

Timeline of events before and during the attack on the Faculty of Arts of Charles University

(document prepared by the management of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University as of 8 January 2024)

1. EVENTS PRIOR TO THE ATTACK

- A meeting of the Dean's Board was scheduled **for 13:00**. Before it started, police officers arrived at the porter's lodge of the CU Faculty of Arts after receiving information that the management of the faculty was on the first floor.

Porters in the main building of the CU Faculty of Arts: Three policemen arrived at the porter's lodge before 13:30. They talked to the porters and showed them photos of three people, one of whom was DK, the perpetrator of the attack on the faculty. The porters told them that they had not seen any of the persons in questions, and the police officers did not tell the porters why they were looking for them. One officer stayed at the porter's lodge and the other two went to the library. The porter recommended that they go through the building from the fourth floor down. The policemen instructed the doormen to notify them if the perpetrator appeared.

Daniel Berounský, Vice-Dean of the CU Faculty of Arts: "At about 13:30 there were uniformed policemen speaking to the porters at the porter's lodge. I asked them if they needed anything, and one of them pointed to a photo of DK on his mobile and said that 'he is probably approaching FF' and that he was probably mentally disturbed and may be dangerous. He asked if we had seen him. I told him that we had not. I told them that the dean was now upstairs with the vice-deans, and if they needed anything, they could come and talk to us. The policeman did not respond to this offer."

Jan Rákosník, Vice-Dean of the CU Faculty of Arts: "During the meeting of the Dean's Board (at 13:40), I went back to the policeman at the request of the dean to find out more about what was going on. The policeman showed me a photo of the wanted man on his phone and told me that there was a risk of him entering the building and that he may be armed. I said that I didn't know him and hadn't seen him. Subsequently, I informed the police officer that the Dean's Board was meeting on the first floor and that we were available immediately if required. The policeman acknowledged the information."

- **From 13:40-14:52** the meeting of the Dean's Board took place in the office of the Dean of the CU Faculty of Arts on the first floor of the main building. During that time, we did not notice any unusual occurrences. Retrospectively, however, we found out from eyewitness accounts that, during this time, members of the Police Force of the Czech Republic (both uniformed and plainclothes) had been questioning various members of faculty administrative staff, but not the management:

At approx. 13:30-13:45, two uniformed police officers had been gathering information about the student DK at the **International Relations Office (IRO)** on the first floor. Based on his surname and year of birth, they found the student in the Student app within the Student Information System. The police took a picture of the photo of the student. At the same time, the staff at the International Relations Office sent the policemen to the **Institute of World History (IWH)** on the second floor.

The uniformed police officers arrived at the **secretariat of the Institute of World History** shortly afterwards (**approx. 13:45**) and asked the secretariat staff about DK's schedule. The staff checked in the Student Information System and told them that he was due to start his classes in Celetná street at 14:10.

The police justified the need for information by saying that the student may have been mentally disturbed, with suicidal tendencies. They did not disclose any more information and did not ask any further questions.

Information from a member of staff of the **Student Registry in the main building of the CU Faculty of Arts**: "Sometime **just before 14:30**, a **man in plainclothes walked in**, presented his ID and asked if I could tell him the schedule of "a history student" (he did not say any specific name). So I told him that I couldn't tell him the schedule, but he should try at the **Department of Information Systems (DIS)**. I said that they didn't have official office hours that day, but they might be on a mobile. I found him a page of contacts on the DIS website. He took a picture of it and left. As far as I know, no one contacted the DIS."

Information from a member of staff of the **Jan Palach Library in the main building**: "When I was entering the faculty building on my way to work, at approx. **14:00-14:20**, I was approached by two uniformed police officers who showed me a photo and told me that the man in the picture was an armed suicide. Because I was afraid that he might be in our library, I led them to the library, which I searched with them. We made sure that the wanted person was not in the library or in the toilets. The police searched for the gunman for a few more minutes, then they went I don't know where. I informed my colleagues at the borrowing desk that the police were looking for that person. Less than an hour later, resounding bangs (gunshots) and screams could be heard from the upper floors. As I wasn't sure if the gunman was on the ground floor or not, I stopped visitors from leaving the library. Afterwards, my colleagues and I locked the entire library and evacuated the visitors to a study room without windows, where we waited for the police to arrive and escort us out of the building."

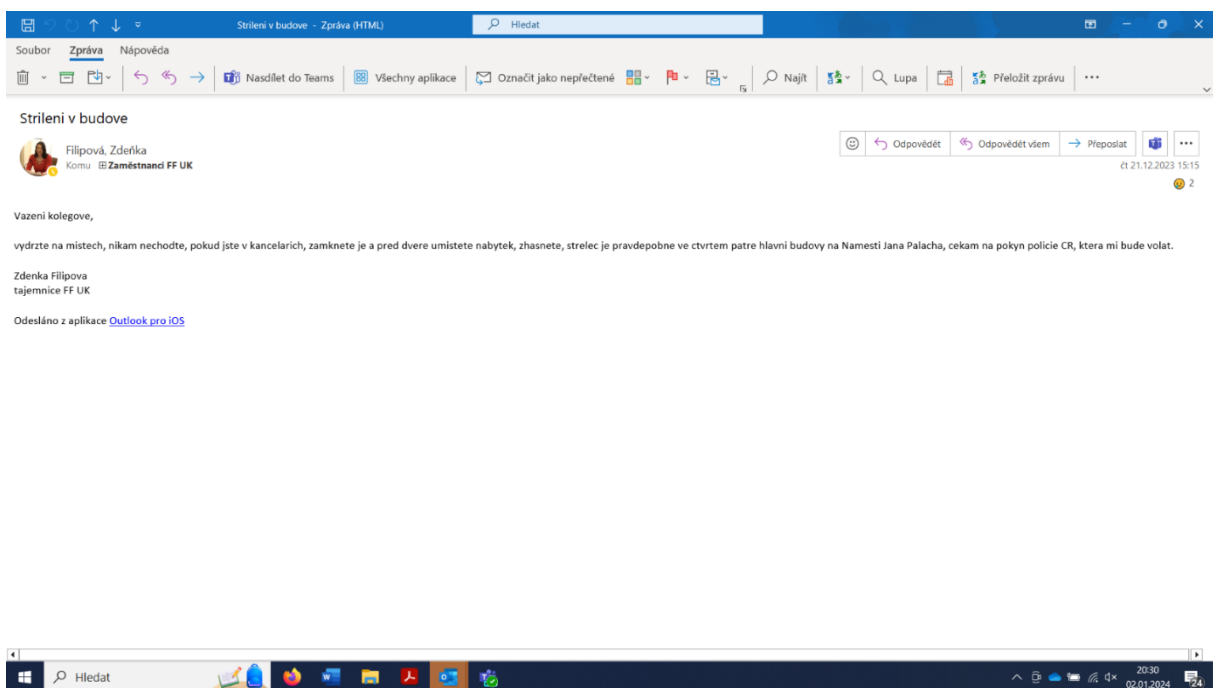
2. EVENTS DURING THE ATTACK

Dean Eva Lehečková: "After the end of the meeting of the Dean's Board at **14:52** I stayed in the room with two assistants. We were going to go to Christmas carol-singing with Prof. Eben on the first floor. Vice-Dean Rákosník went to his office on the fourth floor to get some things. Ms. Filipová, the secretary, went to the HR department to finish off some tasks from the meeting of the Dean's Board. Before the carol-singing began, a colleague who teaches on the fourth floor ran into the secretariat room, evidently in a state of agitation, and shouted that something was happening on the fourth floor, that an attack was underway, that there was broken furniture and that someone was lying on the ground.

I asked the secretary to phone, and **she called 158 at 14:59** – unfortunately, the operator's reaction was suspicious, and my colleague had to explain that we were not joking, that we were in a public building, that we have an eyewitness at the secretariat, that we had students and teachers in the building, and that they should send the emergency services. I tried to reassure my colleague, who was walking around the room in apparent shock. Then, at 15:01, I called Vice-Dean Rákosník, who was going to the fourth floor, to return to the secretariat and told him that we had to warn people. Unfortunately, I don't remember how my colleague got out of the secretariat; he was probably evacuated with the first wave. We also wanted to evacuate, but then we were driven inside the office, locked ourselves in the back office, followed what was happening in front of the faculty, and heard gunfire on the upper floors and on the square.

In the period **between 15.00 and approx. 15.40** I spoke in quick succession with members of the faculty management, various representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and with selected employees of the CU Faculty of Arts who were hiding in the main building. Within the secretariat, we were all on the phone continuously, sharing and passing on information."

Secretary Zdeňka Filipová: Before three o'clock I was in the office of the HR department. Shortly after 15:00 one of my colleagues ran into the room, saying that there was shooting in the building. Over the phone we received a message from a colleague from the fourth floor to say that there really was shooting on the fourth floor. A few moments later, we heard the shooting ourselves at the HR Department. We locked the office and walked away from the windows and doors together with our colleagues from the HR Department. **At 15:04 I called 158 and asked for instructions on what to do.** I said that I was the secretary of the faculty and I wanted to send an e-mail to staff. I asked if they had been instructed to leave the building and go outside, or to lock themselves in their offices. The operator told me that they were on the way, they did not know the status of the building and that he could not give any specific instructions. I asked him to call me (he said that he had taken note of my phone number and that he would 'add me' to his contacts), that I would immediately send an e-mail to staff immediately, but he didn't call me back. I formulated the e-mail at my own discretion and sent it to all faculty employees at **15:15** (printscreen below). I immediately began to receive e-mail responses from people in the building, telling me who was in which room during the attack. Vice-Dean Pehal placed the police commander's mobile number in the Dean's Board group chat. I gave this number to my colleagues on the fourth floor, and then to the manager of the library, where many of my colleagues and readers were hiding in a windowless room in the library in the basement. I contacted the police commander myself and he assured me that they were gradually searching the building. I replied to e-mails and other messages that came to me, telling people to stay locked in their offices until the police came for them. During the attack, we could see from the windows of the HR Department that our staff were being evacuated from the building during the shooting. We saw that they were running really fast with their hands above their heads. We were not sure if they were being evacuated by the police. **After 15:20** we learned that the gunman had been eliminated."



Vice-Dean Martin Pehal: "After the end of the meeting of the Board, I left to join the meeting with Ms. Filipová at the HR Department. At about 15:02 we heard a big noise from the main hallway on the first floor. I ran back past the Student Registry to see what was going on (I thought there was a fight). By that time, there were already plainclothes policemen on the main staircase, weapons in hand and in bulletproof vests, shouting for everyone to lock themselves in the rooms. So, I ran back down the corridor, informed the students there (some were wearing headphones) to leave the building immediately,

then ran down the back staircase to Valentinská street and out the rear exit. There were no police officers there. I discouraged a few people from entering the building. After a few minutes, I was chased away from the building by police officers who were adjusting the perimeter. Subsequently, I started calling various people in the faculty building. Among other things, I also talked to colleagues who had hidden on the terrace of the room on the fourth floor, i.e. in close proximity to the shooting, and they kept me informed about the attacker's movements (phone calls at 15:07, 15:16). At the same time, I tried to convince the police on the spot to listen to me (I handed out business cards) that I had information from inside the building and that it was all happening on the fourth floor. At about 15:11, a special unit with ballistic shields was preparing to enter the building from Kaprova street. I managed to get a telephone contact to the police commander (approx. 15:20), which I immediately placed on the Rector's Board group chat (15:23), asking them to contact him with information from inside the building. This was happening on an ongoing basis."

3. ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING DURING THE ATTACK

According to the Study Information System, the number of people in the building at the time of the attack was 913 (students, teachers). Due to the special nature of period at the end of the year before the Christmas holidays, a qualified estimate is 700 people (on the one hand, fewer people due to the pre-holiday period, and on the other hand, people were there for Christmas parties and the planned singing event that was supposed to start around the time of the attack).

4. ON THE EVENTS IN THE BUILDING IN CELETNÁ STREET

A member of staff of the secretariat of the Language Centre of the CU Faculty of Arts, which is located in the building at Celetná 20: "At **14:09** a colleague who was leaving to go home called me to say that there was a problem and that they weren't letting anyone into Celetná. Then another colleague came and asked what she should do, because half of her students were outside and couldn't come in (they were going **to a class starting at 14.10**). I went downstairs to find out what was going on. There were plainclothes officers standing on the staircase and they said I had to ask the commander. I went to the other plainclothes officers who were standing at the porter's lodge in Celetná and asked for the commander. I said that I wanted to know what was going on that I needed to know for the teachers. They asked where we were sitting, and I said right above them, on the first floor. They replied that that there was a problem on the fourth floor and we should where we were for the time being. Then they mentioned classroom 503, which I said was ours, but that we also let other departments use it. Soon, the policemen came with the porter to see if I could find the schedule of the student DK for them. I found the student and his schedule in the SIS.

Because they wanted to contact someone in charge of the cameras in Celetná, at **14:29** I found out the contact for the person in charge of cameras – I gave the phone to the lieutenant. Then at **14:35**, according to their instructions, I got them a mobile number for the teacher of the course in DK's schedule, as they had requested. Then the policemen left."