

## **Terrorism in criminal law in the context of evolution of Czech legislation since 1918**

### **Abstract**

This document covers the evolution of antiterrorist legislation and related legislation since 1918 on the territory of Czechoslovakia. To start with, the concept of terrorism is defined in the introduction in order to set up the wider issue that is covered in the remainder of the text. Four key moments in history that correspond to the definition of terrorism with the relevant law regulations applied have been chosen for the analysis. The aim is to demonstrate readiness of the institutions to address this specific area of criminal justice in their time. At the same time, this paper illustrates the ever changing understanding and terminology related to the crimes, depending on the context and subject that might be adjudicating.

The first event is the assassination of finance minister Alois Rasin during the era of the First Czechoslovak Republic. His politically motivated killing is firstly analysed on the basis of ruling of the State Court in the light of criminal law of the time. Follows an analysis from the point of view of the contemporary legal norms.

Similar analytical approach is applied in the cases of assassination of Deputy/Acting Reich-Protector of Bohemia and Moravia Reinhard Heydrich during World War II as well as of criminal activity of the following around brothers Masin during the communist era in the 1950s.

The closing chapter not only analyses the case of Jan Silovsky, a Czech citizen convicted of support and promotion of IS terrorism activities. It also covers legal proposal of criminal law and evaluation of the current anti-terrorist legislation. The paper concludes by outlining terrorism from the point of view of restrictions on human rights.

**Key words:** terrorism; evolution of Czechoslovak antiterrorist legislation; historical legislative comparison

