The University grieves and continues to provide assistance and support(23. 12. 2023, 17.00)
The management of Charles University (CU) and the Faculty of Arts (FF UK) summarize the situation and the procedures to which the university has resorted in recent hours.
The main building of the UK Faculty of Arts is secure at the moment but remains closed until further notice for obvious reasons. We will keep you informed about the further procedure and also remind you that the management of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University has announced a dean’s leave until 2 January 2024 inclusive.

Personal belongings that were left in the building in an appropriate condition after Thursday’s attack are being released at the Faculty of Law of the Charles University at Náměstí Curieových 7 (Prague), for whose cooperation we are grateful. The next drop-off date for personal belongings will take place on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m., again at the PF UK building. We would also like to thank the Czech Red Cross, who, in agreement with the CU crisis staff, under the supervision of security personnel and technicians, arranged for the sorting of items and their transport to the PF UK during tonight's event. A number of volunteers participated in the whole event, and many thanks are due to the management of the CU and the Faculty of Arts of the CU.

The University is still calling on everyone if they feel any need for psychological help to use it - it is offered not only by the CU (information can be found here), but also by the free crisis line of the Police of the Czech Republic: +974 823 158. Please do not hesitate to ask for help.

Although the UK management (the UK Central Crisis Staff) has received a number of urgings in recent hours to publish the list of names of the victims of Thursday's tragic shooting, it hereby declares that it will not publish the names, especially for reasons of remembrance. This is not only an agreement with the Czech Police, but also to protect the personal data of the victims.

Charles University is grateful for the support and cohesion of the entire university community and the words of comfort from the general public that have come not only from the Czech Republic but from all over the world. We are also grateful for the financial support that comes from hundreds of donors to the CU Endowment Fund, which currently totals more than CZK 30 million. The UK will decide and transparently inform about the specific steps of spending the Endowment Fund (for obvious reasons only at the beginning of 2024).

The management of Charles University welcomes the opening of debates on the strategy of security at universities and is ready to actively participate in it, as well as the convening of a meeting of rectors with the Minister of the Ministry of Education, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the Czech Police, where the aim will (hopefully) be the creation of a joint strategy to ensure the security of universities and standards of security in buildings. We greatly appreciate and thank all those who are doing their part to help resolve the situation and find ways to cope with the current situation. We would like to thank all the volunteers, all those involved from the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Arts, the Rector's Office, students of the Faculty of Arts and all other faculties, as well as all the people who help selflessly and willingly with good will. This work also helps us all to cope with this terrible tragedy. The management of the University, together with the management of the Faculty of Arts, reiterates its unceasing regret and sorrow for the lives lost and for the losses that have been indelibly etched in the souls of us all. We extend our heartfelt condolences to all the survivors, families and friends of the victims.
Charles University will continue to provide organizational, material and psychological support to all those in need in the coming days, while at the same time striving to ensure a peaceful return to campus for all those affected. Charles University and our society will never again be the same as we knew it until the tragic afternoon of December 21, 2023. Our thoughts are with you all in these difficult Christmas times marked by pain and loss.

Thank you for being with us during this difficult time.

CU Central Crisis Staff  
/Prague, December 23, 2023, 17.00)

Charles University informs about the current situation and thanks for the expressions of support(22. 12. 2023, 14.30)

Charles University held a memorial service today (December 22) in front of the main entrance to the Carolinum building at Ovocný trh in Prague, honoring the victims of the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. Charles University’s leadership including rector Milena Králičková, dean of the Faculty of Arts Eva Lehečková, the leadership of the Faculty of Philosophy, and representatives of the Czech Rectors’ Conference, laid wreaths at the memorial site. Many other public figures participated in this memorial service, including the Prime Minister Petr Fiala, ministers of the Czech government, ambassadors, members of the academic community, and the general public.

Charles University has not yet been officially informed by the Czech Police about the identities of the victims. Therefore, the university's leadership cannot communicate this information to the leadership of the Faculty of Arts. However, the university is understandably in contact with the relevant authorities. The families of the deceased and the injured have already been contacted by the Czech Police. Most of the injured are in a stable condition, with one person currently in serious condition.

Since last night, Charles University has been actively cooperating in analyzing the situation with soft target protection expert Zdeněk Kalvach. Soft targets refer to places with a high concentration of people and, by nature, usually difficult to secure. These places are vulnerable to unexpected violent attacks, such as the one faced by innocents at the Faculty of Arts, on Thursday, December 21, 2023, in the afternoon.

Currently, the building of the Faculty of Arts remains inaccessible. The police have handed the building over to the university, but so far, only security staff and technicians who are assessing the building’s condition and damage have been allowed in. Personal belongings are currently not permitted to be retrieved from the building. As soon as there is a change in this matter, and it becomes possible to retrieve items, Charles University will inform everyone immediately.

Thank you for your understanding.

The leadership of the Faculty of Arts has declared a dean's holiday until January 2, 2024.

The Charles University Endowment Fund has launched a collection to support the families of the victims and also faculty, staff, and students affected by the shooting at the Faculty of Arts. Charles University greatly appreciates the support that victims receive from Czech and foreign institutions, companies, and individuals through the Endowment Fund. The fund’s collection currently exceeds 16 million CZK (over $700 000), with more contributions promised. The use of these funds will be coordinated with the leadership of the Faculty of Arts. Thank you all!

On Friday, December 22, 2023, at 19:30, an ecumenical service for the victims of the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University will take place in the Church of the Holy Salvator (Křižovnická 4) in Prague and will be led by Msgr. prof. Tomáš Halík. On Saturday, December 23, 2023, at 11:00, a requiem for the victims of the shooting in the St. Vitus Cathedral will be held. The event is organized by the Prague Archbishopric and the Prague Castle. On Saturday, December 23, 2023, at 15:00, an ecumenical prayer will take place in the church of St. Martina ve zdi (Martinská 8, Prague) to hold a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University.

The leadership of Charles University and the Faculty of Arts are currently addressing a large number of suggestions and inquiries related to the situation. Even with enormous efforts to respond promptly, quick reactions cannot be guaranteed at this time.

We kindly ask everyone, especially the media, to approach the topic of death and the families of the deceased with sensitivity and to give them the necessary peace in which they can mourn. Thank you.

We keep the families of the deceased and injured in our thoughts.

Leadership of Charles University and the Faculty of Arts  
(Prague, December 22, 2023, 14..30)

Statement of Rector of Charles University and Dean of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University on the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University(21. 12. 2023, 23.00; updated 22. 12. 10.00)

Dear colleagues, dear students,

In connection with the tragic events that took place at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University on December 21, 2023, in which lives were lost and many people were badly injured, we, together with the management of the Faculty of Arts
of Charles University, express our deepest condolences to all the bereaved families who lost loved ones. Our thoughts are equally with those who are now fighting to survive in hospital and their families.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to preventing a more significant loss of life, to the components of the integrated rescue system, and to all the medical and paramedics who are now caring for our injured in hospitals.

As tragic as the attack on Thursday was and as terrible a shock it is, it is important to point out that there is no evidence that it was of ethnic or racial origin.

We are aware that this extreme and dire situation has severely affected not only the entire academic community of Charles University but the broader public and also shocked many people abroad. Therefore, Charles University is now offering all of its students and staff an extended spectrum of support in the form of psychological assistance at its counseling centers and outside of Charles University.

From the very first moment, the management of Charles University, as well as the management of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, in cooperation with the security forces, dealt with the situation within the framework of a quickly established crisis staff. It also recommended cancelling all university events on Friday (December 22, 2023), including classes, for reasons of commemoration. A commemorative site has been set up at the Carolinum (Ovocný trh 3, Prague) by the fountain, a typical meeting place for students and staff. People began lighting candles there on Thursday night.

The Charles University Foundation has also announced a collection to support the families of the victims, teachers, and students affected by the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. You can donate HERE.

The level of violence that took place today at Charles University is absolutely uncharted territory and shocking for our academic community and for the Czech Republic. Let us, therefore, stand together in these difficult moments. We ask everyone to try to remain calm and composed, and we again express our condolences to all those whose hearts have been broken by the loss of loved ones.

We are with you all at this difficult time, and thank you very much for your support so far and in the future.

On behalf of the entire administration of Charles University and the Faculty of Arts of Charles University

Milena Králičková, Rector of Charles University
Eva Lehečková, Dean of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University
(Prague, December 21, 2023, 23.00; updated 22. 12. 10.00)

Statement of Charles University on the shooting at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University(21. 12. 2023, 18.10)
Today in the afternoon, a completely unprecedented situation occurred at Charles University (CU) and its Faculty of Arts, where not only injuries but also casualties occurred. The management of the University together with the management of the Faculty of Arts in cooperation with the security forces have been dealing with the situation since the first moments, and the crisis staff of the University was established.

Among other things, the CU management strongly and with immediate effect recommended tightening security measures in university buildings and at the same time cancelling today's evening and tomorrow's events with an expected attendance of more than 20 people, and called for an adequate and sensitive approach to tomorrow's possible exams or credit examinations.

There are and will be networks of contacts for HELP lines (psychological help), e.g. a crisis chat is currently running where support is provided from trained psychologists - crisis interventionists and crisis and psychological support and help.

We mourn the loss of life of members of our university community, express our deepest condolences to all the bereaved and our thoughts are with all those affected by the tragedy.
We now ask everyone to try to remain calm and composed, and we again extend our condolences to all those whose hearts have been broken by the loss of loved ones.

Further information will follow shortly in view of the constantly evolving situation.

Charles University Management
(Prague, December 21, 2023, 18..10)