

SAVE THE CHILDREN FROM NATIONALISM

Nationalist organisations across the world fight to gain new members. In Poland, the climate is as conducive to this as never before. Nationalists use the slogan 'One nation, one state, one God', quite similar to the old German: One nation, one reich, one leader'. They have the support of some of the Church's senior clergy. They march with the flags bearing the falanga symbol and with the words: "God, honour, fatherland" on their lips. Increasingly confident, because every year they do so with the blessing of the Pauline Fathers given during Czestochowa pilgrimage. It is strange that the Church officials are not disturbed by the hateful shouts like: "death to the enemies of the fatherland" or "with the sickle and hammer we beat the red scum", which strongly contradict the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The Nationalists, who gained seats in the parliament through Kukiz '15 party, are very active and they are enforcing the role of The National Movement party. Robert Winnicki, Adam Andruszkiewicz, Sylwester Chruszcz, Tomasz Rzymkowski and Bartosz Józwiak take great care for their 'rightful' appeal to the society. In the queue for power, there is another nationalist party - National Renaissance of Poland. Nationalists call for Poland to come out of the European Union and to create a "nation of pure Poles". They glorify dying for the homeland while the ability to co-exist among various cultures is of no value to them.

Representatives of such ideas are allowed to enter schools under a pretext of delivering patriotic lectures and workshops. They spread hate for minorities and they praise nationalism. They show off the cult of the so called „damned soldiers”. Only that, next to the real heroes, the nationalists are coveting bandits who have blood of the innocent victims on their hands; people like Józef Kuraś, called Ogień or Romuald

Rajs, Bury from the Białystok region. There is the National-Radical camp, who warm up their own image by organising patriotic family picnics, the association Pride and Modernism from Wodzisław Śląski who, thanks to TVN television, were documented as Hitler glorifiers, who organise survival camps and youth education.

The Nationalists proclaim ideas which most of the young people accept as the truth revealed, that the outstretched arm in salute is not really 'siege heiling', that people of liberal views (the lefties) should be fought against, that one should condemn the Jews and homosexuals. And yet, they are indignant when some call them neo-fascists. At the same time, in their programmes and manifestoes, they frequently refer to the achievements of Mussolini, they also copy nazi examples. By using natural curiosity of the young people, they organise survival camps which are nothing more than nationalists' training grounds. They seek out underprivileged young people and offer them a sense of belonging, power and more meaning to their existence. They also conduct charitable events in children's homes, they work as volunteers.

Apart from registered nationalist parties in Poland, there are several tens of associations, foundations and organisations of this type. For instance, All Poland Youth, The Camp of Great Poland, ONR, Assault. They are well organised and similar to the Catholic Church in structuring these institutions around strong hierarchy. Despite the fact that they do not agree on everything, they are united in common causes – "a new better world" and

"a new better man". During their marches, they put aside differences and step arm in arm in closed ranks. This is when one can see many forbidden symbols on display and hear hate speech. Because these marches have to be scary.

This dangerous trend can be stopped by pro-democracy education, for example: lectures on the dangers of such movements. The question is, whether organisations which want to serve this purpose, will ever be allowed in schools? Nationalists are strongly supported by radical politicians, clergy and football fans, for whom nationalism is part of identity.

This is a cause for alarm, because the number of nationalists in Poland is growing dangerously. This is no longer a folly of youth. These groups include students, but also business people, scientists, military personnel and policemen. One can see more women among them. They are not lacking in the adolescent sympathisers. Personally, I am horrified by the sight of small children taking part in the evening marches on the 11th November, when aggression so frequently occurs. Parents take kids and teenagers to march against equality parades or allow their children to go there on their own.

Where is this all going to?

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Protest against neofascists in Wrocław, 18th November 2017. Photo: Tomasz Skowronek