



Last updated: January 2009

Czech Republic Detention Profile

Introduction

The detention of asylum seekers and irregular migrants was formally introduced in the Czech Republic in 1992 with the Act on the Residence of Foreigners, which permitted the detention of anyone issued an administrative removal order. In 1999, additional legal changes were made that increased the maximum period of detention from 30 to 180 days. In 2003, the government adopted guidelines that defined unauthorized immigration as a security threat and made its elimination a priority of the country's immigration policy (Counselling Centre for Refugees 2007).

Before joining the European Union's Schengen zone in January 2008, the Czech Republic made several changes to its legislation to bring it in line with EU standards on the administration and processing of irregular migrants and asylum seekers. These changes sanctioned the detention of asylum seekers and unidentified immigrants until their deportation (Counselling Centre for Refugees 2007).

Official and non-governmental sources report a number of positive developments in recent years, including improvements in living conditions at detention centres, better processing procedures, and improved access to legal assistance. These improvements have largely been attributed to the transfer of operations of all administrative detention centres from the Police to the Administration of Refugee Facilities of the Ministry of the Interior, which took place on 1 January 2006 (European Commission 2006; Counselling Centre for Refugees 2007; Ministry of the Interior 2007).

As of April 2007, there were four immigration detention centres and two secure registration centres in the Czech Republic (Ministry of the Interior 2007; Counselling Centre for Refugees 2007). Although the facilities are under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior, management is shared by three state agencies: the Administration of Refugee Facilities; the Police, which maintains security outside and around the centres and conduct entry searches of newly detained immigrants; and the Department of Asylum and Migration Policy, which administers the processing of detained asylum seekers. A private security company maintains security within the centres (Counselling Centre for Refugees 2007). In addition to these six centres, the Blue School Diagnostic Institute for alien minors (Modra Skola) was established in 2004 to house irregular minors under the age of fifteen, where they can stay for 2-3 months while awaiting appointment of a legal guardian (European Parliament 2007; European Commission 2007).

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List of Detention Sites

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Name	Status (Year)	Location	Facility Type	Security	Authority	Management	Capacity	Reported Population	Demographics & Segregation
Bělá-Jezová	In use (2009)	Jezová, Mlada Boleslav	Migrant Detention Center	Secure	Interior Ministry, Administration of Refugee Facilities	Refugee Facility Administration of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (RFA MI)	380		Adult males and females; minors; families. Gender segregation; age segregation; family units
Blue School Diagnostic Institute for alien minors (Modra Skola)	In use (2007)	Prague	Other - Juvenile Housing	Semi-Secure	Ministry of Education	Ministry of Education	12		Minors only
Frydek-Místek	Closed (2007)	Frydek-Místek	Migrant Detention Center	Secure	Interior Ministry, Administration of Refugee Facilities	Administration of Refugee Facilities, Police, Department of Asylum and Migration Policy, Private Security Company	43		
Postorná	In use (2009)	Postorná, Breclav	Migrant Detention Center	Secure	Interior Ministry, Administration of Refugee Facilities	Refugee Facility Administration of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (RFA MI)	164	36 (as of 29 May 2007)	Adult males and females
Praha-Ruzyně Airport (aka Airport Ruzyně Reception Centre)	In use (2009)	Prague	Registration Center	Secure	Interior Ministry, Administration of Refugee Facilities	Refugee Facility Administration of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (RFA MI)	45	25 (as of 30 May 2007)	Adult males and females; families. Gender segregation; family units
Velké Přílepy	In use (2009)	Prague	Migrant Detention Center	Secure	Interior Ministry, Administration of Refugee Facilities	Refugee Facility Administration of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (RFA MI)	115	30 (as of 28 May 2007)	Adult males
Vysní Lhoty	In use (2009)	Vysní Lhoty, Frydek-Místek	Registration Center	Secure	Interior Ministry, Administration of Refugee Facilities	Refugee Facility Administration of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (RFA MI)	585		Age segregation

Sources

(This is only a partial list. More detailed information is available upon request.)

- Counselling Centre for Refugees. 2007. "Czech Republic," in Jesuit Refugee Service (ed.). 2007. *Civil Society Report on Administrative Detention of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants in Europe: Common Positions of JRS in Europe*. Jesuit Refugee Service.
- European Commission. 2006. "Monitoring Detention of Asylum Seekers in the Czech Republic: Monitoring conditions of A/S in detention: Situation analysis. Monitoring period: January-June 2006". European Commission.
- European Commission, Daphne II Programme, Nathalie Schlenzka. 2007. "The Risk Group of Unaccompanied Minors: Protection Measures in an Enlarged European Union: Country Report: Czech Republic," Berlin Institute of Comparative Social Research. Berlin.
- European Parliament. 2007. "The conditions in centres for third country national (detention camps, open centres as well as transit centres and transit zones) with a particular focus on provisions and facilities for persons with special needs in the 25 EU member states." European Parliament, Directorate-General Internal Policies, Policy Department C, Citizens Rights and Constitutional Affairs, December 2007.
- Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. 2007. "2006 Status Report on Migration in the Czech Republic." Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. Prague.

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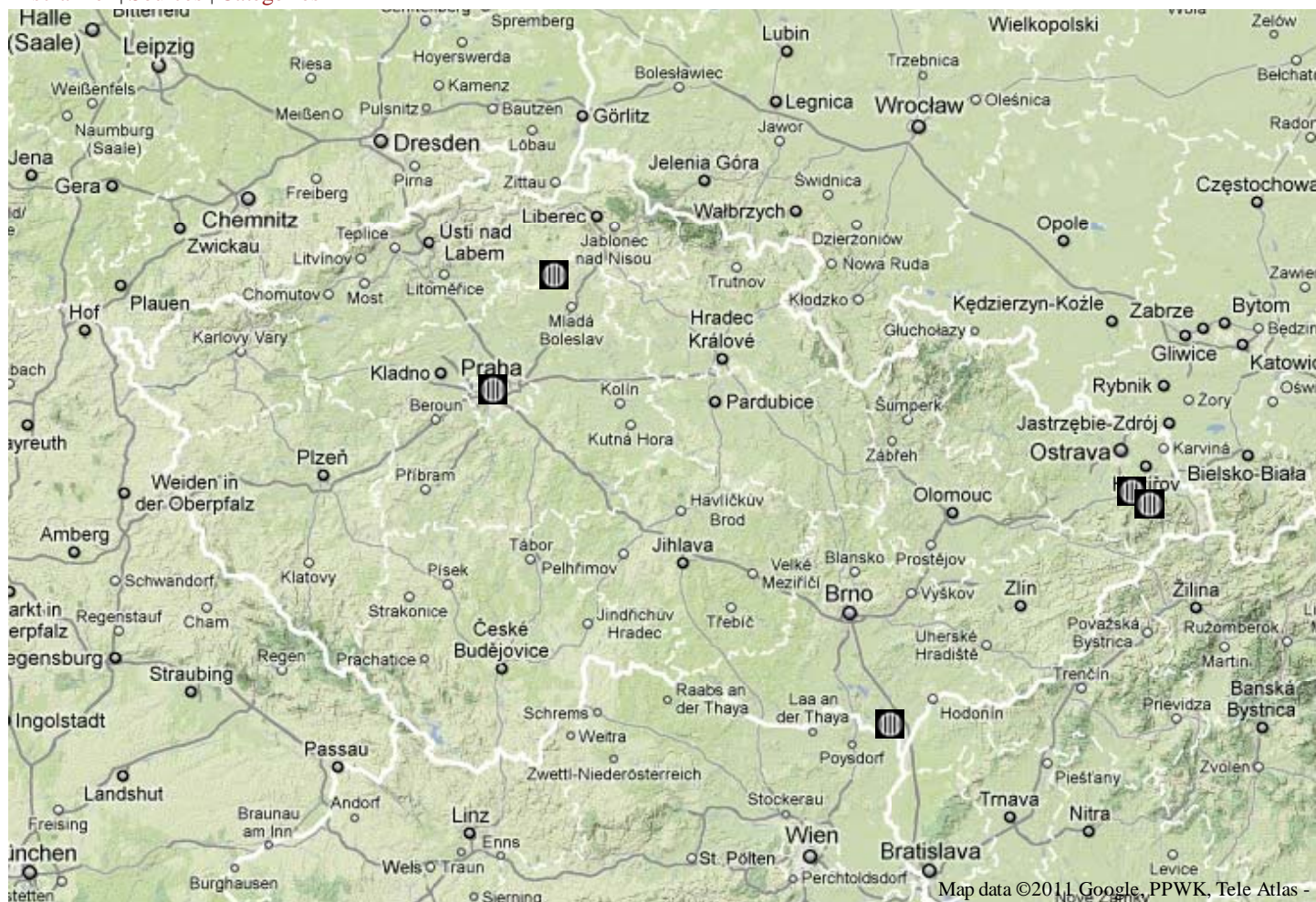
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Map of "In Use" Detention Sites

For more detailed information, see the complete [List of Detention Sites](#).

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Country View

1. [Bělá-Jezová](#)
2. [Blue School Diagnostic Institute for Alien Minors \(Modra Skola\)](#)
3. [Frýdek-Místek](#)
4. [Postorná](#)
5. [Praha-Ruzyně Airport \(Airport Ruzyně Reception Centre\)](#)
6. [Velké Přílepy](#)
7. [Vysní Lhoty](#)

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- [Counselling Centre for Refugees](#). 2007. "Czech Republic," in Jesuit Refugee Service (ed.). 2007. *Civil Society Report on Administrative Detention of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants in Europe: Common Positions of JRS in Europe*. Jesuit

Refugee Service.

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Discussion of Sources

To identify and characterize detention sites in the Czech Republic, project researchers have consulted Czech government documents and records, European Union studies, and reports produced by local and international human rights organizations. Sources are largely in agreement on the numbers of sites, as well as their names, locations, and management. However, sources vary on the exact capacity of detention sites, which could be due to the changing sizes of the sites over the years. The capacity has therefore been provided as reported in the most recent documents, which in most cases is a 2007 report produced by the Czech non-governmental organization the Counselling Centre for Refugees. The high correlation of other information between sources has led to a high degree of confidence in the information provided in this document.

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Czech Republic Country Links

- » [Government Agencies](#)
- » [International Organizations](#)
- » [NGOs and Research Institutions](#)
- » [Media](#)

Government Agencies

Czech Statistical Office

<http://www.czso.cz/>

European Parliament

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>

European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic

<http://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

<http://www.mzv.eu/>

Official Website of the Czech Republic

<http://www.czech.cz/>

Public Defender of Rights: Ombudsman

<http://www.ochrance.cz/en/index.php>

International Organizations

International Labour Organization: Office for the European Union

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/brussels/index.htm>

International Organization for Migration - Czech Republic - Country Information

<http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/activities/europe/central-europe/czech-republic>

IOM - Prague

<http://www.iom.cz/english/index.shtml>

UNHCR - Czech Republic - Country Information

<http://www.unhcr.org/country/cze.html>

NGOs and Research Institutions

Association for Assisting Immigrants

<http://www.soze.cz/>

Caritas Czech Republic

<http://www.charita.cz/>

Centre for Migration

<http://www.migrace.com/>

Consortium of NGOs Working with Migrants

<http://www.konzorcium.cz/cz/o-nas.php>

Counselling Centre for Integration

<http://www.p-p-i.cz/>

Counselling Centre for Refugees

<http://www.uprchlici.cz/en/index.html>

Czech Helsinki Committee

<http://www.helcom.cz/>

European Council on Refugees and Exiles

<http://www.ecre.org/>

Jesuit Refugee Service

<http://www.jrseurope.org/index.htm>

Organisation for Aid to Refugees

<http://www.opu.cz/>

Media

Mladá fronta Dnes (The Young Front Today)

www.mfdnes.cz

Lidové noviny (The People's Paper)

<http://www.lidovky.cz/>

Právo (Our Rights)

<http://pravo.novinky.cz/>

Hospodářské noviny

<http://hn.ihned.cz/>

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