



Polish anti-fascists under attack

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MONSTER BITES

'Never Again' magazine has been on the front-line of the struggle against fascism in Poland for 5 years. Now the extreme right wants to destroy it.

Both the country's Constitution and the penal code forbid fascist and racist activities. The current right-wing government is clearly not interested in using this law and even openly nazi groups operate unhindered. The anti-fascist magazine 'Nigdy Wiecej' ('Never Again') recently exposed the fact that members of right-wing extremist groups had been nominated to senior positions within the government. 'Never Again' is also the only magazine in Poland regularly monitoring numerous cases of fascist violence. On 9 November 1999 it publicised a report documenting the deaths of 19 people killed in the recent years by nazi-skins, members or sympathizers of extremist groups such as Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (National Revival of Poland, NOP).

In result 'Never Again' has found itself under constant attack both from the violent nazis and the far-right publications. Death threats against the editors have become customary and hit lists with their home addresses circulate among fascists. Happily the nazis got the addresses wrong. In several cases collaborators of 'Never Again' have been beaten up but the 'Never Again' team pledged to continue their work.

The general social and political climate is largely hostile towards anti-fascism. In this climate the extreme right hit the magazine with a legal weapon. A libel suit has been filed by a nationalist-pagan activist Tomasz Szczepanski. Szczepanski, who claims to be a follower of the French New Right intellectual Alain De Benoist, objected to 'Never Again' calling his group 'anti-Semitic and chauvinistic'. Apparently he did not mind calling it 'anti-Christian'. Szczepanski, who is over 30, has a bizarre political past behind him. He used to pose as an anarchist, a trotskyst, a democratic socialist, and an anti-fascist. Most recently he has been a member of the Christian-conservative party ROP but now seems to be forming a political group of his own. In this venture he is accompanied by militant nazis such as Mateusz Piskorski (translator of David Myatt's nazi-satanic writings) and ex-anarchists such as Remigiusz Okraska (friend and follower of Jaroslaw Tomasiewicz, a contributor to countless left- and right-wing publications in Poland and abroad). This lot gathers around Szczepanski's magazine 'Tryglaw', named after a proto-Slavonic monster god.

The legal proceedings against 'Never Again' have already started. The case is expected to last for long. Undoubtedly, it is meant to cause as much damage to the anti-fascist movement as possible, both in terms of publicity and financial resources. It remains to be seen whether this plot by the extreme-right will succeed.

http://www.cilevics.eu/minelres/mailling_archive/2000-February/000432.html