

## Czech political prisoners know who is real anti-communist - Klaus



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**Prague - Former Czech political prisoners are important as the society's memory and a force which can improve it, Czech President Vaclav Klaus said at a meeting of the Czech Political Prisoners' Confederation (KPV) at Prague Castle marking the 20th anniversary of its establishment.**

Former political prisoners can distinguish between the politicians who really reject communism and those who only abuse anti-communist rhetorics to attract public's attention, Klaus said.

Klaus thanked former political prisoners for their courage and described the period of communism as a tragedy which cannot be justified.

"I would be glad if your activities would contribute to the improvement of our political scene, if you point to the politicians who authentically feel the brutality and unacceptability of communism and to those people on our political scene who only use various strong words to show themselves off," Klaus said.

KPV chairwoman Nadezda Kavalirova said at the meeting that the regained freedom was a gift that should be protected.

"We must support radical changes which have occurred in the past decades as any other positions are immoral," she said.

However, Kavalirova pointed out that 20 years after the fall of the communist regime political prisoners were still waiting for a clear moral condemnation of the crimes committed by the totalitarian regime.

Klaus recently made his assessment of the fall of communism in November 1989 and the post-1989 developments in a lecture he delivered at the conservative Cato institute, based in Washington.

According to the Czech daily Hospodarske noviny, he said in the lecture that communism was not defeated but simply collapsed.

He said the interpretations of the end of communism that overestimate the role of individuals were imprecise.

"I am not satisfied with the interpretations based on the misleading and very biased stories which ignore the wider framework of the events," the daily quoted Klaus as saying in Washington.

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