

# MLADÁ PRAVDA

DECEMBER 2013

18<sup>TH</sup> WFYS

DICIEMBRE 2013

18 FMJE



JOURNAL OF THE COMMUNIST YOUTH UNION (KSM), CZECH REPUBLIC  
REVISTA DE LA UNIÓN DE LA JUVENTUD COMUNISTA (KSM), REPÚBLICA CHECA



# THE LEGACY OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FESTIVAL



**Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1947**

Elapsed 66 years between the first World Festival of Youth and Students, that was held in 1947 in Prague, the capital of the then Czechoslovakia and current festival in Quito in 2013.

The World Federation of Democratic Youth had decided to celebrate its first festival there in remembrance of the events of October and November of 1939, when thousands of young Czechs rose in demonstrations against the occupation of the country by Nazi Germany. This included the closing of all the superior schools, the arrest of about 1850 students and the internment of 1200 in the Nazi concentration camps.

The slogan of 1<sup>st</sup> festival in Prague has proclaimed: Youth

Unite, forward for lasting Peace! For the next 40 years was Czechoslovakia one of the most progressive socialistic countries and the legacy of the first festival was living in ideas of Socialism.

In 1989 the ideas of peace and social justice was broken.

After more than sixty years, the Czech republic rank among world's most corrupt countries, with growing poverty and criminality.

The Communist Union of Youth (KSM) is sole member of WFDY in Czech republic. In 2008 KSM

was illegalized. After two years, thanks to initiative of the MP's of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM) and support of many thousands members and sympatizants of many world's democratic organisations, the Municipality Court of Prague cancelled in 2010 the judgment at law from 2008. It means legalisation and great victory of the KSM. But in the same year was KSM faced with new criminal charge again. There was two periods of criminalization of young communists in Czech country: In a period of Nazi occupation and at the present time.

It is necessary to resuscitate a legacy of the 1<sup>st</sup> festival!

**Youth Unite,  
forward for lasting Peace!**



## THE CURRENT WORK AND STRUGGLES OF THE KSM IN 2013

The Communist Youth Union (KSM) has entered the year 2013 with the results of its last 10th Congress which was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 in Olomouc. It was the first Congress of our organization since the extraordinary legalizing Congress organized immediately after the defeat over the ban of the KSM in 2010. One of the most important outcomes of the Congress was an Appeal for the building of the antiimperialist anti-war movement in the Czech Republic. The anti-imperialist struggle has been and is one of the pillars of the work of the KSM. We are waging campaign especially in defence of Syria, Cuba and Venezuela. The KSM organizes meetings with the people, for example meetings where the KSM's delegate, who attended the solidarity mission in Syria in 2012, informs the public about the imperialist war against this country. The KSM has also created a special facebook page for the defence of Syria and actively participated at demonstrations in this cause. The KSM's activists also directly confronted a so called dissident blogger Yoani Sánchez at public debates during her anti-Cuban tour in the Czech Republic in March 2013. The KSM closely co-operates in these struggles with Society of Czech-Cuban

friendship and with Czech Peace Movement.

We have participated at social struggles against the current right-wing government and its anti-popular "reforms", including great trade union demonstrations in Prague attended by more than 100 000 working class people.



Together with a student union called SOS Student the KSM has been active at a campaign against the introduction of tuition fees at public universities and a representative of the KSM has delivered a commentary speech at the petition committee at the Parliament of the Czech Republic on this issue.

The KSM has participated in struggle for basic democratic and human rights, such as in the case of a young bus driver Roman Smetana, who was sentenced to imprisonment on the ground of a legal accusation raised by the government party ODS for making drawings on the

election posters of the parliamentary parties. This legal case has uncovered a crude reality of our country where a citizen may be imprisoned for drawing feelers on the heads of parliamentary politicians.

The young Communists have been present at recent period of time in struggle against so called church restitution, i.e. granting more than 96 bil. CZK to the churches, a vast majority to the Catholic Church. This bill of law was unfortunately passed in the Parliament meaning an incredible robbery of the national wealth and bringing this process of the expropriation of the people of our country launched in 1989 almost to completion.

Together with a number of anti-war organizations from Germany, Czech Republic and Poland the KSM participated at an anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist campaign called "Class struggle instead of class war" which was organized to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Munich dictate from 1938. The Western allies of Czechoslovakia, i.e. Great Britain and France forced Czechoslovakia to surrender to Hitler's Germany that year.

The crucial activity of the KSM has been aimed at organizing a delegation to the 18<sup>th</sup> World Festival of Youth and Students in Ecuador.

## PRIMER DE LOS FESTIVALES

Praga, la capital de la entonces República de Checoslovaquia, fue la sede del I Festival Mundial de la Juventud y los Estudiantes. La juventud del mundo había decidido celebrar allí su primer festival, porque todavía estaba en la memoria de todos, los sucesos de octubre y noviembre de 1939, cuando miles de jóvenes checos se levantaron en poderosa manifestación estudiantil antifascista, provocando una fuerte represión que costó el cierre de todas las escuelas superiores, el arresto de más de 1 850 estudiantes y el envío de 1 200 de ellos para los campos de concentración. Tampoco olvidaba el mundo a Lidice, la aldea mártir arrasada por los Nazistas. Soplaban los primeros vientos de la Guerra



Fría. El imperialismo norteamericano chantajeaba al mundo progresista con su política anti-comunista y el poder de su bomba atómica.

En Praga se reunieron, por la iniciativa de la Federación Mundial de la Juventud Democrática, bajo el lema ¡Juventud, únete en la lucha por una paz firme y duradera!, más de 17 000 muchachos y muchachas de

72 países. En la tarde del 25 de julio de 1947, en el estadio praguense Strahov, ante una joven multitud, se inauguraba oficialmente el 1er Festival. Al compás del toque estridente de las trompetas fue izada la bandera azul con el emblema de la Federación Mundial de la Juventud Democrática. Aquel día se oyó, por primera vez, una hermosa canción que hoy conocemos como el Himno de la Juventud Democrática, compuesto por Anatoli Nóvikov y con letra de Lev Osharin.

Este fue el festival más largo de la historia, con casi cuatro semanas de duración, y uno de los primeros grandes eventos donde se puso de manifiesto la aspiración de los jóvenes a vivir en paz.

## INTERNATIONAL ANTIWAR CAMPAIGN: CLASS STRUGGLE INSTEAD OF WORLD WAR

KSM since 2011 participates in an international antiwar activity called "Class Struggle Instead of World War". It is a campaign which includes antiwar activists, trade-unionists and communists from Germany, Poland and Czech Republic and its goal is to warn against the threat of German capital and possibility of a new world war.

75 years ago a Munich agreement was signed which

opened the way to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World war. Hitler used the German minority in Czechoslovakia as the fifth column in his plan of rule in central Europe. Directly after annexation of Austria by the Third Reich he put demands on a large part of Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovak working class and people started a mobilization, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and other patriotic and progressive forces were

prepared to defend the country unity. At this time, the sole socialist country in the world, the USSR, was the only great power which promised to help Czechoslovakia. However, British and French imperialism, countries which had military treaties with Czechoslovakia, sold it to German Nazism in order to turn the German war attack to the Soviet Union. They signed the Munich



dictate with fascist representatives on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1938. The ruling classes of Czechoslovakia either directly betrayed the country or they capitulated under the influence of betrayal of their allies.

The will to fight the fascism continued later in worse conditions carried out by the resistance and partisan fighters in the country, joining the foreign Czechoslovak army together with allies, and the open people uprisings. The war cost

360 000 lives of Czechoslovak citizens. However, it was the Red Army that brought the main casualty for peoples' liberation. Only during the liberation of Czechoslovakia, 140 000 Soviet combatants gave their lives. The liberation and the overthrow of Nazi reaction opened the way to national and socialist revolutions.

Today, 24 years after the defeat of Socialism in our country, Czechoslovakia no longer exists. The capitalist exploitation of man by man is restored. Moreover, the great majority of means of productions and media of the Czech Republic which survived the counterrevolution

belong now to the German capital. The country is subsumed under the European Union, which is dominated and directed by Germany. The Czech army is a mercenary army which is being sent to imperialist wars of NATO.

public which joined the campaign were antiwar and patriotic forces: The Soldiers against War and Club of Czech Borderland.

The convoy consisted of 6 trucks. On one side, there were trucks symbolizing the reaction and militarism, on the other the trucks of youth and working class. The route was planned so as to reach the people neighbourhoods, meeting places, schools etc. During its route the convoy performed



The great scale of industry built by the people during Socialism was destroyed and so part of the plan of German capital of 1930s was fulfilled only by a silent transformation.

In this situation and for the commemoration of the 75 anniversary of the Munich dictate, together with German, Polish and Czech organizations and individuals, we prepared a convoy as a part of campaign under the name "Class Struggle instead of World War". This anti-imperialist campaign was co-organized also by member organizations of WFDY - German FDJ and Czech KSM. The other organizations from Czech Re-

a live music with short explanation of aims of the campaign. At the manifestation places, the participants made their speeches together with theater performance. It presented the German capital surrounding "Mother Germania". These were then eliminated by the progressive youth.

The convoy started in Munich on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Munich dictate (September 29). It went through cities in Bavaria and west Bohemia and ended in Prague on October 8. The convoy also visited the important places of Czech antifascist resistance and memorials of the vic-

tims of Nazism – for example the town of Lidice, which was completely destroyed and whose people were massacred by the Nazi army.

The German and Czech state apparatus made obstacles to the convoy. The crossing of German fed-



eral police of borders together with the convoy and directing the Czech police clearly showed

the hegemony of Germany on the Czech soil and it emphasized the importance of the idea

to continue by commemoration of aggression of Third Reich against Poland in 1939.

of our activity. The distribution of leaflets and the manifestations provided rich opportunities to discuss the war danger and capitalist exploitive reality with the people on the streets.

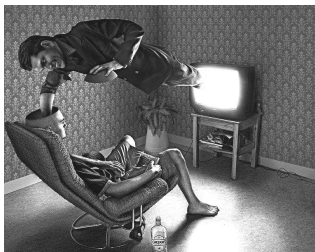
In the next year the campaign will

## THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL MASS MEDIA

Mass media in the so-called Euro-Atlantic area, whether printed or audiovisual, which is more and more rolling the competitions, are making effort to convince us how they are under the leadership of the USA on the "more advanced" half of the globe doing all well. They want to persuade us how successfully they even in times of global economic crisis build freedom and democracy, how they respect the human rights and that our future truly depends only on our free suffrage and how all wars led by NATO Pact and its "allies" are pure and selfless righteous, self-defense - although actually lately are all preventive.

These fairy-tales are yet submitted to us every day, in the spirit of adages about a hundred

times re-peated lies that becomes the truth, but we know that the publishers and editors are printing only in our best interest and for our well-being. Among these mainstream western periodicals are listed also some Arab stations, like Al Jazeera.



A concrete example may be an effort to intervene into the war in Syria. Throughout the Syrian conflict is presented to us one-sided colored, about the

"dictatorship" of Bashar Al Assad and about the worthy and righteous opposition leaders who want to defend their fellow citizens, of course only for the freedom and democracy. It's all more complicated, since the beginning of the civil war is connected with the side of insurgents fighting suspiciously with modern army equipment together with the foreign activists, including groups linked Al Qaida, that just at the moment when the opposition began to lose the war, Asad reportedly used chemical weapons, in spite of the fact he has known that the UN observers were arriving to the country. All these facts are not so important for the western media.



The mentioned mass media does not even pay attention to the circumstances even when we reach the provable connection that the Assad regime must be innocent in this matter, that also "the opposition" had access to the chemical weapons. They do not pay attention to the major argument that the graves of the victims of that alleged assault of 21 August of this year don't exist, as well as there are no missing persons (although the opposition will of course contradict), as well that John Kerry waved with a picture as evidence against Assad, in fact the photograph of Iraqi war taken 10 years ago. The western mass media stay away every time when an evidence appeared which is out of accord with the official pro-western propaganda.



The same is true with the

Middle East conflict between the occupier Israel and the oppressed Palestinians or with the so-called Washington's fight against terrorists, but only selected terrorists. The other terrorists are on the other hand supported and financed by the U.S. administration (see Miami anti-Castro exile). A glaring double measure of the U.S. foreign policy direction, within which its followers are not squemish to twist the facts 180 degrees around, is undesirable to analyze! This applies to the lobbyists from military-industrial complex, multinational monopolies in general, deforestation, corruption, doping and on the other abuses.

does not have the necessary resources, does not really have a chance to succeed in unequal elections competition in the Euro-Atlantic civilization, too.

The only ground of the truth about the real state of affairs in many countries may be a new media phenomenon - the internet. But even that is unfortunately not omnipotent. Even internet can be bought. The more we are happy about the fact, that we in the Czech Republic have at least one printed medium that you can not buy - the Czech leftist newspaper Haló noviny. Its representative is honoured to be among the delegates of the 18<sup>th</sup> World Festival of Youth and Students. And there he is for you!

Web page: [www.halonoviny.cz](http://www.halonoviny.cz)

## ¿SON LOS ESTUDIANTES CHECOS UNA EXCEPCIÓN?

Los estudiantes en todo el mundo son uno de los muchos pilares de la lucha contra el capitalismo, el responsable de millones de muertos en todo el mundo. Los estudiantes están entre los primeros que se manifestaron contra la explotación inhumana del hombre por el

hombre, contra la supremacía mundial del imperialismo, cuya cabeza son los EE. UU. - El Gran Hermano.

Esta claro que el pensamiento europeo se diferencia del latinoamericano o del asiático. Sin embargo, también aquí, en el viejo continente, hay una ju-

ventud orientada a la izquierda. Quisiera ver al joven de rechas, español, portugués o griego, ya que son precisamente sus países los más alcanzados por la crisis actual, que trae consigo todas las contradicciones del capitalismo, como desem-



pleo o problemas existenciales. En Europa occidental tiene preferencia la izquierda liberal entre los jóvenes. Sin embargo la palabra "liberal" aquí no significa neoliberal, sino liberal en el sentido cívico. El movimiento de la izquierda tiene entre los jóvenes en diferentes partes del mundo varias semejanzas.

¿Cómo está la situación en La República Checa? Cómo estudiante puedo hablar sobre este problema desde dentro.

Después de la descomposición del Bloque oriental, los periódicos y la televisión empezaron a difundir la propaganda anticomunista, y por eso los estudiantes checos eran una excepción, estaban alineados muy a la

derecha. El capital extranjero crea información falsa y los checos se la creían. Fueron engañados por su influencia. En La República Checa podemos ver que los propietarios de los medios de comunicación pueden dominar el pensamiento global de los jóvenes. Sin embargo, ahora se nota que la situación está cambiando. Los estudiantes checos están perdiendo las ilusiones en que los partidos políticos de derechas van a salvarlos. Es decir, que no son una solución, son más bien el problema. Nuestros estudiantes no son tontos, ni necios, y se

dan cuenta de la realidad de la vida. La influencia de los medios de comunicación tiene sus límites.

En la actualidad los estudiantes checos están inseguros y desorientados, y la política no les interesa mucho. Ya no esperan que la derecha sea la opción para el viaje al bienestar. Empiezan a darse cuenta que unos cuantos viven a costa de la mayoría. Se dan cuenta que el



salario de sus padres es muchas veces tan pequeño que sus familias malviven en la línea de la pobreza. Los estudiantes mantienen su nivel de vida gracias a la abnegación de sus padres, que hacen todo para que sus hijos no sientan la escasez.

¿Qué quiero decir con todo esto? Los estudiantes checos son de izquierdas, pero tampoco son tan de derechas como hace algunos años. No les encantan los comunistas, pero ya no son anticomunistas acérrimos. Aunque nuestro poder oficial está lleno de suciedad y corrupción, la formación de otra

opinión global de los estudiantes todavía necesita algún tiempo. Nuestra misión para el futuro está clara. Debemos mostrar las enfermedades de este sistema, y ofrecer una alternativa humana y democrática. Tenemos que abrirles los ojos y decirles claramente que no es justo que la gente pague por la educación. Vamos a hacer frente a la propaganda global de los medios de comunicación, porque es evidente que sus

dueños ricos claramente no quieren una vida mejor para los pobres. ¡La gente tiene que ser por fin libre! No podemos permitir que la derecha nos venza, que nos gane gracias a la formación de un nuevo pseudo-

fenómeno, como pasó en las elecciones presidenciales de enero, cuando el candidato de derechas casi ganó. Eso significaría otra injusticia más para el pueblo, pero por desgracia una campaña muy cara puede influenciar a muchas personas. En Europa no existen condiciones objetivas para la revolución, pero queremos mejorar la vida de las personas, y limitar el poder del capital supranacional. Lo que realmente nos ofrece la derecha, es solo un viaje a la pobreza, igual que en muchos otros países. Nosotros somos los defensores de la democracia

## TRADE UNIONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Trade unions are associations of workers whose aim is to defend and promote their work places and conditions, economic and social interests of the employees. Well, that is exactly what is not happening today in the Czech republic.

Earlier in the socialist era the trade unions promoted the interests of the employees, but this changed after the restoration of capitalism in 1989, when the fragmentation of trade unions was pushed through by the right-wing governments to weaken the pressure of working people against



the capital. The union leadership is characterized today by its fight for influence, as each union cially of young members. Generally, the young people are not motivated to enter the unions because of low union activities in social struggles. Many of those few who enter the unions are leaving soon. The consequences of this situation are harsh: it is difficult to defend working and living conditions of the working people under a strong pressure of foreign capital with weak and non-combative trade unions controlled mainly by social democratic party leaders. The weakening of the unions is documented also by the continu-

ous decline in union members and very low recruitment especially of young members. Generally, the young people are not motivated to enter the unions because of low union activities in social struggles. Many of those few who enter the unions are leaving soon.

The consequences of this situation are harsh: it is difficult to defend working and living conditions of the working people under a strong pressure of foreign capital with weak and non-combative trade unions controlled mainly by social democratic party leaders.

## DESTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

### Degeneration of young medical students' education

Socialist Czechoslovakia was a country with a complexly organized health care system. After restoration of the capitalist system a public health care system was transformed into a business machinery. Human health or human disease is a commercial commodity, like a car or a bottle of beer. The worst part of this problem is a degeneration of moral principles of the

medical students who are educated according to this form of mind in medical schools and universities.

Many areas of the health care system are not interesting, it means profitable for the capitalist business. A typical problem of the capitalist system is a non-attractivity of patients without a clear diagnosis. There is no financial benefit for the business based hospital to provide care for a chronic patient with unclear

diagnosis. The Czech Republic is a country of an aging population. The majority of population has diseases typical for an older age or diseases of civilization. Difficult diagnosis and interdependence of health issues with social care sector send many patients out of the health care system because of their commercial unattractivity.

One example: Former Czechoslovak system of social-



ist health care system included very extensive network of emergency service units. There is no emergency service available in the Czech Republic today any more. This service is substituted with hospitals. Doctors and nurses working in the hospital

departments are forced to provide first contact care (primary health care), but there wasn't elevated personal capacity for this form of health care in hospitals. Earlier form of emergency service was deleted without any adequate compensation. It is therefore very troublesome to fall sick during the weekend or at night. Even patients who have suffered a stroke or a cardiac accident are in a death risk, they are usually waiting many hours for treatment. Medical errors are common in this condition. The older doctors with experience



refuse to work in such conditions. Younger doctors without experience with the previous socialist healthcare system live with ideas that it's normal. Outstanding problem is a combination of social and medical problems. It makes this situation even worse.

Young doctors and nurses are educated within those conditions. They are operating on thirty two-hour shifts (32h!) without a break. The patient is perceived as an enemy of the medical stuff. Political propaganda included in medical education

forms the public opinion of young doctors. In their minds the patients are guilty of this situation. In the minds of the patients the doctors are guilty of this situation. Political situation of the

Czech health care system is based on the principle of "divide and rule".

The Czech health care system is based on public health insurance, but most of the hospitals are private. Czech law is very benevolent to private sector. There is no sufficient control over the financial flow inside the private sector. Citizens of Czech Republic are obliged to pay taxes, but hospitals are not obliged to provide all forms of health care. Patient is obliged to pay, but the hospital doesn't provide care. It's clearly a rob-

## FORESTS AND FORESTRY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The forests cover around 34% of the area of the Czech Republic. It is nearly 2 800 000 ha. It means that forestry and environmental protection belongs among important human concerns in our country. Forests have three main missions in our country - economic, soil-

protecting and recreational. The Czech people's traditional and really wide spread activity - tourism - increases the issue of the forests protection as a national wealth. Czech law allows the unlimited access of the public into the forests, even if the forest is in private ownership.

This fact underlines the concept of the forest as a common wealth, which is connected also with the legacy of Socialist system in our country.

The greatest forest owner has remained until today the Czech state which owns 60%





forests. The care for the state-owned forests is provided by the state enterprise „Forest of the Czech Republic“. Community and towns own other 17% of forests. The rest - 20% of forests are in private ownership. Forests owned by church and other religious entities represent 0.06% of the area at the moment. But in January 2013 a

Catholic Church, even the forests which the church did not control in the past. This anti-popular act opens a very dangerous way which can change the ownership structure of the forests in the Czech Republic significantly, and can harm the interests of the society.

Manual forests workers in Czech Republic in spite of their

right-wing hard and important work have government low wages. Average wage of a manual worker in the Czech Republic is 14 000 CZK (540 EUR, 740 USD). This is 160% of minimum wage in the Czech Republic and very low under the level of the average wage (more than 20 000 CZK).

Before the counter-revolution in year 1989, it means during the Socialist regime in Czechoslovakia, extensive machinery was used in Czechoslovak forests which saved human energy and time. The people did not have to work so hard uselessly. But since this machinery is more expensive than manual labour, the current capitalists don't use so many machines and work in forests became harder again as it was in the pre-socialist period.

## COMMUNIST PARTY OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA

*The Communist Party of Bohemia & Moravia stands for socialism, solidarity, a democratic society of free citizens and equal rights, the promotion of security and peace, and a politically and economically pluralistic, prosperous and socially just society that ensures citizens have a dignified standard of living based on the maximum of civil autonomy and the preservation and improvement of the environment !*

**KSČM - Who we are and what we want**

The Communist Party of Bohemia & Moravia is a political party in the Czech Republic, with seat in the capital city of the Czech Rep. - Prague. The KSČM was established in 1990 and it follows the tradition of pre-war Communist Party of Czechoslovakia which was established in 1921. It uses the abbreviation KSČM („Komunistická Strana Čech a

Moravy“ is originally party name in Czech) for its identification. Its logo and electoral symbol of the party consist of two red cherries with a green leaf. These colours symbolize its social and ecological programme.

The programme goal of the KSČM is socialism, democratic society of free, equal citizens, society of both political and economical plurality, based on maximum citizen self-government,



prosperity, social justice and sustainability, securing a dignified living standards and promoting both the security and the peace. We want to achieve it by a democratic path.

The programme of the KSČM is based on Marxist theory of open dialogue with the international communist and leftist movement, new ideas and findings. The KSČM strives to be a mass party which works on the basis of collectiveness of actions and decision making, principles of self - management and broad democracy inside the party.

The KSČM has its deputies in a majority of regional and municipal governments, including many mayors, deputy mayors and local council representatives. In the current Parliament of the Czech Republic is the KSČM represented by 33 MPs (out of 200) in the Chamber of Deputies and two senators (out of 81) in the Senate. In the European parliament there are 4 MEPs (out of 22 MEPs from the Czech Republic) elected from the list of candidates of the KSČM. All of those 4 MEPs are members of the GUE/NGL European Parliamentary Group (European United Left/Nordic Green Left).

The current Statutes and programme of the Party was approved by the VIII. Congress of the KSČM in Liberec on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The KSČM wants to continue applying the political line which it chose at its

VIII. Congress and develop it in practice. The KSČM now intends primarily to support steps which will prevent the Czech Republic lagging behind the advanced world and lead to a revival of its economy. This involves tactical measures and rational methods which will in the given period allow us to preserve and indeed improve the quality of social certainties and give the people an opportunity to fulfil themselves at work and in civic life.

based on the principle of inter-generational and income solidarity, and to stop increasing the pension age.

- To secure free medical care in accordance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms! KSČM is for the medical care to be secured on the base of public health insurance, with special emphasis on both its accessibility and its quality.



**The KSČM's main priorities in The Czech Republic with right-wing government are now:**

- To defend social rights and people's securities!
- To stop "restitutions" of church properties;
- To strengthen democracy through the bill given to public referendum! KSČM support general referendum to simplify calling local and regional referenda.
- To stop pension reforms being disadvantageous for majority of citizens, to finish the practice of increasing the pension age! KSČM is for the solidarity pension system guaranteed by the state,

- To practise fair, in solidarity and sensible tax policies, progressive taxing of both the individuals and the legal entities! To support enforcing of more effective taxation of bank centers.
- To implement measures for really effective struggle against the corruption, against all forms of organized crime and their penetrating into economical, political and state structures as well as into bodies being elected on all levels, and against abuse of authority.
- To promote environmentally acceptable forms of farming,



the active landscape protection, protection and renewal of water resources and of both agricultural and forest land funds as irretrievable natural resources.

- To enforce the participation of within military part of the NATO to be suspended.
- To support an effort towards unification of Left forces' advancement in the European continent to enforce social changes with socialist characteristics.
- Cooperation and solidarity between the world's Left

forces, especially within the framework of Europe, active support for an alternative globalisation movement.

**The KSČM support young people, so that they share in shaping the world in which they live and will live!**

KSČM 's main tasks for youth:

- To secure free studying on the universities, to secure the social bursary as well as the benefits for people in need;
- To initiate the law to guarantee the very first job.

- To help the young couples, especially families with children;
- To protect the tenants, to construct social housing as well as the housing for young couples through the assistance of the state, the self-governments and the cooperatives;
- To stop the discrimination of youth for ideological, regional, racial, ethnic or other reasons!

**Web page: [www.kscm.cz](http://www.kscm.cz)**

## KSČM IN REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

You can find three levels of public administration in the Czech Republic. Those are municipalities, regions and central government. Their powers are state administration and autonomous tasks.

After the 2013 October elections which were caused by spy affairs and widespread corruption in neo-liberal government Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM) ended up as the third strongest party with 15% of all votes. However, together with the only possible coalition partner, the Social Democrats, it is not possible to put together majority in the Chamber of Deputies (consists of 200

members), which is necessary to form a government. After the restoration of capitalism in 1989, KSČM did not participate in the central government. However, KSČM actively participated at lower levels of government and came with many positive solutions for the citizens of Czech Republic.

Since 2000, the Czech Republic is divided into 14 regions which are controlled by regional governments. Their competences are for example secondary education, nursing homes and hospitals. Regional governments are also responsible for transport services and road conditions (except for highways

which are in competence of central government). One of the most important documents approved by regional council is so-called zoning plan and policies of region development. These documents define the development and constructions of the region in the future years. Regional governments can also influence the development of communities of their region with Institute grants.

Regional councils are elected by proportional representations (very similar system to central election) with the 5% threshold needed to qualify for seats in the regional council.





tered into two regional coalitions as a government party. In the elections KSČM gained 15% and 114 seats.

Citizens confirmed the fact that it was a step in the right directions in 2012 elections. In them KSČM placed a close second for the Social Democrats and won in two regions. The result surpassed even (until then) the most successful 2000 elections. In 2012 KSČM gained more than 20% and 182 seats. Currently, KSČM is involved in 9 out of 14 regional governments and in one of them has a governor, who is the main representative of the region.

KSČM is also involved in the governance of municipalities. There are around 6250 municipalities in the Czech Republic and more than 3000 KSČM representatives in them.

It turned out that the Communist Party is able to implement policies for the people and it is only a matter of time before their participation in central government.

Elections are repeated every four years. Unlike the elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic, regional elections are characterized by slightly lower voter turnout. The number of seats decreased from 670 to 650 in all regions together (smallest regions have 45-member councils, the largest 65-member).

In the first elections to regional councils KSČM gained position as the third strongest party (21%) and occupied 161 of 670 seats. Due to the general anti-communism in other parties, however, KSČM remained in opposition. The situation was repeated once again in 2004. KSČM ended up as the second strongest party with 19% and 157 seats. The turning point in ignoring and isolating KSČM, however, came in 2008. Public discontent with the neo-liberal government has reached enormous value and the KSČM en-

## LA POSICIÓN DE LOS JUBILADOS EN LA REPÚBLICA CHECA

Los jubilados junto con los jóvenes y las familias con los niños, pertenecen en la República Checa al grupo de personas más afectadas por la crisis económica y social, pero sobre

todo por las reformas sociales de los gobiernos derechistas de M. Topolánek y de P. Nečas. Durante del reinado de los gobiernos de la derecha se ha cambiado la edad de la jubilaci-

ón. El aumento se va regular según la fecha de nacimiento. Así las personas nacidas en el año 2013 se jubilarán en sus 73 años.



A finales de marzo de 2013 fue en La República Checa 2.340.184 jubilados de vejez, 436.409 jubilados de invalidez y 711.254 jubilados de supervivencia (es decir, viuda, de viudo, huérfanos). La renta de jubilación de edad promedio al 31 de marzo de 2013 fue en total 10.929,-CZK (400,-€), de los cuales 12.109,-CZK para hombres y 9.929,- CZK para las mujeres. En este caso se puede ver claramente una importante desigualdad de ingresos entre las mujeres y los hombres. La edad media de los jubilados que recibe la pensión de vejez fue en el primer trimestre de este año 69 años – hombres 70 y las mujeres 68 años.

Los principales problemas existenciales, los jubilados en la actualidad incluyeron principalmente los alquileres, lo que afecta principalmente a las ciudades grandes, el acceso a los servicios de salud pública y el aumento de los precios de alimentos y de servicios. Por ejemplo, el precio de la vivienda de alquiler en el apartamento

estándar en Praga, según el atractivo del lugar, oscila desde 7.500,-CZK a 9.500,- CZK. Otro elemento relacionado con la vivienda son los precios de los servicios, de la energía y de calefacción. El importe resultan-

te gastado en vivienda puede levantarse hasta más de los ingresos medios. Por ello no es de extrañar que muchos jubilados, principalmente de Praga, la capital, literalmente, vegetan y viven de día a día. Se trata principalmente de un jubilado solitario, pero cada vez más familias de los jubilados. Estas personas, además, de los gastos de la vivienda, amenudo gastan, como ya se ha mencionado, grandes cantidades de medicamentos, visitas al médico, así como otras necesidades. Y en una situación en la que falta de una cantidad suficiente de la llamada vivienda social con alquileres razonable, así como

introdujeron los llamados cargos normativos en el cuidado de la salud, donde los ciudadanos se ven obligados a pagar 30,- CZK, por una visita al médico, 30,- CZK, por cada receta (además del precio de los medicamentos) y 100,- CZK, por cada día de hospitalización.

Sin embargo, la indexación de las pensiones en los años 2013 - 2015, va a cubrir la inflación solamente de un tercio. Esta medida, junto con el continuo aumento de los bienes esenciales puede hacer que el número total de pensionistas estaría por debajo del umbral de la pobreza, en la cual podrían encontrarse hasta un 18%.

Del lema de estado derechista es, que sobre los pensionistas sobrevivientes tienen que cuidar especialmente sus hijos, pero ellos amenudo tienen preocupaciones similares como sus padres, que ayuda no sólo a ellos sino también a sus familias y les proporcione. En la República Checa tenemos ahora aproximadamente



residencias de ancianos o centros de día para la atención de personas mayores.

Desde 1. de enero de 2008 dejó de aplicarse en la República Checa, el principio de la atención médica gratuita. Se

750.000 desempleados de aproximadamente 5 millones de la población activa Los salarios de aquellos que trabajan están en el nivel de 20.000,- CZK, brutos al mes.



## COMMUNIST YOUTH UNION

*(member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth)*

## UNIÓN DE LA JUVENTUD COMUNISTA

*(miembro de la Federación Mundial de la Juventud Democrática)*

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