

Jewish Museum seeks full list of Nazi-plundered art work found in Munich

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- confiscated artifacts, Holocaust victims



The Jewish Museum in Prague is criticizing a decision by German authorities not to publish the full list of the works of art recently found in Munich that probably belonged to Holocaust victims, the museum's spokeswoman Jana Havlíková told the Czech News Agency (ČTK). Nevertheless, the Jewish Museum welcomes the discovery of the artifacts and hopes they will be returned to the original owners' families, Jana Havlíková said.

"We welcome the news on the discovery of the confiscated artifacts as we hope that it will be at least partly possible to reprove the wrongdoings committed during the Shoah," Havlíková said. "However, we do not consider the decision of the German authorities not to publish the full list of the 1,406 artifacts found in Munich correct. We believe that maximum transparency is needed in the

sphere of return of looted art," she added. German customs officers found over 1,400 artifacts confiscated by the Nazis in a search of the home of a man, aged 80, in Munich in 2012, but only recently announced the find. The estimated value of the artwork is over 1 billion euros. The artifacts include works by Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Marc Chagall, Paul Klee and Oskar Kokoschka.

Police raid cannabis grow shops

Although it been legal to smoke marijuana in the Czech Republic for medicinal purposes since April and marijuana is generally tolerated in the country, Czech police raided "grow shops" Nov. 4 and arrested seven people. Grow shops are supply shops that sell the ingredients and supplies needed to grow marijuana. Police spokeswoman Ivana Ježková said that similar raids are expected in the coming weeks. The raids come just days before Cannafest, an international cannabis trade fair, kicks off in Prague this weekend. Although a major exhibitor, One Big Czech Grow Shop, has already pulled out of the event, fair director Lukáš Běhal said the Cannafest will proceed as normal with 180 exhibitors. Ježková justified the police raids by saying that the number of indoor cannabis growing facilities has markedly increased since 2007. The number of indoor and Internet shops offering necessary technology has been growing accordingly, she said. Ježková said last year the police seized a record 563 kilograms of marijuana and uncovered 199 cannabis growing facilities whose annual production capacity is estimated at some seven metric tons.

Police partially identify suspect in Moravia murders

The police have accused a 31-year teacher of the Nov. 4 double murder in Raškovice, Moravia-Silesia Region, where he shot a 17-year-old girl and her grandfather dead and seriously wounded her grandmother on Monday, north Moravian police director Tomáš Kuže told journalists. If convicted, the suspect faces up to 20 years in prison or an exceptional higher sentence. Although not named, the suspect used three firearms during the fatal incident. The police eventually found another six firearms in his home, along with 6,000 pieces of ammunition. The police would not comment on the motive of the murder for now. They have only confirmed that the man worked as a teacher. According to available information reported by the Czech News Agency (ČTK), he taught the girl and had intimate relationship with her.

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CR to send 50 million Kč to countries with large Syrian refugee populations

The Czech Republic will send countries with large number of Syrian refugees, particularly Turkey and Bulgaria, an immediate aid package of 50 million Kč, outgoing Prime Minister Jiří Rusnok said after the government meeting. Rusnok said the aid would be provided in several forms from the Interior Ministry's budget. The ministry said shortly after the announcement that Interior Minister Martin Pecina, currently visiting Turkey, handed his Turkish counterpart a symbolic check for half a million euros (an equivalent of some 12.9 million Kč) for humanitarian aid. An estimated 600,000 Syrians have fled to the neighboring Turkey since Syria's civil war erupted two-and-a-half years ago. The Czech Republic has repeatedly provided financial aid to the region. The Foreign Ministry released 22.75 million Kč this year