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**Input: Killing of LGBTIQ+ persons**

Terrorism and violent extremism on the Internet can easily grow from the online world into the real world. An example is the attack on Zámocká Street in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, which occurred on October 12, 2022 (hereinafter referred to as the "Zámocká Street Attack"). During the Zámocká Street Attack, Juraj Vankulič (non-binary) and Matúš Horváth (bisexual) were murdered in front of the LGBTIQ+ cafe called "Tepláreň".[[1]](#footnote-1)

There may indeed be a thin line between extremism and terrorism, but the intent of a terrorist attack is clearly given. This is also proved by the fact that the Zámocká Street Attack was initially investigated as a crime of premeditated murder committed with a special motive pursuant to Section 140 letter e) of the Act No. 300/2005 Coll., the Criminal Act, namely from hatred towards a group of persons and an individual for their real or supposed sexual orientation. The Zámocká Street Attack was later reclassified as a particularly serious crime of terrorist attack pursuant to Section 419 of the Act No. 300/2005 Coll., the Criminal Act.[[2]](#footnote-2) The Zámocká Street Attack is not only an example of how thin the line between the crime of terrorism and extremism can be, but also an example of how hate speech in the digital world has grown into a hate crime in the real world.

Before the terrorist attack, the perpetrator published his manifest, in which he identified high-ranking politicians, the Jewish community and members of the LGBTIQ+ community as his targets.[[3]](#footnote-3) The results of the investigation showed that his primary target was the then Prime Minister Eduard Heger, whom he could not reach that day.[[4]](#footnote-4) "It was not about the person of Eduard Heger, but about the fact that he was the Prime Minister at the time," said the special prosecutor after the end of the investigation in January 2024.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The manifest of the attacker from Zámocká Street contained neo-Nazi, extremist, anti-Semitic and homophobic ideas. Due to the fact that the attacker in his manifest repeatedly glorifies crimes, defends them and incites others to commit terrorist crimes, this document is considered terrorist content. In his manifest, the attacker from Zámocká Street refers to well-known neo-Nazi, extremist and far-right terrorists.

The manifest of the attacker from Zámocká Street was classified as illegal terrorist content by the New Zealand Classification Office.[[6]](#footnote-6) In the decision of the New Zealand regulator, individual parts of the attacker's manifest are analysed in detail, while they are connected to ultra-right, neo-Nazi, racist and conspiracy theories.[[7]](#footnote-7) It was important to prevent further dissemination of this manifest, since the attacker from Zámocká Street himself admitted in his manifest that he became radicalized after reading the publicly available manifest of the attacker from Christchurch.[[8]](#footnote-8) At the same time, there are known cases of four other people in the last three years who became radicalized after reading the manifest of the attacker from Christchurch.[[9]](#footnote-9)

The attacker from Zámocká Street was the so-called "lone wolf". The investigation did not show that he planned his terrorist attack with someone else, either from Slovakia or from abroad.[[10]](#footnote-10) After the terrorist attack, the perpetrator communicated about his act on the social networks like Twitter and 4chan.[[11]](#footnote-11) He himself used hashtags such as #hatecrime.[[12]](#footnote-12) The attacker committed suicide that night.

The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic states that the European Regulation 2021/784 on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online focuses only on terrorist content, such as recordings of terrorist attacks or jihadist executions – so it should be public, not private content.[[13]](#footnote-13) We allow ourselves to expand the above calculation by various manifests, especially regarding the experience of the Slovak Republic after the Zámocká Street Attack.

After the Zámocká Street Attack, the head of the analysis department of the Media Services Council (Slovak state body) said that "technology companies are failing to cooperate with the Slovak regulator, while homophobic and violent content continues to spread".[[14]](#footnote-14) He further stated that many platforms fail to moderate content in languages ​​other than English – especially in the CEE region.[[15]](#footnote-15)

Content-sharing platforms failed twice in connection with the Zámocká Street Attack – before the attack, when they failed to identify problematic content indicating that an attack would occur, and after the attack, when they failed to adequately moderate hateful content. A comment appeared on the Facebook social network: "I feel sorry for the poor shooter that he didn't shoot the whole bar". The author of this comment was accused of participating in terrorism. The prosecutor of the Office of the Special Prosecutor considered the approval of an attack directed against any minority to be the approval of terrorism.[[16]](#footnote-16) The legal qualification of the act was finally changed from the criminal offense of certain forms of participation in terrorism to the offense of approving a criminal offense and the author of the comment was fined EUR 700.[[17]](#footnote-17)

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2. *Správa z monitoringu nenávistných prejavov a trestných činov extrémizmu za rok 2022*. Slovenské národné stredisko pre ľudské práva: Bratislava, 2022. (online) https://www.snslp.sk/wp-content/uploads/Monitoring-nenavistne-prejavy-2022.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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4. Idem. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. DEBNÁR, Ján, PETROVIČ, Ján a PAULOVIČ, Michaela. *Prokurátor Lipšic o vrahovi zo Zámockej: Neprejavil žiadnu ľútosť, robil si tabuľku cieľov, konal mimoriadne chladnokrvne*. In: Aktuality. (online) https://www.aktuality.sk/clanok/srsSkdO/prokurator-lipsic-o-vrahovi-zo-zamockej-neprejavil-ziadnu-lutost-robil-si-tabulku-cielov-konal-mimoriadne-chladnokrvne/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Novozélandský regulátor klasifikoval manifest útočníka ako teroristický obsah*. Rada pre mediálne služby. (online) https://rpms.sk/novozelandsky-regulator-klasifikoval-manifest-utocnika-ako-teroristicky-obsah [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Idem. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Teroristický útok v novozélandskom Christchurchi sa stal presne pred štyrmi rokmi, manifest jeho útočníka radikalizoval aj páchateľa útoku na Zámockej ulici. Rada pre mediálne služby sa preto angažuje v zamedzení ďalších takýchto činov.* Rada pre mediálne služby. (online) https://rpms.sk/tlacove-spravy/teroristicky-utok-v-novozelandskom-christchurchi-sa-stal-presne-pred-styrmi-rokmi [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Idem. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. OSVALDOVÁ, Lucia. *Terorista zo Zámockej dva dni pred vraždou kontaktoval linku dôvery, že si chce zobrať život.* In: Denník N. (online) https://dennikn.sk/3775361/terorista-zo-zamockej-dva-dni-pred-vrazdou-kontaktoval-linku-dovery-ze-si-chce-zobrat-zivot/?ref=list#s\_h\_usr\_itm\_\_options?ref=menu [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Idem. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. LETKOVÁ, Lenka. *Trestné činy extrémizmu z pohľadu štatistiky a rozhodovacej praxe od roku 2017.* Bratislava: C. H. Beck, 2023, s 23. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
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15. Idem. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Denník N. (online) https://dennikn.sk/minuta/3775252/ [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Idem. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)