

## **Abstract**

The topic of the thesis is "The phenomenon of stalking - criminal law and criminological aspects". On 1 January 2010, the new Penal Code (Act No. 40/2009 Sb.) came into force, which introduced the criminal offence of dangerous stalking into the provision § 354. The thesis presents the phenomenon of stalking as a specific type of violence in a society-wide context and points out selected problematic and potentially risky aspects associated with this phenomenon, or with the crime of dangerous stalking.

The thesis is divided into three main parts, namely the characteristics and historical development of stalking, criminal aspects of stalking and criminological aspects of stalking. The aim of the first introductory part of the thesis is to define stalking, to summarize the significant milestones in the development of this phenomenon and to understand the nature of this harmful act.

The second part, focusing on the criminal aspects of stalking, also presents, for the sake of completeness, the legal regulation within the framework of non-criminal norms. The key chapters of this part deal with the offence of dangerous stalking and selected related issues. Within these issues, attention is focused in particular on controversial concepts not defined by law, which cause difficulties in application practice or, for example, on the phenomenon of cyberstalking, the importance of which should not be underestimated. Selected institutes of criminal procedural law are also presented. The final chapters summarize statistical data of the Police of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic on the issue and compare the Czech legal regulation of stalking with the legal regulation in other countries of continental European culture.

The third part, focusing on the criminological aspects of stalking, explains its causes and the motives of its perpetrators. This part introduces both the person of the perpetrator of stalking and his victim. Particular attention is paid to ex-partner stalking, accounting for up to half of all stalking cases. This section also presents strategies for eliminating stalking and recommendations for both the victims of stalking themselves and for the general public and law enforcement authorities when dealing with this type of victim.