

Attacks against Roma in the Czech Republic: January 2008-July 2012

The following is a list of 47 attacks against Roma and/or their property in the Czech Republic between January 2008 and June 2012. It was last updated: July 31 2012.

This list of attacks is not exhaustive and does not address the State response to the attacks. Information on the State response to a selection of these incidents can be found in the ERRC report “Imperfect Justice: Anti-Roma Violence and Impunity”.

This information is compiled from media and NGO reports. The ERRC has not independently verified all of the information contained in these reports and does not take any position as to the potential bias motivation of these attacks.

Important Facts:

- at least five Romani individuals died following a violent incident
- the attacks left at least 22 people, including three minors, with injuries; two of which were life-threatening;
- in at least 10 cases firebombs were used; one case involved a tear gas grenade;
- in at least two cases shots were fired;
- in at least 13 cases Romani property was vandalised;
- in at least 11 cases Roma were beaten;
- at least seven cases of violence saw minors as victims;
- in two cases, a Romani victim died after incidents involving police;

47. Arson committed against Romani-occupied building			
Location:	Smržovka (Liberec Region)	Date:	31 May 2012
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3400		
<p>On 31 May 2012 an unidentified arsonist set fire to an apartment building occupied by several Romani families in Smržovka. According to media report, firefighters were called to the scene at around 4:40 AM and the fire was out by 6:30 AM. The attic and roof were damaged but none of the inhabitants were injured. Police were investigating the case.</p>			

46. Racist group attacks several Roma; fight ensues			
Location:	Haviřov	Date:	1 June 2012
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3403		
<p>On the night of 1 June 2012, a group of between 10 and 20 young racists attacked several Romani people in Haviřov in front a restaurant frequently visited by local Roma. A group of Roma fought back. Media reported that in the fight that ensued, cobblestones and bottles were thrown. Local police officers were attacked when they arrived at the scene. Three men - one of them a police officer - were injured and two cars were damaged. According to media reports, a police investigation into rioting and property damage was initiated.</p>			

45. Romani man dead after police use force

Location:	Kynšperk nad Ohří	Date:	5 May 2012
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3366 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3384 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3435		

Ludovít Kašpar, a 33-year-old Romani man with three children, passed away on 6 May 2012 at a hospital in Sokolov after he was reportedly beaten by police officers. According to media reports, on 5 May in the town of Kynšperk nad Ohří police were called after Mr Kašpar reportedly unintentionally “elbowed” a woman. When the officers arrived they reportedly handcuffed Mr Kašpar and then beat and kicked him until he lost consciousness. The Karlovy Vary Regional Police Directorate reported that Mr Kašpar attacked the officers who responded with force. A doctor called to the scene reported that police officers were resuscitating Mr Kašpar who had stopped breathing. After about 20 minutes, doctors revived him and he was taken to the intensive care unit at the Sokolov hospital with numerous welts on his body. Mr Kašpar’s family has reported that he left home that evening in good health. Mr Kašpar died in hospital.

According to media reports, a police officer alleged to have beaten Mr Kašpar reportedly drove past the cemetery at the end of the funeral service, laughing. Local Roma have had bad experiences with police officers in the area. A police investigation was opened in the case.

44. Romani man shot dead with crossbow			
Location:	Chotěbuz	Date:	26 April 2012
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3357 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3355 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3360 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3369 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3396		
<p>On 26 April 2012, a Czech man shot Martin Hospodi, a Romani father of two small children, in the dead with a crossbow, killing him. Mr Hospodi was looking for old scrap metal with three relatives in an abandoned building. According to media reports, the suspect, Jaroslav Šebesta, who lives adjacent to the building, came out of his home and shot Mr Hospodi after he reportedly shouted "You black whores; I'll kill you". Mr Hospodi's relatives flagged down a passing car and the driver called an ambulance. Mr Hospodi died on 4 May in the Ostrava Teaching Hospital. Police opened an investigation into the fatal shooting and Mr Šebesta is reported to have been charged with committing grievous bodily harm resulting in a fatality. On 19 May about 30 people gathered in Chotěbuz to attend a demonstration convened by promoters of the ultra-right Workers Social Justice Party (Dělnická strana sociální spravedlnosti - DSSS) in support of Mr Šebesta.</p>			

43. Arson attack on building with Romani tenants			
Location:	Aš	Date:	26 February 2012
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3189		
<p>A residential hotel hosting Romani families was the target of an arson attack on the night of 26 February 2012 in Aš. At around 2:30 AM, two masked men threw Molotov cocktails at the window of an apartment where a Romani family was sleeping. No one was injured during the attack but the tenants' were unable to stop the fire. Firefighters intervened. A police investigation into the attack was opened and the racial motivation was reportedly being considered.</p>			

42. Romani man attacked on a tram

Location: Prague, 8th district **Date:** 23 January 2012

Source: http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3135

On the night of 23 January 2012, a sleeping 29-year-old Romani passenger was brutally assaulted by two men with shaved heads on a tram in Prague. Police were investigating the attack and had reportedly questioned two suspects.



Photo: Provided by police, taken from ROMEA

41. 200 people participate in anti-Roma demonstration			
Location:	Varnsdorf	Date:	15 January 2012
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3082 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3086 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3089		
<p>According to Romea.cz, 200 people amassed in Varnsdorf's Benešov Square to demonstrate against the presence of Roma in the town. The demonstration was convened under the name of "law and order" to protest alleged Roma criminality and aggression, triggered by a New Year's attack allegedly perpetrated by a group of Roma against a non-Romani family as well as by a recent speech by the Vice-Mayor which addressed the criminality of some of the anti-Roma demonstrators themselves. At the demonstration, which remained without violent incident, the government was criticized by the demonstrators for not resolving the security situation of the region. The flag of the ultra-right Workers' Social Justice Party (Dělnická strana sociální spravedlnosti or DSSS) was carried by demonstrators.</p> <p>Another prominent anti-Roma demonstrator, who had tried to reserve the square for his demonstration at the same time and had been refused by the town, tried to incite the Roma of the town by posting on Facebook, under an alias, calls to demonstrate against "white racism". The DSSS also made reference to this during the demonstration.</p> <p>The Czech Press Agency later reported that a 22-year-old woman and two young men (one 19-year-old and one under 18 years of age, according to the police spokesperson) verbally assaulted three Roma following the demonstration in Varnsdorf's Benešov Square. All three were arrested and one of the men has been jailed. According to the police spokesperson, one of the men had patches resembling Nazi symbols on his clothes. The incident is being investigated, but felony charges of defamation of individuals due to their membership in an ethnic, national, racial or other group, as well as charges of rioting were considered. If the suspects are convicted for such charges, they could face a sentence of up to two years in prison.</p>			

40. Romani activist threatened			
Location:	Plzeň	Date:	10 January 2012
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3068		
<p>A Romani activist living in the Přední Skvrňany neighborhood of Plzeň has been targeted with racial slurs and e-mail threats over the last six months, including the spray-painting of a red swastika on the front door of his apartment in January 2012. He has filed criminal charges and submitted the e-mails to the police, as he fears the physical violence threatened. The writer of the e-mails has since indicated that he is aware of the involvement of the police. The activist is the founder of the "Amare čhave" organization, which supports the social integration of Romani people, for example, through sports events for children.</p>			

39. Romani woman murdered by three young men

Location:	Prague	Date:	Exact date unknown. The victim died before 5 Jan 2012.
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3066		

Three young men have confessed to their involvement in the murder of a Romani woman in the Prague 3 district of Jarov. According to Romea.cz, the woman was kicked and punched in the head before being stabbed. One of the young men has been remanded into custody on the charge of committing murder and faces, if convicted, a prison sentence of between 15 and 20 years, or life. The other two have been charged with felony attempted grievous bodily harm and rioting, and would face a prison sentence of up to 10 years, if convicted. According to local residents, the young men are right-wing extremist sympathizers who have regularly attacked homeless people and locals in the past.



(Photo: Repro Nova TV from Romea.cz)

38. Two Romani men shot, one fatally			
Location:	Tanvald	Date:	2 January 2012
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3048 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3061 http://www.romea.cz/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_11518 http://tn.nova.cz/zpravy/cernakronika/exkluzivne-postreleny-rom-promluvil-o-smrti-bratra.html		
<p>Two Romani brothers were shot in Tanvald approximately 200 metres from their home on 1 January 2012 while reportedly en route to wish their grandmother a Happy New Year. The 22-year old man died from his injuries and the 24-year old man suffered serious injuries. A 63-year old man was arrested and questioned by the police but was later released without being charged. According to Regional State Prosecutor Bradáčová it remains unclear whether the shooting was a crime or an act of self-defence. Speculation as to an initial attack on the 63-year-old by the Romani men has been reported by TV Nova the media. Bradáčová has repeatedly asserted her certainty that the incident was not racially motivated. However, Czech-Romani Civic Association chair Gorol maintains that the incident was an “execution” of the Roma, as the men were allegedly unarmed. The shooter is said to have been the victim of a previous attack, allegedly perpetrated by some Romani men, some time ago; the 1 January incident may have been a revenge killing involving a case of mistaken identity.</p> <p>The survivor of the attack has since gone into hiding out of fear of another attack. He refutes the media’s portrayal of the incident, maintaining that he and his brother were attacked without instigation. His injuries reportedly confirm that the shooter was standing over him when he shot. TV Nova, on the other hand, has been reporting the incident according to the suspected shooter’s account, even broadcasting a computer graphic “reconstruction” of the event in which the two victims attack the suspect from behind, kick him on the ground, and he shoots in self-defence.</p> <p>During the funeral of the gunshot victim on 7 January there were two attempted disruptions, one by an ethnic Czech who shouted “The bastard deserved it” while among the crowd of mourners, and one by a small group of neo-Nazis who were kept by police from approaching the public commemoration held at the scene of the shooting after the burial.</p>			

37. Romani man dead following conflict with police officers			
Location:	Děčín	Date:	7 December 2011
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3003 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3006		
<p>A Romani man who suffered from schizophrenia died following a police intervention called for by paramedics unable to calm him down from a fit of aggression. The incident occurred on Saturday 26 November. The man was then transported to the hospital. On Thursday, 1 December, the hospital informed the family that their 26-year-old son had died.</p> <p>According to his relatives, the police, who had made inappropriate comments regarding the man’s skin colour, used force and a stun gun against the man even after he had ceased resisting. The police spokesman, however, claimed that according to the department’s internal monitoring mechanism, the police did not commit any errors in their handling of the case. The Czech Police Inspectorate, on the other hand, reported that it had not yet investigated the case. The autopsy and toxicology report is expected to shed light on the incident and to be ready within a month. The mother of the deceased is considering delaying burial and requesting an independent autopsy irrespective of the cost.</p>			

36. Romani man reports abuse by police officers

Location:

Šluknov

Date:

5 November 2011

Source:

http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2935

A Romani man filed a complaint against the behaviour of a police officer in Šluknov. The case has been transferred to Prague to the Regional Police Directorate. According to the Romani man, while standing on his own property he was approached by one police officer and then attacked by another, who grabbed him from behind with one hand on his throat and pushed him to the wall, yelling. Even after letting him go the police officer acted aggressively, accompanying the Romani man to his car to retrieve his documents and then ordering him to remove everything from the car and searching it. The police officer used racist language.



(Photo: Romea.cz archive)

35. Violence between ethnic Czechs and Romani people			
Location:	Ústí nad Labem	Date:	16 October 2011
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2891 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2893		
<p>The investigation into an attack committed against two ethnic Czechs by Romani people has confirmed that the two ethnic Czechs had attacked other Romani people prior to the incident in question, according to the Vice-Mayor of the Neštémice quarter of Ústí nad Labem as reported by the regional daily Ústecký deník. Police spokesperson Veronika Hyšplerová, as reported by news server Romea.cz, also confirmed those were the results of the investigation. A Romani man and his grandson have filed criminal charges regarding the attack by the two ethnic Czechs. News server Deník.cz reported that one of the ethnic Czechs was armed with a knife and a machete.</p> <p>The investigation into the Romani attack on the two ethnic Czechs is still ongoing, as the incident has been reported on differently by different sources. According to news server Romea.cz, a witness reported having seen a Romani woman, man and their son running from a man with a knife who was threatening to kill them. The Romani family was able to get inside before being injured. Shortly thereafter, a brawl ensued between the men with the knife and a group of Romani people who had come to the attacked family's aid. TV Nova, however, reported that, according to the hospitalized ethnic Czech man, the Romani people had attacked unprovoked.</p>			

34. 400 ethnic Czechs march through Varnsdorf in attempted pogrom on Romani residents

Location:	Varnsdorf	Date:	17 September 2011
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Source: http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2821

At 2:00 PM on 17 September, an anti-Romani rally was held on the Varnsdorf town square, followed by a march on Romani residences supported by extremists from the Workers' Social Justice Party (DSSS). Half an hour before the announced start time of the demonstration, police detained 14 men with tattoos associated with football hooligans on suspicion of various misdemeanours. Police reported some were carrying knives.

Once the rally was over, 400 people marched toward the Romani-occupied Sport residential hotel. They were led by approximately 50 neo-Nazis shouting nationalist and xenophobic slogans. The DSSS vice-chair was among them. A police barricade halted the marchers at the request of the town leadership, which called for it to be dispersed for inciting racial hatred. Demonstrators shouted "You're protecting the Gypsies" at the police. An alleged acolyte of the Catholic Church, who would not identify himself, then proposed the march transform itself into a religious assembly. Police said they would permit such an assembly to proceed toward the Romani residence on the condition that no one would yell anti-Roma or political slogans.

The demonstrators did not take the police up on their offer, but chose to head for yet another building housing Romani tenants, the "Červený kostel" residential hotel, where they stood outside in the street whistling loudly for almost an hour before eventually dispersing.



(Photo: Lukáš Houdek at Romea.cz)

33. Three anti-Romani demonstrations in one day, clashes with police, charges filed against five people			
Location:	Nový Bor / Rumburk/ Varnsdorf	Date:	10 September 2011
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2809 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2803 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2801		
<p>On 10 September three separate anti-Romani demonstrations were held by the ultra-nationalist Workers' Social Justice Party in the towns of Nový Bor, Rumburk, and Varnsdorf. In Varnsdorf, the second location in the series, the demonstration transformed itself into an unannounced march led by hardcore neo-Nazis on residential hotels occupied by Romani tenants. When thwarted by police from reaching their destination, demonstrators threw bottles and rocks. Police used stun grenades, teargas and water cannon to disperse the mob. Six people were injured, three of them police officers, and 41 people were detained at police stations.</p> <p>The Czech Police subsequently charged five people: three with assaulting a police officer and two with promoting a banned movement because they were wearing banned symbols on their clothing. Two of the assailants face up to six years in prison for assault with a weapon. A 35-year-old ethnic Czech from Hradec Králové shot at police officers twice with a gas-fired pistol at a highway checkpoint near Dolní Podluží (no one was injured). Detectives filed the same charges against a 25-year old man who threw rocks at police officers and at their cars in Varnsdorf; he is also being charged with vandalism. A 47-year-old woman also faces four years in prison for assaulting an official. The other two men, aged 31 and 33, were charged with promoting banned movements and face up to three years in prison for wearing t-shirts about banned topics. Another two similar charges may be filed regarding persons attending the Nový Bor demonstration that same day.</p>			

32. Mob of ethnic Czechs marches against Roma in Varnsdorf			
Location:	Varnsdorf	Date:	3 September 2011
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2788		
<p>A mob of several hundred ethnic Czechs, including both members of the neo-Nazi "Free Youth" (Svobodná mládež) movement and other people from the town, marched through Varnsdorf trying to attack Romani residents of the Sport residential hotel and shouting racist abuse. According to Romea.cz, there were even some calls for Romani people to be sent to gas chambers. Although the situation was out of control between 18:00 and 19:00 when the mob advanced on the hotel, it was eventually stopped by police vans.</p> <p>The protests by approximately 250 people had been called in response to the allegedly increasing number of crimes committed by Romani people in the Šluknov foothills. The protest follows a previous demonstration by 500 people who also tried to reach the hotel but were stopped by the police.</p>			



(Photo: Romea.cz)

31. Ethnic Czechs march on Roma housing in Rumburk

Location:	Rumburk (Děčín district)	Date:	26 August 2011
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Source: http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2746
http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2753

Following a rally in which the commission of violence against the Roma was called for, a mob of approximately 500 people marched through Rumburk trying to provoke Romani residents. By the end of the march, ethnic Czechs had thrown tree branches and stones and broken down a fence outside of a building in which the Roma were staying.

On 27 August, it was reported that a Romani family fled Rumburk after their neighbours threatened to kill them. Before fleeing, the family had contacted both the police and the Rumburk town hall, neither of which offered them help. The mother of the family is an ethnic Czech and her husband is Romani. According to the family, they are not the only Roma to have been forced to flee Rumburk.



(Photo: Romea.cz)

30. Ethnic Czechs brutally attack Romani man

Location:	Rumburk (Děčín district)	Date:	26 August 2011
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Source: http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2745

Four ethnic Czechs brutally attacked a Romani man with baseball bats in front of his pregnant girlfriend, according to the man. The attack came one day following a brawl in Rumburk between 18 Romani people and six ethnic Czechs. The Romani man had had nothing to do with that brawl and, according to local Roma, the assailants were not neo-Nazis.

29. Investigation into death of young Romani boy			
Location:	Bruntál	Date:	19 August 2011
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2714		
<p>A 5-year-old Romani boy died when he was run over by a delivery van in Bruntál. It is unclear as to whether the accident was intentional, as claimed by some Romani residents as well as some witnesses discussing the incident online. Others claim that the boy jumped in front of the van such that the driver was unable to prevent the accident. The incident is being investigated by a team including forensic medicine and highway traffic experts.</p>			

28. Molotov cocktail thrown at a Romani house			
Location:	Krty (Rakovník district)	Date:	10 August 2011
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2683 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2691		
<p>A Molotov cocktail was thrown into a Romani house on railway property in Krty. One man suffered second-degree burns as a result of the attack. According to local media reports, the Molotov cocktail landed in the bedroom where two young parents and their 1-year-old child were sleeping. The flaming object landed just a few centimetres from the child's bed. At the time of the attack, 12 people were in the house. Fire fighters from Jesenice, Kněžves, and Rakovník were on the scene immediately, as was a railway fire fighting unit from Plzeň. The father of the family was taken to the hospital in Rakovník for treatment of second-degree burns on his leg. About CZK 1,000 worth of damage was caused, but the building, which is worth CZK 300 000, was saved. Krty currently has only 107 inhabitants, and according to officials there is no record of any manifestations of racial intolerance in the settlement. The local edition of daily Deník.cz reports that locals have condemned the crime. Police say the attack could have been a mistake, as the house was apparently occupied by someone else until just recently.</p>			

27. Bar brawl between Romani and non-Romani guests			
Location:	Nový Bor	Date:	9 August 2011
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2680		
<p>A brawl occurred in a bar in Nový Bor between non-Romani guests and the relatives of three Romani boys between the ages of 15 and 17, who had been playing video poker there. The brawl began after the barmaid refused to cash the Romani boys' winnings and requested their IDs, which she had allegedly disregarded on a previous occasion. The boys swore at her and several non-Romani guests physically attacked the boys. The Romani boys fled and returned with their relatives, attacking the non-Romani guests with machetes and truncheons. Two Romani people have been arrested and one faces charges of committing grievous bodily harm, which carries of a prison sentence of between 5 and 12 years.</p>			

26. Racists attacked a Roma home to kill the family members

Location:	Nýrsko (Klatovy district)	Date:	30 July 2011
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2668 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3010		

Two racists broke into a Roma-occupied home and almost killed a Romani man by beating him with a wooden bat and kicking him. According to victims' testimony, around 5 PM on 30 July, the children of the family came running into the house shouting that they were being chased by skinheads. Immediately after the warning of the children, the doorbell rang. A family member looked through the window and saw a man with a shaved head waving a baseball bat at her from the street. She quickly shut the window, but the attackers started pounding on the door. When a male member of the family opened the door, he was punched. Then the attackers grabbed and dragged him about 50 metres. The perpetrators wrapped a sweatshirt around his neck and pulled it tighter and tighter. The 29-year-old Romani man lost consciousness completely. Fortunately, other members of the family ran to his aid and after some serious struggle, both of the assailants, who are 18 and 23 years old, fled, shouting that the Romani people were "black swine" and that they had come to kill them. The daily Právo reported that they left town in a vehicle but had an accident on the road. The driver was unable to control the vehicle, running into a low concrete barrier after swerving out of the lane. It later turned out his blood alcohol level was above the legal level. One of the perpetrators had been hit with the baseball bat during the brawl and required medical treatment, as did the victim of the strangling.

In December, police filed charges against a total of seven people – two perpetrators face charges of committing racially motivated violence and driving under the influence of alcohol, while the five Romani family members, who were defending themselves in their own home, have been charged with rioting. The racially motivated assailants face up to three years in prison, while their five Romani victims face up to two years in prison. The family has reportedly not left their home since the incident and has asked their non-Romani neighbours to do their shopping for them.

25. Racially motivated arson attack on Romani home			
Location:	Býchory (Central Bohemian Region Region)	Date:	11 July 2011
Source:	Romea.cz, Prague Daily Monitor, http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2594, http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2600, http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_2605 http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3045		
<p>In the town of Býchory, 60 kilometres east of Prague, perpetrators threw a flaming torch into a Romani home on 11 July. According to police sources, at 12:30 AM, a group of people walked around the Romani home shouting racist slogans. One of them then threw a flaming torch into the house. The family put out the fire themselves. Five people, including three small children, live in the targeted home and another two people were visiting at the time of the attack. None of the victims suffered physical injury but the attack caused some damage to the house. Media reported that the victims' neighbour saw a group of about seven youngsters throw the torch into the Romani home. "They walked through the village holding lit torches and giving the Nazi salute. They were yelling that they don't want any of them (the Gypsies) here," the neighbour said.</p> <p>Four people in their early 20s were arrested and racial motivation for the attack was investigated. Initially, they all faced charges of complicity in the crime of attempted grievous bodily harm, with potential prison sentences of up to 12 years. The charges were initially reduced for three of the perpetrators, and all of the defendants were released from custody.</p>	<p>Police completed their investigation of the incident in December and said they would press charges against all four for conspiring and attempting the felony crimes of racially motivated assault against members of a particular group and grievous bodily harm. They face prison sentences of between three and 12 years for conspiring to commit the crime and committing it together. The longest sentence may be handed down to the youngest member of the group, who is 21 years old.</p>		
	 <p>The family of Milan Demeter and Eva Douchová fled their home after the attack.</p> <p>Photo Credit: Romea.cz</p>		

24. Pod Pecníkem street apartment attacked repeatedly			
Location:	Vsetín (Zlín Region)	Date:	16 June 2011
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Romani families living in a building on Pod Pecníkem street in Vsetín have been experiencing ongoing physical and verbal attacks. According to the Romani residents of the building, a group of assailants comprised of three or four young men have been harassing the Romani families repeatedly by kicking the apartment doors, shouting vulgar curses and destroying mailboxes. A Romani man living in the building said that the attacks have been going on for more than a month and take place at night. The owner of the building, Bohumil Slavík, claims that the night-time attacks are racially motivated. "Not only Romani people live in the building, 'white' families live there too, but when only the mailboxes with Romani names have been deliberately punctured, what else am I to believe?" he said. Although the victims called the police, the attackers always manage to run away. Vsetín Police Spokesperson Lenka Javorková confirmed that the police department is aware of the attacks and stated that an investigation is underway.</p>			

23. Four men charged for assaulting Romanians they mistook for Roma			
Location:	Votice (Central Bohemian Region Region)	Date:	13 June 2011
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Police have charged four men from Votice with attacking Romanian workers because they believed they were members of the Romani community. In mid-May, the men allegedly shouted racist slogans at the workers before breaking into their building and brawling with them. Zuzana Stránská, spokesperson for the Benešov Police, said the four men face up to five years in prison if convicted. Stránská said the men first verbally assaulted the group of Romanians in the garden of the Domino Bar in Votice. They reportedly shouted at them, calling them "Gypsies" and chanted the Nazi greetings "Sieg Heil" and "Heil Hitler". The men displayed tattoos of Nazi symbols, performed the fascist salute and got drunk. After midnight the four men allegedly broke into the building where the Romanians were staying, entered the room where they were sleeping and punched one of them in the face. A brawl followed during which the Romanians tried to defend themselves with whatever was to hand, eventually succeeding in driving the attackers from the building. The men finally broke the glass in the street-level doors and fled. Stránská said that the men have been charged with breaking and entering, violence against a group and individuals, rioting and manifesting sympathy for a movement aimed at suppressing human rights and freedoms.</p>			

22. Police attack Roma while dispersing a religious gathering

Location:	Krupka (Ústí nad Labem Region)	Date:	9 April 2011
Source:	Romea.cz		

While dispersing an open-air religious service attended by over 500 people, the majority of whom were Romani, police intervened against attendees including the clergyman leading the service with truncheons. At least one person sustained injuries to his head; video evidence against on the Internet shows police refusing to call an ambulance to assist this person. Police reportedly justified their intervention claiming that the participants of the religious service were blocking the route of a march organised by the far right Workers' Social Justice Party (Dělnická strana sociální spravedlnosti - DSSS) and supported by neo-Nazi groups Autonomous Nationalists (Autonomní nacionalisté - AN) and National Resistance (Národní odpor - NO). A total of seven persons were arrested for not following police orders.

21. Romani men attacked following neo-Nazi demonstration

Location:	Nový Bydžov (Hradec Králové Region)	Date:	13 March 2011
Source:	Romea.cz		

A gang of 20 neo-Nazis attacked three Romani individuals in Nový Bydžov. One of the victims suffered head injuries and lost consciousness. He was transported to hospital, where it was determined he had suffered a concussion. Hradec Králové police spokesperson Ivana Ježková told the Czech Press Agency that police arrested the extremists involved.



The incident came immediately after a march of an estimated 500 sympathizers of the extreme-right Workers' Social Justice Party (Dělnická strana sociální spravedlnosti – DSSS) in the town. Police intervened brutally when about 200 counter-demonstrators attempted a non-violent blockade to prevent the march. According to witnesses, police officers on horseback charged at the peaceful demonstrators at full speed. Officers also brutally beat demonstrators with nightsticks and pulled girls by their hair.

20. Romani man and his son attacked on bus			
Location:	Ostrava (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	18 February 2011
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Unknown perpetrators attacked a Romani man travelling with his 13-year-old son on a city bus, first verbally then physically. Witnesses reported in the media that the perpetrators called the victims "Gypsies", forced the man off the bus and punched him several times. Police sources reported that the crime was committed by between four and six men between the ages of 20 and 25. The attack left the Romani man with injuries. Police officers reportedly documented large bloodstains at the crime scene.</p>			

19. Police aggression during traffic check			
Location:	Opava (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	29 September 2010
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>During a regular traffic check, police officers pulled over a Romani woman and her son who were driving in a slightly damaged car to the scene of an accident in which the son had been involved several days prior. The pair reported that the police officers immediately tried to handcuff the son, aggravating injuries he had sustained to his ribs during the recent accident. An onlooker observing the violent struggle called another police patrol out of concern.</p>			

18. Rybářská street apartment attacked again			
Location:	Opava (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	14 May 2010
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Unidentified perpetrators set a garbage can on fire and dragged it in front of the entrance of an apartment building in Rybářská street where several Romani families live. The perpetrators were allegedly young people, but were not identified. The police reportedly refused to investigate the incident. There were no injuries reported. The apartment building was previously attacked earlier in April 2010 and June 2008.</p>			

17. Another Molotov cocktail attack			
Location:	Uherský Ostroh District (Zlínský kraj Region)	Date:	30 April 2010
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Unknown perpetrators attacked a Romani home in Uherský Ostroh on 30 April with a Molotov cocktail. The explosive broke through a window and damaged some property. Residents managed to put out the fire in time and prevent the Molotov cocktail from exploding. There were no injuries reported.</p>			

16. Romani girl thrown into fish pond			
Location:	Husinec (South Bohemian Region)	Date:	20 April 2010
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Two non-Romani male adults attacked a 13-year-old Romani girl on 20 April. The girl was with a group of children when the perpetrators threw her into a fishpond and submerged her head under water repeatedly. The children were residents of a homeless shelter; the attack was the third on shelter residents in the past two years, including assaults with air rifles.</p>			

15. Three Molotov cocktails thrown at a Romani house in Opava			
Location:	Opava (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	3 April 2010
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Unknown perpetrators attacked an apartment building in Rybářská street, Opava, at about 1:00 AM on 3 April 2010. The perpetrators threw two bottles into the entranceway of the building and another Molotov cocktail was found in a nearby abandoned apartment on the first floor. A 55-year-old occupant reported the case to Opava police at 6:30 AM that same morning. Opava Police Commissioner René Černohorský was quoted as having stated: "The bottles never caught fire, no fire ever started, there were no injuries and no damages were caused." The Czech Press Agency reported that anyone can get into the building as the main doors to the building are old and will not close. According to residents, the bottles were filled with alcohol and both had shattered. The families were reported to believe that the attack could have been racially motivated.</p>			

14. Romani woman and her child attacked with air rifle, report many recent attacks			
Location:	Karviná (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	29 March 2010
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>On 29 March 2010 four perpetrators shot an air rifle at Roma in the town of Karviná, hitting a nine-year-old girl in the thigh, her mother in the arm and their ethnic Czech neighbour in the collarbone. The neighbour was reportedly not meant to be targeted but was hit accidentally when one of the shots missed the Romani woman.</p> <p>Jiina Solanov quoted the event as following: “My daughter was first shot in the leg, in her thigh to be precise. When I was talking with my neighbour outside, I felt the sting of another shot in my arm. I looked around and took two steps back – it was only because I moved that they didn’t get me a second time, but the gentleman with whom I was talking was hit. [...]” Neighbours confirmed the account. The victims called local police immediately after the incident and while the police were at the scene persons outside cursed the victims, calling them “black swine”. Ladislav Bal of the Europe Roma CZ association was quoted as having stated that about 150 Roma gathered after the attack to defend the area against the shooters; police reportedly ended up protecting the assailants from the crowd.</p> <p>This incident was the second in the area in a short period; earlier an unknown perpetrator reportedly threw a small gas bomb near children.</p>			

13. Romani man and his son severely beaten			
Location:	Sokolov (Karlovy Vary Region)	Date:	27-28 March 2010
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Over the weekend of 27 and 28 March 2010, three perpetrators attacked Police Commissioner Lubomir Horvath, a Romani man, in his apartment in Sokolov. As a result of the attack, Mr Horvath’s leg was fractured in three places and doctors had to insert screws into his leg. One of the perpetrators also chased his 19-year-old son, knocked him to the ground and kicked him while shouting “black swine”. The police reportedly stated that the attack was racially motivated, however, the state prosecutor refused to take the perpetrators into custody.</p>			

12. Molotov cocktail attack			
Location:	Ostrava (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	14 March 2010
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>On the morning of 14 March 2010 a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the home of a Romani family in Ostrava's Bedřiška settlement. An unidentified perpetrator threw the Molotov cocktail through the window of a bedroom in which a 14-year-old girl was sleeping; the girl managed to put out the fire before anyone was injured. Police discovered the bottle contained ether indicating that the perpetrators may have intended those in the room to be rendered unconscious if the bottle did not catch fire immediately. The director of the Ostrava Police stated at a press conference the day after the attack that there was no reason to believe extremists were involved. A special 15-member team was investigating the attack as one of reckless endangerment. Police arrested the non-Romani neighbours of the family and charged two of them with the attempted murder.</p>			
		<p><i>Photo: (Romea.cz): The home of the family.</i></p>	

11. Arson attack			
Location:	Zdiby (Central Bohemian Region)	Date:	24 May 2009
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Unknown perpetrators attacked a Romani family in the village of Zdiby near Prague by throwing two Molotov cocktails at their home on 24 May 2009. According to Czech Television the family extinguished the fire and no one was injured. Bottles containing an unknown fuel were thrown at the wall of the house, which lead to the explosion of an electrical wiring unit. The evidence gathered was sent to experts for analysis.</p> <p>The Praha-Venkov District Police Spokesperson, Zdeněk Chalupa, stated that the initial damages were estimated at approximately 10,000 CZK and that the unidentified perpetrator was suspected of reckless endangerment; racial motivation was neither confirmed nor denied.</p>			
		<p><i>Photo: (Romea.cz): damage inflicted by the Molotov cocktail.</i></p>	

10. Arson attack on Romani house; two-year-old Romani girl seriously injured

Location:	Vitkov (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	19 April 2009
Source:	The Prague Post		

In an arson attack on a Romani house in Vitkov, northern Czech Republic, three Roma suffered serious injuries; among them a two-year-old girl who suffered serious burns to 80% of her body and had three of her fingers amputated. Her mother also suffered second and third degree burns to 30% of her body. The unknown perpetrator(s) threw at least one fuel-filled bottle through a window in the house shortly before midnight. As the grandmother tried to extinguish the fire, she found that the water supply had been turned off making it impossible to distinguish the fire. The house was mostly destroyed before the fire-brigade arrived.



Photo: (The Prague Post): Photo of the two-year-old victim.

The police reportedly considered racial motivation to be possible due to witness accounts that something was thrown from a car which had stopped in front of the house while someone yelled “now you burn, Gypsies!”

9. Youngsters brutally attack a Romani man

Location:	Beroun (Central Bohemian Region)	Date:	February 2009
Source:	Romea.cz		

A small group of ethnic Czech youth beat a 30-year-old Romani man when he intervened in an apparent disagreement between the youth and another you man. He started to insult the Romani man. The perpetrators first insulted the Romani man and, when he fled, they chased him into the street and punched him in the face. A fight ensued and the youth chased the man to his home. One of the youth grabbed a garden hoe from the Romani man’s yard and struck on the head repeatedly. They then left, reportedly shouting racist slogans and the Nazi salute. The suspects dropped a mobile phone at the scene, from which police reportedly retrieved fascist videos and other Nazi materials were found during a search of their home.

8. Molotov cocktails thrown into an apartment building

Location:	Moravský Beroun (Olomouc Region)	Date:	25 January 2009
Source:	Romea.cz		

Unknown perpetrators attacked a building inhabited by Romani people; the perpetrators threw two Molotov cocktails into the building. The attack occurred on the morning of 25 January. According to police spokeswoman Jitka Dolejšová, there were no injuries.

7. Verbal assault of Romani man during New Year's celebration			
Location:	Frýdek-Místek	Date:	1 January 2009
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_1309		
<p>During New Year's Eve celebrations on 1 January 2009 a man wearing a swastika on his jacket attacked a Romani man at a disco in Frýdek-Místek. A police spokesperson was quoted in the media as having stated that: "An almost two metres tall racist started to verbally insult a randomly chosen Romani young man. He started shouting at him that he hated him and that he was a black face. With his arm raised he started hailing [...] He confessed, but he does not regret. On the contrary, he is proud about his act."</p>			

6. Right-wing demonstration targets Romani neighbourhood			
Location:	Litvinov (Ústí nad Labem Region)	Date:	17 November 2008
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Following a rally organised by the Czech Workers' Party (DS) in Litvinov which included several anti-Romani speeches on 17 November 2008, a group of 500 neo-Nazis set off to march through Litvinov's Janov Romani neighbourhood. A strong police force with heavy equipment prevented the extremists from reaching the neighbourhood. During heavy clashes between police and the demonstrators, 14 people suffered injuries and three extremists were arrested. About 300 additional extremists were stopped in the nearby town of Most and the police discovered dozens of weapons in their 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 organised by local Roma.</p>			

5. Romani man attacked			
Location:	Haviřov (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	8 November 2008
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>Around one dozen right-wing supporters between the ages of 17 and 25 beat a 17-year-old Romani youth, causing partial paralysis. The police were reportedly treating this as a racist attack and had taken several suspects into custody. A group of ultra right supporters allegedly beat the same youth in early November.</p>			

4. Roma and others attacked by Czech youth			
Location:	Benešov	Date:	10 October 2008
Source:	http://www.romea.cz/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_8278		
<p>On the evening of 10 October 2008 in Benešov, a group of masked young men attacked at least eight random people in the street, targeting “left-wing-oriented youth and Roma;” one of the victims lost his spleen as a result of the attack.</p>			

3. Arson attack near a Romani home			
Location:	Kozolupy (Plzeň Region)	Date:	13 September 2008
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>At around 4:00 AM on 13 September 2008, an unknown perpetrator set fire to a flammable liquid around a caravan parked near the home of a Romani family. One of the residents was quoted as having stated, "This was a targeted attack. There was a propane-butane canister in that caravan; if that had exploded, everything here would have caught fire."</p>			

2. Molotov cocktails thrown at apartment building inhabited by Roma			
Location:	Opava (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	June 2008
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>In June 2008 an unidentified perpetrator attacked an apartment building inhabited by Roma on Rybářská street in Opava. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown into the entryway of the building, setting fire to the door of a ground-floor apartment. The tenants were able to extinguish the fire.</p>			

1. Tear gas grenade attack			
Location:	Opava (Moravian-Silesian Region)	Date:	June 2008
Source:	Romea.cz		
<p>In June 2008 local hooligans returning from a sports event threw a tear gas grenade into a building inhabited by Roma near a sports stadium on Sadova street. One of the tenants was quoted as having stated, “The children had difficulty breathing, we had to move away for a few days, and we had to clean up the apartment at our own expense, including painting all the rooms. Recently local thugs threw a big rock at our window.”</p>			