguepost.com/news/1212-roma-family-recounts-arsonist-attack.html>

Right-wing demonstration

Location Litvinov, Czech Republic

**Date,
Time** 17 November 2008

After a rally organised by the Czech workers party (DS) which included several anti-Romani speeches, a group of 500 neo-nazis set off to march through the vicinity of Janov, an area mainly inhabited by Roma.

A strong police force with heavy equipment prevented them from reaching Janov. During the clash, 14 people suffered injuries and three extremists were arrested. A group of 300 extremists was blocked in the nearby town of Most.

The police discovered dozens of weapons in the extremists' cars.

Several demonstrations by far-right wing groups took place in Litvinov and other locations in the Czech Republic in the following months, although some of them were banned by local municipalities and thwarted by counter-demonstrations by local Roma.



Photo (daylife.com): demonstrators

Sources http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_1100

Racist attack on Romany man	
Location	Havirov
Date, Time	19 December 2008
<p>A 17-year-old Romani community organizer was beaten by a group of a dozen right-wing supporters. The man suffered partial paralysis. The police are treating this as a racist attack and have taken some of the assailants into custody.</p>	
Sources	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_1140

Caravan set on fire	
Location	Kozolupy
Date, Time	15 September 2008
<p>Around 04:00 an unknown perpetrator set fire to a flammable liquid around a caravan parked not far from a single-family home. "This was a targeted attack. There was a propane-butane canister in that caravan; if that had exploded, everything here would have caught fire," Jan Hauer, who lives in the house, told ČTK.</p> <p>The police, however, do not agree. "There was no immediate danger, the fire was put out in time, I do not even know whether the entire caravan was burned," Central Bohemian Police spokesperson Soňa Budská told ČTK.</p>	
Sources	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_1052

