

[POLAND: WYBORCZA.PL] Good change counted in zioobrys. [24 May 2018]

I pay, you pay, we all pay for cretinism of a "good change".

<http://wyborcza.pl/7,75968,23442499,dobra-zmiana-liczona-w-zioobrach.html>

The progress of a "good change" can be measured by the degree of idiocy of allegations made by state institutions to people who have fallen under the the state powers for political or ideological reasons. This is measured in zioobrys [comes from the actual Minister of Justice, Zbigniew Ziobro - translator's note], and the scale is in total numbers from 1 to 10.

The accusation of Antoni Szpak, a columnist of Angora, for "insulting the Polish nation" for writing that "only in a stupid, smug nation such paranoia can happen" is at least seven zioobrys. And the "screening activities" undertaken by the police during the scientific conference on Marx's thought are eight. The accusation of Nergal, who placed an eagle-like bird with an inverted cross on the poster and the cover of the album can be given only four zioobrys for insulting national symbols.

On the other hand, the request of the minister of foreign affairs to the court to dismiss the board of the Open Dialog Foundation for the fact that the chairman of the Foundation, Bartosz Kramek, published on Facebook a publicist text entitled "Let the state stand. Let's turn off the government", is somewhere in the middle of the scale, in the area of five. Similarly, the Ministry of the Interior requests for the establishment of a commissary board of the Free Citizens of the Republic of Poland Foundation only because the Citizens of the Republic of Poland, the body independent of this Foundation, gets on the state's nerves.

The courts turn down these ridiculous accusations and order the applicants to pay for the trial, so the prosecution, the police, and the ministries pay with our taxes, meaning that I pay, you pay, we all pay for cretinism of a "good change."

Fortunately, this cretinism has not yet reached the courts, which not only reject the charges, but also remind the applicants of the basic truths and principles of the civilized state of law.

For example, in the justification of the ruling regarding the Open Dialog Foundation, judge Ewa Maciejewska states that Bartosz Kramek is not a member of the Foundation's board, so what he writes on his Facebook does not go to that board's account. However, even if we assume that it is different, there would be no grounds to consider it as a violation of the law, because the theses contained in the article "Let the state stand. Let's shut down the government" are within the freedom of speech guaranteed by the constitution. "An important violation of the law is not

the mere conduct of considerations regarding the possibility of carrying out the action of temporarily refraining from paying taxes. The presentation of ideas about forms of civic protests against representatives of the currently ruling party can not be considered to be such a violation"- says Judge Maciejewska in the justification.

Great words. Three or four years ago, it was so obvious that it did not need to be explained to the rulers. Today, however, we must pay with our taxes for reminding them of these truisms. Perhaps the ministers themselves should cover the costs of all these forensic training courses from their own pockets?