



## **Standpoint of Student Council of Faculty of Arts, Charles University, to the planned concert in Verona**

This year's anniversary of self-immolation of Jan Palach is a little more significant than the previous ones. It's exactly 50 years since the act that shook the world. For that reason, it is quite obvious that this anniversary will get much more attention than the ones in the past.

With outrage and regret, have we received the news, brought by the newspaper *La Repubblica* and later took up by Czech media, about the preparation of concert in Verona and about the participation of music groups connected to Italian far-right. As members of Student Council of Faculty of Arts from Charles University, an organization that commemorates Palach's act every year, we strongly object to this concert. What we consider especially condemnable is the support and patronage of official places, in this case of Verona province, over this concert. The legacy of Palach is very alive even today. Which is exactly, why we have to remind ourselves and everyone else, what is the foundation of that legacy and that it is quite unambiguous. Jan Palach, a student of Faculty of Arts, was motivated to commit this radical act by his desire for democracy and humanity. The *Identity Movement* and other far-right groups are trying to misinterpret his legacy even by their own existence. That is why we consider almost unthinkable and completely undesirable for Palach to be celebrated by these movements.

The Italian history is marked by an era of fascism, but the Italian state today stands on the values of democracy, human freedom and equality, which are completely incompatible with fascist movement. We, the students of Faculty of Arts of Charles University, are in fully in concord with these values and we unanimously say NO to this concert in Verona.

Student Council of Faculty of Arts, Charles University