LEGAL MANUAL 2026

The police will likely be providing security around the conference. So let's take a look at what the police can and cannot do, and how to behave in the event of an encounter with the police.

Police Warning

If you decide to stand in the way of the fascists, the police will first **issue a warning** instructing you to do something—or, conversely, not to do something. For example: "**In the name of the law, leave the roadway and clear the area!**" At that moment, you must decide whether to comply with the order or not, and, if necessary, move to another location. Failure to comply may constitute the **misdemeanor** of disobeying an order from a public official. Note that a single order is sufficient.

In other words: The blockade itself is NOT an offense. The legal risk only arises when a police officer orders you to leave the place where you are.

What is a misdemeanor?

Misdemeanors are less serious offenses for which you will usually receive a fine. Misdemeanors arehandled by the municipal district's misdemeanor office, not by a court, and are not recorded on your criminal record.

For this type of action, you may be charged with a misdemeanor for failing to comply with an order and, potentially, for unlawfully and intentionally obstructing another person's exercise of the right to assembly—both under the Act on the Right of Assembly. The maximum fine for this type of misdemeanor is 15,000 CZK, and there is no specific provision for repeat offenses; however, the authority may take repeated offenses into account. The total fine will likely be around 4,000 CZK.

Police Intervention

If you decide not to comply with a police order, the police may take action against you. This usually means they will attempt to push you away or remove you from the scene and then either check your identification immediately or take you into custody and bring you to the police station. If you decide to resist, do so passively and nonviolently. Assaulting a police officer can be classified as a criminal offense. The police often interpret even a gentle shove, leaning against an officer, etc., as assault—try not to touch police officers at all.

What's Good to Know?

- According to the Act on the Police of the Czech Republic, police officers "are required, while performing police duties, to observe the rules of courtesy and to respect the honor, dignity, and respect of others as well as their own." Among

other things, this means they are required to address you formally. Insults and profanity are unacceptable.

- The police must tell you why they are taking certain actions (legal justification), what they will do with you, and what your rights and obligations are. They are not required to do so if circumstances prevent it—you won't be chatting with them while breaking up a blockade, but you might before or after, by the car, for example.
- A uniformed police officer must be identified by a badge number. The police also frequently use plainclothes officers; they identify themselves by verbally stating "police" "as soon as circumstances permit," or by wearing an armband.
- The police have the right to film a demonstration. In turn, you have the right to film police officers, and a police officer does not have the right to prevent you from doing so. In practice, however, you may encounter a situation where a police officer orders you to stop filming. In such a case, you are still required to comply with the police officer's order; you can only file a complaint about this procedure afterward.
    - For any potential complaint, it's a good idea to note the police officer's badge number to facilitate identification.
- When dealing with police officers, be polite and do not escalate the situation (but confidently insist on your rights). Do not swear at police officers; this is a misdemeanor that could result in a fine.
- The police may handcuff you if they deem your behavior to be risky (e.g., if you resist arrest). However, this should only be for as long as absolutely necessary.
- Restriction of liberty in connection with a possible misdemeanor is called detention. During this time, you'll spend most of your time with other detained individuals. Don't be afraid to chat about silly things, crack jokes, and keep your spirits up. Don't talk about anything you don't want the police to know.

Identification

By law, you are required* to show identification when asked by a police officer. A police officer may only ask you to do so in cases specified by law, but as a general rule, a reason can always be found, and if you're participating in a direct action, there's not much point in arguing. The likely reason for being asked to show ID will be suspicion of committing an offense.

If you are a citizen of the Czech Republic, you can identify yourself with your ID card, but you can also do so by providing your personal information verbally—you are not required to carry your ID card with you.

If you decide not to prove your identity, the police may take you to the police station for up to 24 hours (up to 48 hours if you are not a Czech citizen), and during this time

they may attempt to determine your identity by other means, including taking fingerprints, recording video, and taking photographs, or collecting biological samples (a mouth swab). You may offer passive resistance to this (e.g., covering your face with your hands—but do not struggle with the police). The police may physically overpower you.

If this becomes too much for you and, over time, you decide you want to leave the police station as soon as possible, you can tell the police that you will prove your identity (by providing your personalinformation). They should then release you.

If you decide not to identify yourself, definitely do not bring your ID card, driver's license, passport, or any other document that could reveal your identity. Check all your pockets, etc., to make sure you don't happen to have, for example, a public transit fine, a notepad, or a credit card with your name written on it. Also make sure your phone's screen lock is enabled, and that your name, phone number, or other personal information cannot be seen from the locked screen.

What to Do at the Police Station

If the police detain you and take you to the police station, under no circumstances SHOULD YOU MAKE A STATEMENT. Simply repeat: "I refuse to make a statement." You don't have to say why, you don't have to cite any specific law, and you don't have to say anything at all. And you shouldn't. You don't have to sign anything—not the interrogation report, nor a statement indicating that you refuse to sign. Nothing. By doing so, you're protecting yourself and the other parties involved.

Refusing to testify while in custody cannot have any negative consequences for the resolution of your offense. If you wish to comment on it later, you will have the opportunity to do so, for example, in writing or with the help of a lawyer.

- You have the right to a copy of the record of the interrogation and the record of the seizure of your belongings without having to sign anything. Take a copy so you're fully informed and can provide it to your legal counsel if necessary.

At the police station, you also have the right to:

- medical assistance and access to medication, if you need it (tell the others, and then tell the police together)
- access to water
- access to a restroom (including to wash up when you're dirty)
- the right to food at reasonable intervals (six hours after being detained)—if you're vegan, have celiac disease, etc., let them know.

Right to legal assistance

The phone number for legal assistance is +420 910 128 790

- If you've been taken to the police station, you should be able to call the legal aid number. If you're not sure what the police want from you and need advice, take advantage of this and make the call.
- Do not give out any personal information over the phone, nor describe what you were doing. It's enough to say that the police have detained you and that you need legal assistance. Then simply answer the lawyer's questions—they will gather all the necessary information from you. Keep in mind that the police may be listening in on your conversation.
- The purpose of this number isn't for people to call just for no reason. If you want to confirm something before or even during an event, try asking people around you first, or send an email in advance so the legal hotline isn't overwhelmed during the event.

What Happens Next

In a few weeks or months, you may receive a fine or a summons to appear before a misdemeanor commission (see the information on misdemeanors above). If you receive an unpleasant official letter or a message in your data box related to the event, immediately take a photo of the letter and email it tonesoudimepomahame@protonmail.com ; we'll advise you on what to do next and support you as much as possible. You need to do this immediately upon receipt, as the deadline for defending yourself against the misdemeanor is only a few days!

Minors

If you're under 18 and are detained, the police must contact your legal guardian. Either your guardian will come to pick you up, or the police will take you home (at your own expense).

If you're under 15, OSPOD (social services) will be contacted—think carefully about whether you want to be detained.

What to Definitely Avoid

Don't carry any drugs or weapons!

- If you're detained or your belongings are searched, it's best not to have pepper spray on you. Knives, telescopes, brass knuckles, etc., are even worse—definitely don't bring those with you. The same goes for narcotics and fireworks!
- This is a misdemeanor! Participants in a gathering are not permitted to carry firearms, explosives, or pyrotechnic devices. They are also not permitted to carry other objects that could cause bodily harm if, based on the circumstances

or the participants' behavior, it can be inferred that they are intended to be used for violence or the threat of violence.

CRIMINAL OFFENSES—Always Avoid Them

Under no circumstances should you resort to violence; any assault on police officers or conference participants could constitute a criminal offense. Do not threaten anyone with violence. Also avoid verbal violence (e.g., on a banner).

VIOLENCE AGAINST A PUBLIC OFFICIAL

- This refers to violence directed against a public official in the exercise of their authority. You also risk imprisonment.

DISTURBING THE PEACE

- You may commit this offense primarily by assaulting someone or engaging in gross misconduct (a more serious offense that disturbs the public peace).

DANGEROUS THREATS

- You commit this offense when you threaten another person with death, serious bodily injury, or other serious harm in a manner that is likely to cause reasonable fear.

DAMAGE TO ANOTHER PERSON'S PROPERTY

- You commit this offense if you intentionally damage someone else's property and thereby cause damage exceeding 10,000 Kč. Don't do anything that could lead to this—it is not our goal to damage their equipment or use the surroundings to support the blockade (signs, cars, trash cans...). The blockade relies solely on our bodies. We do not want to come into physical contact with conference participants.

GRAFFITI

- This constitutes damage to someone else's property, but there is no set minimum threshold for the amount of damage. Therefore, even a few letters spray-painted with a marker are sufficient to constitute a criminal offense.