



NEWSLETTER

FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF THE CHURCH LAW SOCIETY
PRAGUE – BRNO – OLOMOUC

No. 8/2018

Volume 3

15th August 2018

**We Do Not Forget Soviet Occupation of Czechoslovakia
on 21st August 1968**



Prague, Wenceslas Square, 21st August 1968 in the morning: Soviet tanks and protesting Czech people.

Source: ČTK

These days, we remember the 50th anniversary of the aggression that, in violation of international law and all the principles of humanity, committed the Soviet Union with the participation of its four satellites to the sovereign Czechoslovak state. This terrible intervention halted the direction of the Czech and Slovak nations towards a more democratic form of government for more than 21 years, which was enabled by political liberation in Czechoslovakia in the spring of 1968.

Terrible was the night from 20th to 21st August 1968 for Czechs and Slovaks when the troops of the USSR, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria invaded from all directions in the territory of Czechoslovakia. At the same time Soviet aircraft with tanks aboard landed at the airport in Prague and other international airports. The supreme state authorities of Czechoslovakia immediately issued a statement that the occupation took place without their consciousness and consent.

Already in the morning, representatives of the Czechoslovak government and reform politicians were attacked by the Soviet security forces and kidnapped to Moscow, where they were forced to sign an agreement on the temporary placement of Soviet troops in the territory of Czechoslovakia for many days. However, this temporality had no boundaries.

Defence against so terrible superiority in numbers was not possible. Still, the occupants killed 108 and severely injured 500 citizens of Czechoslovakia in consequence of their useless shooting and destroyed or damaged several buildings, such as the National Museum in Prague. However, hundreds of thousands of Czechs and Slovaks, face to face with tanks, did not only disagree with the occupation but tried to explain to the occupying soldiers the absurdity of their intervention and of Soviet leadership attempts to justify them (with the help of Russian language obligatory taught at schools for previous 20 years). A situation that can be considered quite unique in the history of the world.

The departure of Soviet troops took place after the Velvet Revolution of the end of 1989. Only on Sunday 30th June 1991, sirens and bells in Czechoslovakia were joyfully glowing in celebration of the departure of the last Soviet soldiers.

Jiří Rajmund Tretera
Chairman of the Church Law Society,
direct participant of the events in Prague on 21st August 1968

Colorado Violated Free Exercise Rights of Baker Who Refused to Create Cake for Same-Sex Wedding

On 4th June, 2018, by a 7-2 vote, the Supreme Court of the USA held that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission violated the free exercise rights of a baker, Jack Phillips, who, for religious reasons, had declined to bake a custom-made wedding cake for a same-sex couple. The Court's decision overturns a ruling by the Commission that the baker had violated Colorado law forbidding discrimination in public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

From the Law Briefs (July 2018, p. 4)
published by the USCCB Office of the General Counsel

Use of National Motto on U. S. Currency Does Not Violate Constitution or RFRA

Two recent circuit court opinions, issued within two days of each other, reaffirm that the use of the national motto (“In God We Trust”) on U. S. currency does not violate the Constitution or Religious Freedom Restoration Act (“RFRA”). The Sixth and Seventh Circuits join all others to have addressed the question.

*From the Law Briefs (August 2018, p. 8)
published by the USCCB Office of the General Counsel*

Heribert Schmitz Passed Away

We announce with regret that on 8th August 2018, at the age of 88, the famous and eminent German canonist, prelate Prof. em. Dr. iur. can. Heribert Schmitz from the School of Catholic Theology of the University of Munich passed away. R. I. P.

From New Publications

SCHWARZ, Karl W., [*Der österreichische Protestantismus im Spiegel seiner Rechtsgeschichte*](#), Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck, 2017, 333 pp., ISBN 978-3-16-155227-4.



Journals

Studia z Prawa Wyznaniowego, Wydawnictwo KUL, Lublin, ISSN 2081-8882,
No. 20/2017,

including:

BRETSCHER, Fabienne, *Between Law and Politics: Muslim Religious Practices in Swiss Public Schools*, pp. 35–51,

HUCAŁ, Michał, *Ochrona danych osobowych w związkach wyznaniowych w świetle unijnego rozporządzenia nr 2016/679* [Protection of Personal Data in Religious Organizations in the Light of EU Regulation No. 2016/679], pp. 185–220,

- BORECKI, Paweł, *Znamiona państwa wyznaniowego – uwagi na kanwie dorobku współczesnego konstytucjonalizmu* [The Hallmarks of a Religious State – Remarks on the Basis of the Achievements of Contemporary Constitutionalism], pp. 223–246,
- STANISZ, Piotr, BĘBENIEC, Daria, *Geneza i treść wytycznych w sprawie realizacji przez Komisję Europejską art. 17 ust. 3 Traktatu o funkcjonowaniu Unii Europejskiej* [Origin and Content of the Guidelines on the Implementation of Article 17(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union by the European Commission], pp. 383–390,
- KRZYSZTOFEK, Katarzyna, MIKUŁA, Maciej, OŽÓG, Michał, STRZAŁA, Marek, ZARZYCKI, Zdzisław, *Konferencja z okazji obchodów 500-lecia Reformacji pt. Kościół Ewangelicko-Augsburski w relacjach z Państwem – aspekty ustrojowe i prawne, Kraków, 9 października 2017 r.* [Conference on the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation: Evangelical-Augsburg Church in the Relations with the State – Institutional and Legal Aspects, Cracow, 9 October 2017], pp. 423–425.

Blessed Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady!



*St. Mary of the Assumption and Charlemagne Church in Prague-Karlovy Vary
built by King of Bohemia and Roman Emperor Charles IV*

Newsletter for the English speaking members and friends of the Church Law Society, Prague – Brno – Olomouc,
published by Společnost pro církevní právo, Sudoměřská 25, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic.

Editor-in-Chief: P. Jiří Rajmund Tretera OP. Editorial Board: Zábaj Horák, Adam Csukás, Marek Novák.

Photo Editor: Antonín Krč. E-mail: spcp@prf.cuni.cz. Available online at <http://spcp.prf.cuni.cz/newsletter>.

Issues appear monthly. ISSN 2464-7276