

Newsweek: Open Dialog Foundation activist expelled from Poland. European politicians speak out in her defence.

20.08.2018, Author: MAV

The Internal Security Agency (ISA) issued a statement on the issuing of a ban on entering Poland and the EU to Lyudmyla Kozlovska, the head of the Open Dialog Foundation. Kozlovska herself claims that it is revenge for the services to the opposition activities of her husband, Bartosz Kramek. European politicians are already defending the activist, with Guy Verhofstadt, the leader of the Liberal Party in the European Parliament, at the forefront.

Allegations against Kozlovska

At first glance, the accusations levelled at Kozlovska look very serious. According to the ISA statement, the case was dealt with by the Agency's Counter-Intelligence Department. Its negative opinion was the reason that Kozlovska has not been allowed to stay in the EU.

Why? According to the ISA statement, the reason was “serious doubts about the financing” of the Open Dialog Foundation headed by Kozlovska. It is not known exactly what this relates to, because the ISA is hiding behind its professional secrecy. Yet, according to Onet, Kozlovska's case has been marked as being of highest importance. As a result, the head of the Foundation was detained at the airport in Brussels and deported to Ukraine by the Belgian authorities.

[According to Kozlovska, her deportation is revenge for services to the opposition activity of her husband, Bartosz Kramek, the Chairman of the Open Dialog Foundation Council. He was the author of the famous text “Let the State Come to a Stop: Let's Shut Down the Government” published at the peak of last year's protests.](#)

In his publication, Kramek explained how to defend oneself against the PiS attack on the rule of law and referred to the experience of the Ukrainian Maidan (although he stressed that protests must remain peaceful at all costs and that comparisons with Maidan are limited). However, the right-wing media considered that Kramek was calling for an attack on legal authorities.

Inspections at the Open Dialog Foundation

It was at that time that the ruling party became interested in the Open Dialog, and the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Witold Waszczykowski, who supervised its activity, made an unsuccessful attempt to put the Foundation under administrative receivership. Meanwhile, at the request of the Minister-Coordinator of Special Services, Mariusz Kamiński, a fiscal inspection was initiated at the Open Dialog.

5. Under no circumstances can the Supreme Court capitulate against legal violence. Even in the case of the apparent entry into force of unconstitutional laws, these should be officially recognised — due to the blatant contradiction with the Constitution and the paralysis of the Constitutional Tribunal — as having no legal force and therefore not binding. The expected Supreme Court decisions in the case of Mariusz Kamiński and Julia Przyłębska must be made. Judges can not voluntarily give the courthouse to the party's nominees. Citizens and municipal police can

*protect the judges against physical violence. **Common courts must apply the constitution directly. The courts must be given special civil care as well as symbolic and, if necessary, material support and demonstrators who will continuously stay on duty.***

Lyudmyla Kozlovska

@LyudaKozlovska

Kamiński is taking personal revenge on @bartek_kramek for the appeal to the Supreme Court. He is constantly changing the tactics of the attack: first, the administrative receivership by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then the inspections, slander, and accreditation in @Europarl_EN, alleged secret agent activities – IT DID NOT WORK. So now he is investigating our financing.

[https://www.facebook.com/notes/bartosz-kramek/niech-pa%C5%84stwo-stanie-wy%C5%82%C4%85czmy-rz%C4%85d/10155402239540772/ ...](https://www.facebook.com/notes/bartosz-kramek/niech-pa%C5%84stwo-stanie-wy%C5%82%C4%85czmy-rz%C4%85d/10155402239540772/...)

At the same time, the first doubts appeared regarding the financing of the Open Dialog, which, according to its statute, deals with the defence of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the post-Soviet area.

Doubts about the Foundation

How serious were they? Most of them were based on the analyst report by Marcin Ludwik Rey, who regularly monitors Russian influence in Poland. Although Eastern policy experts very often compliment Rey's work, this time they said that he had failed in his report. It was based mainly on analysis of the financial statements published on the Foundation's website and on Internet searches.

For example, Rey argued that “the analysis of the accounts shows that Open Dialog is in fact a family foundation, financed in 4/5 by the family-business environment of the entrepreneur Petro Kozlovsky from the Crimean Sevastopol, the brother of Lyudmyla Kozlovska, President of the Foundation”. Kozlovsky's entrepreneurship activities, in turn, were supposed to be based on doing business with the Russian Navy.

The problem was that Kozlovsky's financing of the Open Dialog was no secret, as the Foundation informed about it in its reports. Rey's report also contained many errors and inaccuracies. For example, he wrote that Kozlovsky was Bartosz Kramek's father-in-law, whereas in reality he was his brother-in-law.

However, the report included far more serious errors. When responding to Rey's accusations, Lyudmyla Kozlovska argued that her brother did not do business with the Russians and that he had to flee the Crimea after the annexation of the peninsula in 2014 due to his pro-Ukrainian position. He currently lives in the USA.

Lack of incriminating materials?

On Twitter, Kozlovska stated that the ISA did not provide any information in her case, because there was no materials that could incriminate her. In her opinion, the question of financing was

raised because there was no way to prove the allegations of its secret agents' activities or the accusation that the Open Dialog posed a threat to public security. She emphasised that the Foundation's finances did not raise any doubts until its members became involved in opposition activities. She added that her deportation from the EU on the basis of a "secret report" by the special services was an activity typical of authoritarian states.

Lyudmyla Kozlovska

@LyudaKozlovska

I know from the experience of defending those politically prosecuted in many countries that "secret reports" by the special services, slander and intimidation are the most agile weapons for an authoritarian state. Who gave PiS the right to destroy the rule of law in Poland?

Mirekex

@Mirekex1

In response to @LyudaKozlovska and 2 more people

The officers were given top-down party orders and executed them. Your family is inconvenient to the order of PiS. They will destroy everyone who is their opponent. These people are vindictive, they will not refrain from anything. A dictatorship does not know democracy. They are Kremlin hard-liners. All that is left is the election.

11:20 – 20 Aug 2018

The tone of statements by some European politicians and human rights activists was similar.

"Black lists for democratic activists are worthy of authoritarian regimes, not EU Member States. The ban on issuing Schengen visas to Lyudmyla Kozlovska must be withdrawn or Poland's role in Schengen must be reviewed," wrote Guy Verhofstadt, the leader of the Liberal Party in the European Parliament, on Twitter. He is known for his severe criticism of the changes introduced in Poland by PiS.

Alice Stollmeyer, head of the Defending Democracy foundation operating in Brussels, which aims to defend Western democracies against the Kremlin's temptations, said that the Polish authorities had abused the Schengen regulations to get rid of their political opponent. "We can not accept the fact that this can be used to create a dangerous precedent," wrote Stollmeyer on Twitter.

There was also a petition to EU politicians calling for Kozlovska's return to the European Union – preferably with EU citizenship. "Such an act of justice would allow her to reunite with her family in Poland and to continue the work of the human rights foundation on EU territory – without the risk of further deportation," says the justification.

[Sign the petition calling for Kozlovska's return to the European Union HERE](#)

Link: <http://www.newsweek.pl/polska/polityka/ludmila-kozlovska-z-fundacji-otwarty-dialog-wyrzucona-z-polski-dlaczego-,artykuly,431721,1.html>