



## NEWS REPORT

**Date:** 31 October 2010  
**Expert:** Pavla Boučková  
**Title:** The perpetrators of arson attack on a Roma family convicted of attempts of racially motivated murder  
**Country:** Czech republic  
**Context**  
**Issue at stake:** Compensation of the victim of racial violence in criminal procedure  
**Ground of discrimination:** race, ethnicity  
**Source:** court judgment  
**Field:** Criminal punishment of act of racial violence  
**Legislative provisions:** Criminal law

**Case:** In April 2009, three members of a Roma family in Vítkov, Czech republic, were seriously wounded by a fire set up on their house in the middle of the night. The most seriously wounded, Natalie, a nearly two-year old child, suffered burnings on 80% of her body. The child was rescued by the hospital personnel, but she will bear consequences of her injuries for her whole life, including pain and physical disfigurement. Later, four right wing extremists were identified by the Police as perpetrators of the crime, and charged by attempted murder with racial motivation.

**Decision of the Court:** The Regional court in Ostrava as the court of first instance found all four men guilty. They were respectively sentenced to the 20 – 22 years of confinement. The four men should also jointly pay 9,5 million CZK (approx. 413 043 EUR) to Natalie as non-material compensation.

**Internet link source and additional information:** The Court decision is not yet available in written form.