

IN THE INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT

Bálint Magyar, conducted a thorough analysis of Hungarian politics. The conclusions are scary. He wrote for the Hungarians and the Poles as he titled his book: Hungary. Anatomy of the Mafia State. Is this the Future of Poland?. It is clear from his writing, that today, under the rule of Orbán the country is in fact governed by the “political family”, not democratic institutions nor even party organs (as it was at the time of communism). The party is an agent between politically illegitimate family who decides everything and the parliament, the government or local authorities who legitimise these decisions – explains Magyar. All associations with the mafia may be justifiable, but we certainly have here a dictatorship of a new type.

One doesn't have to read Magyar to see that we are following a similar route in Poland. The electoral slogan of PiS about the “white and red team” sounds more innocent than “political family”, but it is not much of a comfort. First of all, and this is more important, the group concentrated around the MP from Nowogrodzka Street, makes all decisions unostentatiously hiding behind the façades of government institutions, which it took over. It does so with the impression of having the “interest of the populace” in mind and, what is increasingly apparent, regardless of the interest of their own back benchers or even some of their higher ranked officials. Therefore, in Poland as well as in Hungary, we have a new political quality. We are governed by the unelected party coalition, more specifically, “the family”.

Nonetheless, it has not been this obvious for long. Indeed, we found out in the last three years about the means of bending and breaking the

Constitution, when we reacted against each one of these actions. We know the role of the national television, the internet, the disempowering of the person who functions as the president and political involvement of the Catholic Church or the complex relationship with the camp of Mr Rydzyk, otherwise known as ‘Father Rydzyk’. The latest two pieces of information, however, confirm marginalisation of the PiS party as such in the overall plan of Jaroslaw Kaczyński's government. First information being the close “friendly” relationship of the PiS party chairman with the most important nominee in the Constitutional Tribunal, Julia Przyłębska and the fact that there is a second head office beside the one at Nowogrodzka St, in Przyłębska's private apartment. Also, the fact that the prime minister is more welcome there than the chief of the Ministry of Justice, that many ministers are appalled that Kaczyński pays her a visit several times a week and that Julia has to be informed of all important matters. To add, this is a lady who



Julia Przyłębska, 1st Chairman of the CT nominated by PiS and a ‘social discovery of the year’ in the words of J. Kaczyński. Photo: Wikipedia

theoretically should avoid all informal contacts with the government and the ruling party politicians.

Equally intriguing is another piece of information. Here, right before our eyes, there are changes to tighten the penal code introduced in response to the shock of the pedophile scandal incriminating the Church. The changes made with an incredible speed, which is no longer surprising in Poland, at the will of the Speaker, Mr Kuchcinski. The parliamentary debate on these changes was conducted not over the required legal period of 14 days, but in the space of 14 hours on the 16th May. Now, the proposals are stuck in the Senate and we do not know if they have any future due to the number of awful errors and slips they contain. However, before the proposal reached the Senate, something puzzling and symptomatic of their context had happened. Prior to voting on the changes to the laws in the parliament, there were attempts to fiddle with the penal code to the effect that, if it had not been for the vigilance of the OKO Press journalists and a handful of the constitutionalists which scared off the ‘magic hand’ of the fiddler, the Parliament was very close to decriminalisation of certain sexual acts with children. To be precise, the act of leading a minor to commit a sexual act in exchange for financial reward, would not have been a crime. At the same time, according to the press, one of the PiS politicians was allegedly implicated in such activity while visiting one of the escort agencies in the south of Poland. When this matter was publicised in the press, “the political family” started to talk about an error, smear campaign, abominable fake, similarly to how they denied bugging escort agencies. The constitutionalists have no doubt. Quite probably we were very close to adjusting the law to suit one politician from the “family”. This is what Magyar is talking about and it is a horrifying concretisation of his conclusion on the “mafia state”. We should be afraid.

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