

## The Path of Guru Jara – religious society

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CESTA GURU JÁRY n.s.

## OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Warsaw, Friday 15 September 2017

Working session 8. Tolerance and non-discrimination

### Czech Republic: 7 years of persecution and hate crimes on Czech religious minority the Path of Guru Jara

#### Recommendations:

##### To ODIHR:

**Please help us and provide assistance to the Czech Republic to fulfill its commitments from Ministerial Council Decision of 2009, as well Basil Declaration from 2014, mainly in reference to hate crimes towards religious minorities.** If these OSCE commitments had been properly implemented, no long-term persecution in our case would have ever happened.

Also another OSCE document that wasn't properly implemented is Venice commission Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities from 2015. Non-recognition of recommendation of this document has stopped our right to be registered as a legal institution in the Czech Republic, and therefore our ability to protect our human rights in a more effective way.

##### To Czech Republic:

**We are calling for independent and proper investigation of various hate crimes committed since 2010 on members of the religious minority, Path of Guru Jara, and that those convicted of hate crimes are acknowledged and publicly condemned by the relevant authorities and by the political leadership** (according to point 6 of OSCE Ministerial council decision from 2009).

**We are calling for a remedy to our serious situation in the Czech Republic**, a situation that has been officially and publically acknowledged by experts of national and international law, by domestic and international human rights organizations, such as Soteria International from Denmark, Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF) from

Belgium, Coordination for Freedom of Conscience (CAP) from France, Forum for religious freedom Europe (FOREF) from Austria, the Helsinki Committee in Czech Republic (CHC), and Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF) USA in 2015 and 2016.

**We kindly ask also for reconsideration of all recommendations raised in OSCE HDIM conferences from Soteria International in 2015, Human Rights Without Frontiers in 2016 and 2017 in our case.**

**We would like to ask for a re-examination of our appeal for registration as a religious society which has been pending at Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.** The appellation process seems to be dubious and in serious contradiction with the Joint Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities of Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR. In the USA and in the Philippines, the registration process of our religious society, as a legal subject, has been successful, without any delay.

We are calling again for establishing a dialog between representatives of state and civil societies in Czech Republic. **In our case, despite enormous effort, no effective dialogue with state representatives has been initiated** (despite conciliatory declaration of the Czech Republic delegation in OSCE HDIM 2016). **As an effective and extremely helpful solution for vulnerable discriminated religious minorities, we should see the allowing of mutual dialogue between religious minorities and state representatives.**

**In 2010, we experienced damaging police raids targeting and hitting key church representatives in the Czech Republic, officially based on allegation of human trafficking. This impeachment has never reached any further process, being based on false accusations. However, in 2011 police spread the fabricated accusations of human trafficking over Czech media which made this shocking accusation infamously-known throughout the country, giving our side zero opportunity to confront the accusation for years.** The very police unit responsible for raids, threats and investigations of our members, as well as disinformative media campaigns against our religious society and those who fabricated the charges in 2010-2012, and 2014, was dissolved in 2016 due to enormous corruption and misuse of power.

**This disinformation spreading those serious charges for years in media were fueled with rumors that spiritual leaders within religious group Path of Guru Jara are economically, sexually and psychologically exploiting its own members.** Although unfounded and blatantly violating presumption of innocence, such rumors were used, twisted and spread by the Czech anti-cult movement to influence the citizens and turn them against minor religious groups.

**All of those unverified rumors in media and society created an extremely hostile, intolerant and discriminatory environment towards all members of the Path of Guru Jara, which means hundreds of mostly university-educated people in socially-valued positions, who are legally innocent, peaceful citizens of the Czech Republic were transformed into socially stigmatized, ostracized and hunted out-laws.**

**But those who denied their faith, denied any connection to our religious group or ended the active spiritual life in the group, were at once spared from more difficulties from authorities (police, justice) or complication in his / her social life (no losing jobs, homes...). Of course, such an environment reduced the numbers of active believers and supporters from thousands to low hundreds. Each of the remaining believers knows what discrimination and persecution he / she risks if somebody learns publicly about his / her connection to our religious minority.**

**We are in a long-term situation where even public defending of human rights in our case, as well as mere informal connection to our religious group, poses a serious discrimination and risk of becoming a target of hate crimes.**

Out of domestic institutions defending human rights, only Czech Helsinki Committee (CHC) was brave enough to publically recognize our situation as a serious systematical persecution and discrimination based on belief. As Helsinki Committee was originally founded in Eastern Europe to handle this kind of situation and non-compliance with OSCE commitments, they are fully aware that those crimes happened also during previous communist regime.

**Also for CHC, being engaged as legal experts and defenders in our case, there is a serious risk of becoming a target of hate crimes in Czech Republic, just simply for doing their job. For the same reason, only very few Czech politicians were courageous enough to give us limited support (never publicly), but of course being afraid to become again object of hate crimes and hate speech within Czech society.**

**Our key church representatives Mr. Jaroslav Dobeš (aka Guru Jára) and Ms. Barbora Plášková have been treated by their own government in a discriminating and violent way. An unfair trial brought situation to such an extreme, that our leaders sought asylum in the Philippines, in spring 2015.** Their asylum case has been still pending. Also a few other persecuted active church members left their motherland in fear of persecution and injustice.

**According to the legal analysis of Dr. Athanassios Panzapoulos, expert on international and human rights law, from August 23, 2017, in the case of our spiritual leaders Jaroslav Dobeš (aka Guru Jára) and Barbora Plášková, the following laws and international treaties have been violated so far:** The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe; The European Convention on Human Rights; Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe. (full report of Dr. Panzapoulos is attached below).

We assume that during the whole investigation, police and courts were selectively including or excluding evidence – i.e. chairman of the Regional court in Zlín, Dr. Gargulák, and a judge from the same Regional court, Dr. Bučková, who have been leading members of our church for more then decade (1996 - 2007), freely participating on all church activities and witnessing them, were both left out from the investigation. It is important to point out that it was Dr. Gargulak head of the Regional Court who convicted Jaroslav Dobeš and Barbora Plaskova in absentia in 2014, who were his spiritual mentors. **We assume that there has been a wider pattern of violation of equality of all citizens before the law and the deliberate selection of**

**evidence on larger scale as well. This could have been due to prejudices against the religious minority's belief.**

**It is necessary to emphasize that only some of those unfair above mentioned accusations were brought to the court, and none of them were proven.** The sentence of the Regional court in Zlín from October 2014, which claimed our spiritual leaders guilty, was afterwards annulled in its entirety by High court in Olomouc in May 2015. High court found the decision of the Regional court not being according the law, and with insufficient evidence, and returned the case back to the Regional court to make a new decision. Since then, over two years, no process was held and no decision was made. This completely violates the right to fast and effective legal process as well as the right to legal certainty – so important in a democratic legal state. And still, as you can see, in the newspapers, among the government representatives and others we try to establish a debate with, no right to presumption of innocence is ensured. **Our members were never proved to commit any crime but we are all have being treated without respect and without the presumption of innocence. We have been stripped of fundamental human rights.**

**Human Rights violations in case of Path of Guru Jara is just the tip of a much broader iceberg of prejudices and hate speech towards leaders and members of various religious minorities in our mostly atheistic country, Czech Republic** (only 29% are not atheist). New religious movements and religious minorities in Czech Republic are unprotected, vulnerable to social prejudices, hate speeches and hate crimes (Yoga in Daily life, Sahaja Yoga, Yogi Sat Nath), and sometimes even systematically persecuted or discriminated by the state bodies (as Jiří Krutina - Jiří Vacek, Petr Chobot, Church of Scientology, Grail movement...).

The governmental bodies, i.e. so far 5 involved ministries and also Czech Ombudsman – public human rights defender, have not showed any interest to solve the Path of Guru Jara situation of suffering, discrimination and persecuted religious minority for years, nor to investigate violations of Czech and international laws or misconducts of state bodies. Also our pledges to UN delegation of the Czech Republic in Geneva and to the Czech permanent OSCE mission in Vienna went ignored.

**For seven years we have been constantly drawing attention to the seriousness of this situation involving hundreds of innocent Czech citizens belonging to a religious minority, whose human rights and lives have been seriously damaged by hate crimes rooted in prejudices and violations of principles of freedom of religion and belief, freedom of thought and consciousness.**

**We are peacefully asking once again for establishing a dialogue to solve this complex and urgent situation.**

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ANNEXES:

**A. A full summary of human rights violations related to members of Path of Guru Jara religious society described in report of JUDr. Athanassios Pantazopoulos**, legal expert on human rights and international law from August 28, 2017 is included as the last document below.

**B. A full list of recommendation from OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meetings from 2015, 2016 and 2017**

**C. A list of the most questionable actions of Czech state representatives which has not yet been investigated nor answered properly**; focused especially on joint actions of Ministry of Foreigner Affairs in cooperation with Ministry of Interior 2015-2017, and questionable UOOZ (anti-terrorist special force) investigation in 2010 – 2012.

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**REPORT OF  
LEGAL EXPERT**

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**Author of report: Dr. Athanassios Pantazopoulos, LL.M**

**Date of report: 23<sup>th</sup> of August 2017**

**Qualifications and experience of the author.**

*1. I qualified as an Attorney in 1993 and have worked in various countries (Germany, Greece and Czech Republic) as a practitioner in the fields of Criminal Law and Human Rights. I am also an instructor at the University of New York in Prague (courses European and International Criminal Law).*

*2. I have been self employed Attorney in the Czech Republic since 2002. My Law Firm is located in Prague, Czech Republic.*

*3. I am registered with the Czech Bar Association and my registration number is 90260.*

**Report on violation of legal conventions in the case of  
Jaroslav Dobes (aka Guru Jara) and Barbora Plaskova**

In line with my previous legal statements dated 31.8.2015, 6.11.2015,30.3.2016 and 29.2.2016, in the case of Jaroslav Dobes (aka Guru Jara), Barbora Plaskova and the religious society the Path of Guru Jara, i.a., the following international provisions, agreements, conventions and precedents binding for the Czech Republic have been violated.

- 1. The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe** - Article 5 – Right to liberty and security, Article 6.2: *"Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law"*. Art. 3: *"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."*

2. **The European Convention on Human Rights** - Article 9, which guarantees the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Article 6.2 of the ECHR provides a set of legal guarantees in criminal proceedings whose nature and purpose lay in the right to a fair trial. Under Article 6.2 of the ECHR, *the presumption of innocence applies to everyone who has been charged with a criminal offence, notably only to persons labelled as 'suspects' in the framework of a criminal proceeding*. This principle requires that the accused must be considered innocent and treated as not having committed any offence until the prosecuting authorities of a state adduce “*sufficient evidence to satisfy an independent and impartial tribunal that he is guilty*”.
3. **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union** - Article 1 Human dignity, Article 4 Prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Article 6 Right to liberty and security, Article 7 Respect for private and family life, Article 10 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion, Article 21 Discriminatory treatment is illegal, Article 22 Cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, Article 47 Right to an effective remedy and to a fair trial, Article 48 Presumption of innocence and right of defence
4. **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights** provides that *"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."* Article 11: *"Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence."*
5. **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** of 1966 explicitly states in Article 9.1 that everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. *"No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention."*

**During the attempt of abduction of Guru Jara from the Manila Detention Facility, dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015, the following provisions were violated:**

1. **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966**, states in Article 9.1 that *"everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention"*.
2. **The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe** states in Article 3: *"No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"*.

**Precedents:**

The Human Rights Committee held in *Lopez's* case (1981) that abduction of a Uruguayan refugee from Argentina by Uruguayan security and intelligence forces constituted a violation of Article 9 of the Covenant. It followed, like the Committee held, that the State was under an obligation to provide effective remedies, including immediate release and permission to leave the country.

Thus, if there was an attempted illegal deportation and abduction committed in the Philippines, then the Philippines should have provided protection against the Czech side. In this situation the attempt of forcible deportation/abduction of Jaroslav Dobes, pending his petition to the Refugees and Stateless Persons Protection Unit (RSPPU), constitutes a serious violation of his right to a fair trial (court hearing for his asylum status, effective remedies etc.), liberty and security. Jaroslav Dobes should not be arbitrarily deprived of his rights to a proper and fair asylum procedure.

Moreover the abduction attempt of Jaroslav Dobes from Manila to Prague, pending his asylum case and in violation of all legal deportation and extradition procedures, constitutes a severe violation/infracton of the above mentioned Conventions, Covenants and Treaties. This could also constitute a violation of Art. 3 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe says „*No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*“.

Furthermore, anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge (see Article 9, ICCPR). "Promptly" in this context has been interpreted so that the delay cannot exceed several days, and let alone longer than a week (see *Ocalan* in Turkey (2005)).

In the case of *Lilian Celiberti de Casariego* v. Uruguay (1984), Article 2.1 of the Covenant places an obligation upon a State party to respect and to ensure rights “to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction”, but it does not imply that the State party concerned cannot be held accountable for violations of rights under the Covenant which its agents commit upon the territory of another State, whether with the acquiescence of the Government of that State or in opposition to it. It would be unconscionable to so interpret the responsibility under article 2 of the Covenant as to permit a State party to perpetrate violations of the Covenant on the territory of another State, which violations it could not perpetrate on its own territory.

In the case of R v. *Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, ex parte Bennett* (1993) the House of Lords shortly afterwards held that where an extradition treaty existed between the UK and the state in which an accused was seized, ‘our courts will refuse to try him if he has been forcibly brought within our jurisdiction in disregard of those procedures by a process to which our own police, prosecuting or other executive authorities have been a knowing party’....

It has been established that abduction (or attempt of abduction) of a person from the territory of another State is a violation of international law and hence an internationally wrongful act. The first obligation of a State responsible for the internationally wrongful act is to cease the wrongful act, if it is continuing and to offer appropriate assurances and guarantees of non-repetition which, in the case of Jaroslav Dobes (aka Guru Jara) and Barbora Plaskova, should arise on the part of the Philippines. After that, the abducting State must make appropriate "reparation" to the offended State. Reparation may take the form of restitution, compensation and satisfaction, either singly or in combination.

### **The violated rights of the religious society the Path of Guru Jara**

In accordance with the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, the duty regarding neutrality goes hand in hand with freedom of religion. Art. 9 of the European Convention obliges



state authorities to respect neutrality - for example, the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in Religionsgemeinschaft der Zeugen Jehovas and others against Austria of 31 July 2008 and Verein der Freunde der Christengemeinschaft against Austria on 26 February 2009.

"The right to freedom of religion, as the European Convention permits, excluding the assessment of the legitimacy of the religious belief or the way it is expressed from the side of the State." European Court of Human Rights, verdict *Manoussakis* et al. against Greece on September 1996.

What is at stake here is the preservation of pluralism and the proper functioning of democracy (*Metropolitan Church of Bessarabia and Others v. Moldova*, no. 45701/99, § 115-16, ECHR 2001-XII). The State is prohibited from obliging a religious community to admit new members or to exclude existing ones (*Svyato-Mykhaylivska Parafiya v. Ukraine*, no. 77703/01, § 146, June 2007).

On the examples of various religious movements it can be seen that states sometimes tend to interfere with declared religious freedoms. But these interferences are unjustified. Many religious movements (Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia, Hassan in Bulgaria, the Metropolitan Church of Besarabia in Moldova, etc.) have already succeeded in bringing actions for unlawful interference by the state into their freedom of faith.

The Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic, in its judgment of 27 November 2002, file number Pl. ÚS 6/02 stated that, as far as the limitation of fundamental rights is concerned, it can only be done so when three basic conditions are fulfilled, the law must stipulate that the restriction must lead to a legitimate aim and this restriction must be a restriction that is necessary for the Democratic society. The Constitutional Court based its findings on the European Court of Human Rights. Compare: European Court of Human Rights ruling of 5 April 2007. The Church of Scientology in Moscow versus Russia, complaint No. 18147/02. Compare: Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights of 12 July 1978, X. v. The United Kingdom, Complaint No. 7992/77. Compare: Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights of 14 July 1987, A.R. M. Chappel v. The United Kingdom, Complaint No. 12578/76. Decision of the European Court of Human Rights of 19 March 1981, Omkarananda and Divine Light Zentrum v. Switzerland, Complaint No. 8118/77. Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights of 26 October 2007, Barankevich v. Russia, Complaint No. 10519/03. Legislation on the implementation of this Act is contained in Act No. 84/1990 Coll., On the Right to Assemble.

### **Violated rights by long-term restrictions on freedom without judgment**

Currently, Jaroslav Dobes (aka Guru Jara) and Barbora Plaskova have been detained in Manila's detention facility for more than two years. A few months ago, Jaroslav Dobes (aka Guru Jara), represented by his lawyer, filed a petition to the Czech court to cancel the arrest warrant issued against his person. The court has not decided yet on the cancellation. In its assessment, these case-laws of the European Court of Human Rights should be taken into account:

14521/03 of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011

**Judgment Abou Amer versus Romania,**

10664/05 of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Mikolenko versus Estonia,**

39964/98, Section 2 of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2001

**Agnissan versus Denmark,**

15580/91 of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1995

**Quinn versus France,**

199/05 of 10<sup>th</sup> May 1997

Taking into consideration European law, international law, Czech law and the decisions of ECHR, I am of the opinion that the court should decide on the petition for cancellation of the arrest warrant issued against him without undue delay.

Dated: 23<sup>th</sup> of August 2017

Signed

*Dr. Athanassios Pantazopoulos*

JUDr.  
Athanassios  
Pantazopoulos

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## **A full list of recommendation from OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meetings**

**2015**

### **Soteria International**

Recommendations:

- We recommend the proper authorities to investigate possible human rights violations in the case of Jaroslav Dobes and Barbora Plaskova, especially when it comes to collaboration between police, prosecutor, anti-sect movements and media.
- We recommend the Belgian authorities to not use the “sect-list” as a reference in any way.
- We recommend international and national institutions of the OSCE member states to consider any use of the term “sect” as religious discrimination.

Source: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/188691?download=true>

**2016**

### **Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l**

HRWF Int'l recommends to the Czech authorities

- respect the presumption of innocence of Jaroslav Dobes and Barbora Plaskova as the prison sentence released by the Regional Court in Brno in October 2014 was totally cancelled by the High Court of Olomuc in May 2015;
- grant Jaroslav Dobes and Barbora Plaskova new passports, even if limited to travels between the Philippines and the Czech Republic, in order to put an end to their status of "undocumented" persons, and to their detention in the Philippines;
- agree with the Filipino authorities that they will have to regularly report to the police station close to their residence;
- maintain the proposed administrative status as long as there is no new legal or judicial development in their case in the Czech Republic.

Source: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/267236?download=true>

### **Path of Guru Jara**

We recommend to the Czech authorities:

- to issue a new passport to Jaroslav Dobes and Barbora Plaskova, detained for being undocumented at the Immigration Detention Center of Manila in the Philippines since spring 2015 because the Czech embassy withdrew their passport;

- to take into consideration the cancellation of the sentence to a prison term of Jaroslav Dobes and Barbora Plaskova by the High Court of Olomouc and the ensuing presumption of innocence;

- to actively resolve the case of Guru Jara and Barbora Plaskova in a timely matter, with diplomacy and respect for basic human rights, the presumption of innocence and the Geneva Convention;

- to actively support and protect religious diversity and tolerance in Czech society, and to prosecute cases of hate speech or hate crimes;

Further recommendations can be found in the contribution of Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l, presented at the OSCE HDIM on 23 September 2016 and in the report of legal expert of Dr. Athanassios Pantazopoulos dated 21 September 2016.

Source: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/268116?download=true>

## **2017 - Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting - Freedom of Religion or Belief**

### **Path of Guru Jara**

Official plea on Dr. Vladimír Galuška, Head of the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna

- Help us to combat religious discrimination during registration process at Czech Ministry of Culture, still pending since 2015
- Help us to investigate of various hate crimes committed on members of religious minority Path of Guru Jara since 2010
- Help us to support freedom of religion and believe in the country for us and for others, please discuss this issues at personal meeting

Official letter was personally delivered to Ms. Lenka Skalická, 1st Secretary, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the OSCE.

## **2017**

### **Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l**

Recommendations will be given on September 19, in working session Rule of law.

Full report can be found after presentation at OSCE HDIM 2017 in documents section: [http://www.osce.org/odihr/hdim\\_2017](http://www.osce.org/odihr/hdim_2017)

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**A list of the most questionable actions of Czech state representatives which are has not yet been investigated nor answered properly so far:**

**Joint actions of Ministry of Foreigner Affairs in cooperation with Ministry of Interior:**

**1. Illegal cancellation of a valid passport of EU citizen Ms. Barbora Plaskova in 2015 by Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic** - this act brought her in spring 2015 in immigration detention in the Philippines, as she was left as undocumented alien in the Philippines, where she lived legally since 2009. **Act of cancellation of her valid passport does not fit to any criteria of possible legal steps defined by Czech law.**

**2. Violation of Geneva Convention protecting refugees by Forcible deportation attempt without legal basis of Mr. Jaroslav Dobeš (aka Guru Jára) in June 2015 from Manila to Prague, during his pending asylum application in Philippines** (details of violation of international law are described in report of JUDr. Anathosious Panzapoulos further).

**3. Violation of Geneva Convention protecting refugees by Negative and unofficial influencing of pending asylum proceedings of Ms. Barbora Plášková at Philippines by confidential letters from Czech Embassy in Manila** (addressed to Department of Justice, Philippines from Third consul Jakub Černý dated 5th May 2015) **and labeling her not as spiritual teacher but as a criminal on the run purposefully hiding in Philippines from justice** (despite the Czech Embassy has no mandate to claim such information).

**4. Purposeful separation of nursing mother from her minor 10-months old child.** According confidential letters to Department of Justice Philippines from Third consul Jakub Černý dated 5th May 2015 **we know, that Czech Embassy did not care about destiny of little baby boy of Barbora Plášková, despite their knowledge that she has had a baby, she breastfed, in her solely care.** Barbora Plášková until now, for 2.5 years, hasn't seen her son.

As the first official step towards gaining information about child of Barbora Plášková happened in late November 2016 as a part of another persecutive steps of Czech embassy, we see this as **severe violation of the most important points of standard consular assistance for Czech citizens, defined by Ministry of Foreigner Affairs (MFA) itself.**

**5. From official correspondence with MFA control commission (in letter from Mgr. Linek, February 10, 2016) we only know: *“the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received in December 2015 a letter of thanks from the Police President of the Czech Republic from the Brigadier General Mgr. Tomáš Tuhý, in which he evaluated the cooperation of the consul of the Czech Embassy in Manila with the police authorities of the Czech Republic as exemplary and excellent.”*** Therefore, Czech police presidium officially approved and supported above mentioned practices. In other responses from MFA control commission we have never obtain any sufficient explanation on above mentioned misconducts.

## **Questionable UOOZ (anti-terrorist special force) investigation in 2010 – 2012:**

**In 2010/2011, a purposeful leak of information from UOOZ police department to Czech media about sensitive twisted details and charges from their investigation, despite official top secret status and despite finally found unfounded.** It is necessary to point out, that on the contrary all investigated church members and all witnesses were forced to sign up declaration about silence about the case under threat of enormous fine (40,000EUR) if they would only cooperating with journalist.

**Cooperation of UOOZ police department with Czech anti-cult representatives. Hate crimes based on biases towards followers of minor religion – the police unit classified our religion and religious minority group solely as a form of cover for criminal activity:**

- 1. In 2010/2011 abuse, sexual harassment, threats and dehumiliating behavior by UOOZ police members was experienced during unofficial investigations at the stations without any official records**
- 2. Intensive forcible attempts to convert the questioned leaders, mentors and supporters of the spiritual movement to materialism**
- 3. In 2010, confiscation of church property from bank deposit box (230,000 EUR); amount until now has not been returned, despite official and repeated requests at court. This money was never included as part of any investigation either. According to our opinion police and court keep it illegally to prevent the church from hiring more legal support.**
- 4. International arrest warrant prepared by UOOZ and issued in 2012 contained solely speculations of the police and biases towards minor religion according discriminative rhetoric of Czech anti-cult movement. It's continuing violating principles of INTERPOL constitution.**
- 5. Our officials complain on GIBS (highest control committee of Czech security forces) did not deliver any findings (December 2016).** A full list of serious misconduct of UOOZ police department is available on request, as they are kept for ECHR.

Others complaints on procedure of **Ministry of Justice**, especially court misconducts violating principles of fair-trial, the **Ministry of Culture**, connected with anti-cult rhetoric and anti-cult members negatively influencing registration process of our religious society, and attempts to bring attention to the situation to **Minister on Human Rights** and **Senate Commission on Human Rights** is possible to obtain anytime on request.

**We have contacted several times in 2015 – 2017 Czech Ombudsman to help to protect and investigate our human rights of persecuted religious minority and we have obtained zero support in our case,** nor recognition of any persecution / discrimination in area of freedom of religion or any other. We are not perceiving any protection towards hate crimes in the country.