

arrived a regular fight ensued, with the hooligans picking up glasses and bottles from the tables and throwing them around. "Confused tourists didn't know what to do. Mothers with children were trying to escape from the place. Then the police started shooting in the air to calm the situation."

Twenty of the most violent hooligans were arrested; 12 of them eventually charged for taking part in the riots and three – for assaulting a police officer (a bag of acid thrown into the crowd hit him in the face).

"I'm sorry that a peaceful demonstration was attacked by a much smaller group of aggressors," said Tomasz Szypula, KPH Krakow vice-chairman. "There were TV crews and journalists from other countries. May Europe see how weak democracy in Poland is, and that violence rules the streets. People suffered cuts and bruises in the attack. There are photos proving that the protest was coordinated by a city councillor from the League of Polish Families

– an honorary leader of Pan-Polish Youth. The slogans about civic society are just fairytales that politicians tell the public."

Before the march KPH appealed to the opponents to observe the Christian values they so often refer to, and which violence contradicts. Unfortunately, the appeals fell on deaf

ears. In the aftermath, KPH announced filing a complaint against Pan-Polish Youth, the League of Polish Families, and two of its city councilors with the Prosecutor's Office. "They staged an illegal counter-demonstration, incited hatred and violence, and used it against a peaceful demonstration", said Robert Biedron, KPH's chairman.

At least, as Malgosia emphasized, the march for tolerance caused a national debate, with politicians and intellectuals speaking ill or in favour of it. "This was the first such event in Cracow. It just had to point the way. Hopefully, next time it will be different here."

>> KONRAD SZMERDT

## THE 'RIGHT' CONCEPT OF LAW AND JUSTICE

Meanwhile, for the third time Warsaw President, Lech Kaczynski of Law and Justice (a right-wing party), refused to grant permission to ILGCN Poland to organise the Parade of Tolerance scheduled for June 11, after the region's governor overruled the previous two, and sent them back for reconsideration.

Mr. Kaczynski concluded that the parade was aimed at presenting the views of sexual minorities concerning their "sexual behaviour". In his opinion, it contradicted the rules of public decency, and would lead to "dangerous events" posing a threat to local residents. The president said that tolerance did not come up to approval. The organisers intend to bring a lawsuit against Warsaw authorities to the Administrative Court. As time has run short, the parade had to be cancelled. However, those who intended to walk in the parade are invited to join the *Demonstration for Freedom*, organised by different human rights organizations, to take place in front of the City Hall in Warsaw on 11 June.

Warsaw Parade of Equality has never resulted in violence, save for minor protests overwhelmed by the curiosity of friendly lookers-on.