

Proclamation and invitation to come celebrate 20 years without the curtain

November 17, 2009: Albertov, 3:00 PM, Národní Street 6:00 PM

"In order to respond to the article posted on the news website Lidovky.cz called "November: Havel will come to Narodni. Klaus and others were not invited," we would like to point out that we have invited the entire Czech public to the event called "20 years without the curtain", subtitled "A reason to celebrate!" Our intention was not to send invitations to officials of various institutions which are an integral part of our democratic system. Rather, specific invitations were sent out only to those who helped to organize the event.

Through this proclamation, we invite the entire public to come. The event starts at Albertov at 3:00 PM and is followed by the parade and concert on Národní Street at 6:00 PM. Everybody who wants to celebrate twenty years of living in a free country is invited.

Our goal is to unite society on such a significant day, not divide it. After twenty years since the end of Communist totalitarianism, everybody's life in our country has improved. The day was originally to be only a student holiday but, thanks to historic circumstances, it has become a national holiday. This is not a day that we want to divide society into groups like politicians, students, workers, etc. We do not want the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution to be politicized. That is why we did not ask any politicians or representatives of any political groups to give a speech on the stage. The only exception we made was that of Václav Havel. The first Czech post-November president and a former dissident will indeed greet the participants of the celebrations on Národní Street. It is a reason to celebrate, so come join us!"

Marek Vocel, Kateřina Riley, David Gaydečka and Martin Kotas for Opona

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On November 17, the Prague streets will hold the biggest celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the fall of Iron Curtain. Under the title "20 Years without the Curtain – a Reason to Celebrate!" the nonprofit organization Opona has organized a parade from Albertov (meeting at 3 PM) to Národní Street, following the route the students took 20 years ago. The parade will begin with 30 minutes of speeches and will end on Národní Street with a unique concert (starting at 6 PM, arriving from the river). For more information go to www.20letbezopony.cz or see the FaceBook profile "20 let bez opony – Mame co slavit!"