

Abstract

I have chosen this topic because of my interest in criminal law in general. Two years ago I visited one of the largest prisons in the Czech Republic, the Valdice prison, which is situated only 20 km far from my hometown, Semily. I realized that unconditional imprisonment is a really interesting and complicated theme. The Czech prison system has recently suffered from particular problems and the aim of my thesis is to identify these problems and suggest solutions.

My thesis is composed of five chapters. Chapter One is introductory and defines the basic term – sentence and its purpose.

Chapter Two deals with relevant Czech legislation and consists of four parts. Part One focuses on the most important principles of imposing punishments, such as principle of legality, principle of subsidiarity, etc. Part Two analyzes the role of unconditional imprisonment in the sentencing structure. Part Three describes duration of unconditional imprisonment and Part Four reviews two types of extraordinary sentences.

Chapter Three concentrates on execution of unconditional imprisonment. This chapter is subdivided into nine parts. Part One deals with international rules, European prison rules and Czech legislation. Differentiation of prisons is described in Part Two and Part Three. Part Four relates to admission, classification and reclassification of prisoners. Following two parts explain what rights and duties prisoners have and what the treatment programme is. Part Seven focuses on employment of prisoners. This part mentions prisoner`s duty to work and analyzes problems related to employment of prisoners. Education of prisoners in prison and its forms are described in Part Eight. Unconditional imprisonment has a number of negative consequences, those are explained in Part Nine.

First three chapters are theoretical and next two chapters are more practical. In Chapter Four is presented some statistical data that are published in Yearbook of statistics of the Czech Prison service. I concentrate on a number of prisoners, composition of prisoners and employment and education in prison.

The last chapter focuses on Valdice prison. Valdice press secretary Eva Francová kindly provided me with written answers on my questions regarding the prison.