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Szydlo, Duda, Kaczynski and the Plunging Gap in Polish Society

Poland, 28 Feb - 26 Mar 2016

Government party PiS keeps on dividing media and society ++ Sadness after attacks in Brussels ++ Charity Orchestra WOSP 2016 reaches new record. by Lukas Plewnia

Government party PiS keeps on dividing media and society

The right-wing Law and Justice party (PiS) stepped in to limit the divergence in society. Social reforms should contribute to connecting the poor to the middle class. No wonder that the new child allowance, about 125 Euros (a very large sum for many Poles), is the flagship project of the government of Prime Minister Beata Szydlo and PiS party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

Now disillusion has replaced cherished expectations. The government is increasingly becoming associated penetrating the state and administrative apparatus. No Justice Minister today in Europe has as much power as Zbigniew Ziobro, no government in Europe dares combat the third power in the state, the judiciary, like Szydlo and her cabinet. Moreover, a person controls the country that does not have to bear the formal responsibility because Jaroslaw Kaczynski is only party chairman.

Therefore, Polish society is divided as never before. In March, this could be seen by the reactions to a sentence of the Constitutional Court, which declared some laws of the PiS government for unconstitutional. The government declared the verdict was legally unbinding and did not want to obey it. The international press and opposition criticize government harshly.

The split is even more visible in the media and street protests. In March, a tent city was formed outside the headquarters of the Prime Minister. Several hundred people protested.

There is still a long way to violent street conflicts, but the more the conflict intensifies, the more the tension is stronger. If no solution of this conflict will be found soon, profound social upheavals, a non-functioning state of law and an economic break down will follow. This is then the merit of Jaroslaw Kaczynski and his helpers, Prime Minister Beata Szydlo and President Andrzej Duda.

Sadness after attacks in Brussels

In Poland as well the attacks launched in Brussels have been received with dismay – the 22nd March was one of the few days when internal politics were put aside.

President Andrzej Duda signed a book of condolence at the Belgian Embassy in Warsaw. Prime Minister Beata Szydlo expressed her deep grief and spoke of an obligation of the states to protect their own citizens. After a meeting of the National Centre for Security, the Prime Minister said risk had not increased in Poland. Thus, all people living in Poland were safe. Nevertheless, the security services are on high alert.

But in the media, also voices were heard speaking of an organizational chaos and chronic underfunding in state security services. It is clear, however, that Poland is rather low on the priority list of terrorists, as the country is of relatively little international significance.

Charity Orchestra WOSP 2016 reached again record

The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (WOSP) gathers every year donations assign to the acquisition of medical equipment. Over the years, the orchestra has become the largest foundation in Poland and one of the largest in Europe. The annual final of the fundraiser is already a part of the Polish Christmas tradition.

And every year, WOSP gathers more and more donations. Again this year, a record has been achieved: The Poles donated around 5 million euros more than in the previous year. According to the report released in March, the Foundation has collected a total of 16.85 million euro.

This year's donations are intended for medical equipment for paediatric and geriatric hospital departments. For these purposes,

the foundation has collected a repeated time. The reason is the still poor equipment of hospitals, especially in smaller towns.

Although the final took place two months ago, the final sum could be announced now because the whole result comes not only from the donation of the collection boxes, but also from auctioning of various objects, which were donated by celebrities and politicians. The auctions often take longer than the conventional finale.

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