### Poland<sup>1</sup>

IHF FOCUS: freedom of expression and the media; freedom of association; judicial system and detainees' rights; torture, ill-treatment and police misconduct; prison conditions; right to privacy and equality before law; security services; asylum seeekers; women's rights.

The main human rights concerns in Poland continued to be the administration of justice – particularly prolonged pre-trial detention and overlong judicial proceedings, both of which amounted to violations of basic human rights and were condemned by the European Court of Human Rights.

The shooting of a police officer in March 2002 led to measures granting the police wider powers to use firearms. Another police-related concern was widespread police brutality. The living conditions in most Polish prisons were extremely bad, with poor physical conditions and overcrowding.

Other concerns were the operation of the security forces and the measures used to encourage people to disclose their past income to tax authorities. A draft law on public utility organizations posed a danger to the independence of non-governmental organizations.

### Freedom of Expression and the Media

In March 2002, Poland lost a case under article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) before the European Court of Human Rights.

The District Court in Bielsko-Biala refused Jozef Gaweda's request to register two periodicals: Miesiecznik Społeczn-Polityczny, Europejski Sad Moralny" (Socio-Political Monthly, European Moral Court) and Niemcy - polski wrog tysiaclecia" (Germany - Enemy of Poland for 1000 Years). The court quoted the then valid 1990 minister of justice ordinance on registration of periodicals and daily papers. Based on that ordinance, the court could refuse to enter a title into the register of periodicals which was "inconsistent with the current state of affairs." The district court argued that there was no "European Moral Court" in the locality where Gaweda resided, and that Germany was not "enemy of Poland for 1000 years," both allegations made by Gaweda. Besides, the latter title would summarise the Polish-German relations in a too onesided and negative manner. The European Court of Human Rights stated that the right to this interpretation followed neither from the Press Act nor from the above ordinance. The court also stressed that freedom of speech may only be restricted for the following reason: protection of public safety or protection of order and the rights of others. A press title may not be appraised from the viewpoint of its content - this would be a violation of article 10 of the ECHR. Adjudicating damages, the court stated that the district court's arbitrary interpretation of the law had violated the principle that authorities should operate within the limits of law.<sup>2</sup>

A high-profile case of attempted bribery gained extensive public attention.

• In July 2002, Adam Michnik, the editor-in-chief of the largest Polish daily, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, published by Agora S.A., was visited by well-known film producer Lew Rywin, who offered him a bribe. At that time, amendments to the Radio and TV Act were pending in the paliament and these included a provision dealing with the right of press publishing houses to purchase private TV channels (and thus to establish media syndicates). In all probability, Agora S.A. and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and on the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Poland, *Human Rights in Poland 2002*, prepared by Andrzej Kremplewski.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Gazeta Wyborcza (GW), "Kosztowny zakaz. Kolejna przegrana w Strasburgu," (Expensive ban. Still another case lost in Strasbourg), No. 64, March 16-17, 2002, p. 4.

its daily, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, were interested in purchasing the largest Polish private TV channel, Polsat. Lew Rywin reportedly said he was acting on behalf of the Prime Minister Leszek Miller<sup>3</sup> and the head of public TV, Roberta Kwiatkowski. He offered Michnik to ensure that an amendment be passed to Agora's advantage at a price of 17.5 million dollars. Rywin also mentioned an informal group that was supposedly "in charge of things" in Poland. The following day, Michnik notified Prime Minister Miller, who failed, however, to instruct the Prosecutor's Office to initiate an inquiry.

In December 2002, following a journalistic inquiry, *Gazeta Wyborcza* published a transcript of the recorded conversation between Adam Michnik and Lew Rywin, including Rywin's bribery offer. The disclosure led to the institution of two parallel proceedings in January 2003: a criminal procedure against Lew Rywin who was accused of paid favoritism;<sup>4</sup> and a proceeding before a specially established parliamentary inquiry committee<sup>5</sup> to elucidate the circumstances of the corrupt legislative offer and to identify the group "in charge of things."

### Freedom of Association

The government submitted a draft bill on public utility organizations to parliament in December 2001. While the law may be advantageous to small, local, non-governmental organizations, especially to charity organizations, it involves a serious threat to the independence of the third sector in Poland.

The draft bill proposes the establishment of a Board for Public Utility Organizations. Its members would be fully dependent on the state budget and the minister of labor would be given the power to decide which NGOs would be entered on the list of Public Utility Organizations. Further, it provides for a limitation on the possibility to use profitable, untaxed deposits of grant funds, and abolishes the possibility by big independent foundations to finance small organizations. A coalition of leading Polish NGOs and many months of lobbying various parliamentary groups brought about a gradual mitigation of the draft's provisions but the law is expected to be adopted in April 2003.

## Judicial System and Detainees' Rights

The Polish judicial system has been suffering a crisis for a long time. Many years of underfinancing and understaffing, excessive length of proceedings in big cities in particular and similar problems have resulted in the people's lack of confidence in the third power.

In Warsaw, 287 cases were found to be missing from court archives in September 2002.<sup>6</sup> As a result, the minister of justice dismissed two district court presidents, disciplinary proceedings were instituted against six judges, and a further seven judges were reprimanded.

Another problem was that the minister of justice was also the prosecutor general. The combination of the two offices was criticized by the Polish ombudsperson as it politicized the Prosecutor's Office.

<sup>3</sup> At the time, the cabinet was formed by a leftist coalition consisting of the Democratic Left Alliance, the Polish Peasant Party, and the Labor Union.

<sup>6</sup> GW, B. Wróblewski, Czystka sadowa (Court purge), No. 206, September 4, 2002, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Article 230 of the 1997 Penal Code stated that whoever used his influence with a state institution or with the local government and assisted in settling a matter for profit or for a promise thereof, shall be subject to the penalty of deprivation of liberty for up to three years.

An investigative committee to examine the accusations made in the media concerning the alleged cases of corruption involved in the amending of the Radio and Television Act (SRTV). The committee operates under a 1999 investigative committee parliamentary act (Journal of Laws No. 35, item 321), and under the Code of Criminal Procedure. It has ten members including representatives from both the condition and opposition parties.

The most serious problem, however, was the imposition of a severe preventive measure of detention on remand, which was in many cases stretched over two years. This measure generally involved abuse of power for political aims which was demonstrated through spectacular arrests: by handcuffing and often beating suspects, and by holding suspects for unduly long periods of time in detention without an appropriate reason, pending the conclusion of prolonged preliminary investigations conducted by a public prosecutor or trial.

- On July 2, anti-terrorist police squads arrested Roman K., a well-known businessman and philanthropist, in Nowy Sacz near Cracow on grounds that he was a dangerous mobster. He had been involved in a dispute concerning financial controversies between his firm and the revenue office and had refused to pay bribes to high-ranking local officials. The dispute was settled to Roman K.'s advantage.
- The press reported a case concerning the smuggling of illegal alcohol by Warsaw mobsters. Various courts handed the case over to one another, lent the file to prosecutors in related cases, and checked the defendants' places of residence. In the meantime, the statute of limitations elapsed with respect to some of offenses mentioned in the indictment.
- In another case that related to fictitious contracts for the delivery of fire-control equipment, where the loss exceeded 500,000 PLN (€120,000), the trial had not been started six years after the indictment.

According to many experts, Polish courts were utterly incapable of performing their tasks and, as a result, lost all authority in the eyes of the public. To solve the problem, the Ministry of Justice suggested the following measures: simplifying judicial procedures (especially in cases of minor transgressions), dividing big courts into smaller units, forming separate municipal courts (to replace the present first instance municipal divisions within district courts), and increasing the number of judges by 1,500. These solutions, however, were deemed by experts as inadequate to solve the problems within the Polish judicial system.

The courts' low quality work was also evidenced by the stagnation of the number of lawyers and legal advisers, and by the virtual exclusion from the legal profession of a wide range of people. It was common practice, that only lawyers' (and not, judges') children became lawyers. While over the last ten years, the number of cases brought before the courts went up by over 300%, the number of lawyers grew by under 5%, and the number of legal advisers has remained practically unchanged for five years. <sup>11</sup>

A significant number of Polish cases were filed in the European Court of Human Rights complaining about the inadequate judicial system.

• Krzysztof Z. filed a case with the European Court after a nine years struggle before Polish courts seeking payment of damages for the unlawful appropriation of his tenement house in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> *Rzeczpospolita*, Jerzy Sadecki, "Komus nie w smak, ze pomagam ludziom i kosciolowi," (Somebody doesn't like the idea of my helping people and the Church), No. 47, February 25, 2003.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> GW, B. Wróblewski, "Rany boskie, przedawnienie," (Oh my God, prescription!), No. 184, August 8, 2002, p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> *GW*, E. Siedlecka, "Wizja Temidy. Konferencja o przyszlosci polskiego wymiaru sprawiedliwosci," (The vision of Themis. A conference about the future of Polish administration of justice), No. 208, September 6, 2002, p. 8.

p. 8. <sup>10</sup> According to the president of the II Criminal Chamber of Warsaw-City District Court, the yearly load of cases was 600-700 per judge. Cf. *GW*, K. Klukowska, "Zaleglosci starsze niz najstarsi sedziowie," (Arrears older than the oldest of judges), No. 171, July 24, 2002, p. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> *GW*, E. Siedlecka, "Korporacjo, otwórz sie!. Dostep do zawodów prawniczych," (Open up, corporation! Access to legal professions), No. 53, March 4, 2003, p. 7.

1952. Mr. Z.'s house, located in Lomza, had been illegally used by the Security Service and then by the police. The European Court ordered removal of the police station, restoration of the property, and payment of damages in the amount of almost €120,000. 12

- Wojciech S. filed a complaint against Poland with the European Court of Human Rights, complaining about the length of proceedings in a case in which he had been defendant. The case had been pending before a district court since 1995. Mr. S. was convicted only after news had reached the judge that an application had been registered with the European Court; the second instance court examined the case promptly, passing judgment after a mere several months.
- Katarzyna G. was unable to establish her rights as a victim of crime for ten years. Due to the ten year long criminal trial and the associated statute of limitations, she was deprived of the chance to vindicate her claims in judicial proceedings.

In cases where law enforcement officials were accused of corruption, the defendants often could not gain access to their case file for two or three years. These defendants were held in detention awaiting trial during the stage of preparatory proceedings, where the prosecutor did not perform any action with respect to them.

In many cases, the prosecution's entire case was based on evidence given by the "crown witness." Also in such cases, the suspects were usually detained throughout the proceedings because of the danger that they might to try to influence the course of their case.

Dariusz Z., Janusz M. and several other policemen faced bribery charges. Throughout the
preparatory proceedings, which started in April 2001, neither the suspects nor their counsel
gained access to the file stating the accusations against them. The men were detained on
remand until July 2002.

By the end of 2002, a total of 4,173 complaints against Poland had been lodged with the European Court of Human Rights, representing the highest number of complaints from any member state of the Council of Europe. The court had passed judgment in 79 Polish cases. However, the cases lost by Poland before the court (especially those under article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights: trial within a reasonable time), did not lead to the formation of a domestic system for reviewing that body's decisions, a course of action which was recommended in one of its judgements. <sup>14</sup>

# **Torture, Ill-Treatment and Police Misconduct**

In March, mobsters shot a policeman near Warsaw. Against the background of that case, the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration, Krzysztof Janik called several times for broader powers for the police to use firearms. He said:

"...Following each use of firearms, the policeman is subjected to complex explanatory procedures: why he used the gun and why he had to shoot. This is not only extremely annoying but also frustrating for the policeman. The functionaries suffer psychological tension for months. This has to be changed. ...The police will treat offenders much more sternly, and I will

<sup>14</sup> Kudla vs. Poland, October 26, 2000.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> *GW*, U. Arter, "Euro za kamienice. Polak wygral z rzadem w Strasburgu," (Euro for a house. Polish Government loses a case in Strasbourg), No. 153, July 3, 2002, p. 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> GW, "Wydarzenie. Obroncy gangsterów przeciw swiadkom koronnym," (Event. Mobsters' defense counsels against the crown witnesses), No. 63, March 15, 2002.

support this policy. With respect to offenders who disrespect the life of a functionary, the police should be granted full powers of revenge." <sup>15</sup>

Calls for the extension of police power to use firearms (which were broad anyway) led to the amendment of the Police Act and the relevant ordinance. The provision in the Police Act obliging a police officer using a gun to aim so as to avoid jeopardizing the offender's life or health was amended. The new version provides that the police should aim so as to "cause the smallest possible damage." The executory ordinance was also amended: in five of the nine situations where the law permitted the use of firearms, the police originally had to warn the offender twice. The first warning was, "Police!" and the second warning was "Stop. I have a gun!" This was reduced to a single warning, "Police."

• In June 1999, Michal F. and his brother clashed with the police who had been summoned by neighbors during a noisy celebration. When Michal F. was brought to the sobering-up station, he was dead. The policemen beat his brother Pawel with a truncheon after handcuffing him and he had to be taken to the hospital. In June 2002, the district court in Katowice sentenced two policemen to one to two years imprisonment for unintentionally killing Michal F. The execution of the penalties was stayed conditionally for three years for one policeman and for five years for another. The court also banned them from working in the police force for five and three years respectively.

Cases of drastic abuse of power by the police were commonplace. For example, a young man was detained after a shooting near Warsaw and beaten by policemen<sup>19</sup>; a mother, who stood up for her minor son during his detention was beaten by police officers<sup>20</sup>; and a student was subjected to brutal treatment during his erroneous arrest in Warsaw.<sup>21</sup>

Greater efficiency of crime control was among the announced priorities of the leftist cabinet headed by Prime Minister Leszek Miller. The first step toward this aim was the "National Crime Prevention and Control Program" <sup>22</sup> developed by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration, K. Janik. The document suggests that police and frontier guards should be granted the powers to recruit secret agents through blackmail if necessary, to "extend operational work to much broader criminal circles." It also permits recruitment of agents from among prison inmates and juveniles. Although those elements of the program were criticized by human rights experts, <sup>24</sup> the document was eventually adopted in August 2002 by the council of ministers and signed by the prime minister.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> *GW*, J. Jachowicz, "Oko za oko, zab za zab. Mówi szef MSWiA Krzysztof Janik (SLD)," (An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Head of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration Krzysztof Janik, Democratic Left Alliance, interviewed), No. 72, March 26, 2002, p. 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Rzeczpospolita, "Latwiej strzelac," (Easier to open fire), No. 121, May 25-26, 2002, p. A6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> See IHF, Human Rights in the OSCE Region: the Balkans, the Caucasus, Europe, Central Asia and North America, Report 2000 (Events of 1999), pp. 290-291, at <a href="https://www.ihf-hr.org">www.ihf-hr.org</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> GW, A. Swoboda, "Dwa lata za smierc Michala. Sad skazal policjantów z Sosnowca," (Two years for the death of Michal. Sosnowiec police sentenced), No. 134, June 11, 2002, p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> *Gazeta Stoleczna* (GS) A. Borowiec, "Skutecznie przesluchany. Policja oskarzona o brutalnosc," (Effective interrogation. Police accused of brutality), No. 91, April 18, 2002, p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> GW, M. Orlowska, "Od czego jest policja? Plocki policjant skatowal kobiete. Przelozeni tym sie nie interesują," (What are the police for? Plock policeman batters woman, his superiors don't care), No. 204, September 2, 2002, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> GS, A. Borowiec, "Ups, pomylka! Policja brutalnie zatrzymala niewinna osobe," (Ooops, a mistake! The police brutally arrest an innocent person), No. 117, May 20, 2002, p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> For details of the program, see <u>www.mswia.gov.pl</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> *GW*, "Lapaj bandyte. Jak rzad zamierza walczyc z przestepczoscia," (Get the villain. The Government's plans to fight crime), No. 182, August 6, 2002, p. 6.
<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

#### **Prison Conditions**

The living conditions in most Polish prisons and detention sites fell seriously short of international standards. The main problem was the dramatic ovecrowding of those institutions, which, for example, made it impossible to hold priosoners in facilities located close to their families. Overpopulation also prevented opportunities for educational activities and generally restricted the right enjoyed by prisoners. Moreover, there were insufficient funds to provide isolated prisoners with appropriate medical care and treatment.

In all closed prisons and remand facilities, the floor area per inmate was  $1.5-2 \text{ m}^2$ , despite the statutorily guaranteed  $3 \text{ m}^2$  and the recommended  $6 \text{ m}^2$  mentioned in the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture's (CPT) second report.

New wards were opened for dangerous prisoners in many facilities. This development resulted mainly from the fact that new criteria were introduced for the inclusion of inmates into that category. The number of prisoners has gone up by 30% in recent years, while that of the "dangerous" prisoners has increased as much as by 300%. The procedure for such classification was usually formal (based on legal provisions) without a discerning analysis of the individual case. The inmates of such wards were deprived of all social contacts; they were never offered any cultural events, therapy, or psychological assistance.

# Right to Privacy and Equality before Law

In November, the Constitutional Tribunal passed a judgment on the unconstitutionality of the Act of September 26 (the single taxation of undisclosed income) and on the amendments of the Tax Law and the Penal Fiscal Code. The act was developed by the Minister of Financeand Deputy Prime Minister Grzegorz Kolodko, and introduced a "bonus" for those taxpayers who had concealed income between 1996 and 2001 if they now came forward with that information. Under the act persons choosing to disclose property obtained with the use of funds not covered by their disclosed sources of income, would be granted the opportunity to submit a disclosure statementand to be taxed once at 12%. The above statement would also release such persons from associated penal and fiscal liability. Thus, the situation of taxpayers who, for example, concealed 2001 income would actually be better as compared to those who did not conceal any income and duly paid the appropriate income tax for that year.

The most serious argument against the act, however, was that by introducing the property statement, it actually violated the constitutional principles of equality before the law and of equal treatment by public authorities. <sup>26</sup>

The property statement was to encompass property, vehicles, shares in companies, stock, money, and other valuables exceeding 10,000 PLN (€2,500) in worth. It also was to estimate the value of any other assets. The statement would give the authorities a dangerous source of knowledge about citizens. It would also be inconsistent with article 51 of the Constitution of Republic of Poland, which prohibits public authorities from obtaining and storing any information other than the necessary information required by a democratic state ruled by law.

It was also stressed that the act created a mechanism that would encourage money laundering.

In its judgment, the Constitutional Tribunal accepted the above legal reasoning and found the act unconstitutional. It particularly stressed its inconsistency with article 2 of the Constitution which

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal of November 20, 2002. Ref. No. K 41/02, at <a href="www.trybunal.gov.pl">www.trybunal.gov.pl</a>
<sup>26</sup> The Helsinki Committee in Poland also used this reasoning in its letter to the president of the Republic of Poland, requesting that the president refrain from signing the law.

provides that the Republic of Poland is a democratic state ruled by law and the principles of social justice.

# **Security Services**

In June, the Office of State Security (*Urzad Ochrony Panstwa – UOP*) was dissolved, and it was replaced by two new agencies: the Internal Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency.<sup>27</sup> The law creating the two new agencies divided up the services the former UOP in an unclear manner between internal and external security and between civilian and military intelligence. A draft bill providing for a legal solution clearly defining the role of the new agencies was still pending in parliament as of this writing.

As a result of the dissolution of the UOP, about 500 former UOP functionaries were dismissed. Among those dismissed, were some officers who had contributed to expulsion from Poland in 2000 of 12 persons suspected of espionage. These officers had also scored successes in the prosecution of Al-Quaeda terrorists and had cooperated with the CIA and the FBI. Some of the other dismissed officers had joined the service under the previous center-rightist administration. Parallel to that, active politicians were made officers of the the Internal Security Agency and they resigned their membership in political parties only under pressure from public opinion. There were also cases of reinstatement of former officers of the communist political police. The fact that the democratic Left Alliance (SLD) also held positions within the security services as a specific "political bounty" manifested the extent to which such positions were, in fact, political in nature.

As was shown by an investigation conducted by the parliamentary committee for security services, the Military Intelligence Services had, in the mid-1990s, been involved in arms trade with countries to which arms exports was prohibited. The services destroyed documentation of such illegal operations. The inquiry conducted by the Prosecutor's Office concerned only marginal matters.

## **Asylum Seekers**

In October 2002, violations of the right to seek asylum were observed and monitors believed that they were a specific response to the terrorist attack at the Moscow theater.

At that time, refugees from Chechnya (who were formally citizens of the Russian Federation but of Chechen nationality) were refused entry into the territory of Poland and sent back to Belarus or the Ukraine with information that they did not meet the requirements to be granted entry into Poland or that state security justified such refusal. Following an intervention by the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (and also of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Polish Ombudsman), refugees from Chechnya were later admitted into the territory of Poland and their applications for refugee status were considered.

Some problems were related to the right to refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention. According to the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, refugees from Chechnya (of Chechen nationality) met the requirements to be granted refugee status under article 1.A.2 of the Geneva Convention. That is, they stated their justified fear of persecution on account of their nationality both in Chechnya and in other regions of the Russian Federation, under articles 2 and 3 of the ECHR (right to life and ban on torture).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Act of May 24, 2002 on Internal Security Agency and Intelligence Agency, *Journal of Laws*, No. 74, item 676. <sup>28</sup> *GW*, A. Kublik, "Agencja polityczna. Z SLD do ABW," (Political agency. From the Democratic Left Alliance to the Internal Security Agency), No. 176, July 30, 2002, p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> *GW*, "Zwolnienia z UOP. Zmiany w sluzbach specjalnych," (Dismissals from UOP. Changes in security services), No. 151, July 1, 2002, p. 4; and "Zaufany czlowiek, SLD obsadza sluzby specjalne," (Our trusted man. Democratic Left Alliance fills positions in security services), No. 201, August 29, 2002, p. 4.

In 2002, of the 2,500 applications for refugee status submitted by persons of Chechen nationality in the territory of Poland, about 300 applicants were granted refugee status. The first judgments in such cases, prepared mainly by Helsinki Foundation lawyers, have already been passed by the Supreme Administrative Court; the court overturned the decision of the Refugee Board of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration not to grant them refugee status.

Still another problem was the violation of the right to family life (article 8 of the ECHR) in cases of foreign spouses of Polish citizens (or persons living in informal relationships), who were refused the right of temporary residence in the territory of Poland by administrative authorities. Here, the violation of the right to family life also affected the Polish spouse (or partner) and the couple's children.

Over the 11 years that have passed since Poland's accession to the Geneva Convention on Refugees, over 25,000 persons have applied for refugee status in Poland. Refugee status had been granted to 1,139 applicants, that is, to about 5%. 30

### Women's Rights

In May 2002, a test decision was passed by a court in the case of an emergency medical service doctor accused of having molested five women. The director of that same emergency service had already been found to have molested other women including female nurses and female orderlies. He had made use of the situation of dependence – the husbands of his victims also worked at the institution he was in charge of and feared that they might be fired if they complained. This harassment went on for almost two years.

The Women's Rights Center – one of the best-known non-governmental organizations for women's rights in Poland – assisted the victims in finding a legal counsel. Finally, the doctor was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment with stayed execution. However, he was convicted under a provision of the Penal Code penalizing rape or other sexual acts, and not under one concerning the utilization of the situation of dependence. The reason was that he never made any direct threats, which was a condition for applying that provision. As a result, the court assumed that such utilization could not be demonstrated.

This case, among others, led to demands by the Minister for Gender Equality, Izabela Jaruga-Nowacka that a provision be added to the Penal Code which would expressly penalize sexual molestation at work. In her opinion, "cases of sexual molestation at work are widespread in Poland." 32

Aside from Ireland, Poland was among those European countries where access to abortion remained the most restricted.

Also, an unemployment rate of almost 20% was often conducive to discrimination against women. Moreover, more women than men were dismissed from their jobs, a tendency that was supported by the stereotyped conception of the woman's role as wife and mother. In addition, the unemployment rate led to the exploitation of female employees through, for example, low wages and the flourishing of informal employment (employment without a formal contract).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> *GW*, "Goscie niemili? Organizacje pozarzadowe o problemach uchodzców w Polsce," (Unwelcome guests? Non-governmental organizations about the problems of refugees in Poland), No. 137, June 14, 2002, p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> *GW*, A. Kublik, "Nie udawaj cnotliwej. Precedensowy wyrok: chirurg molestowal seksualnie w pracy, zostal skazany," (Don't pretend you're a virgin. A precedent setting: a surgeon who sexually molested women at work has been sentenced), No. 114, May 17, 2002, p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> GW, A. Kublik, "Karac za molestowanie," (Punish molestation), No. 140, June 18, 2002, p. 9.