Summary of the doctoral dissertation

Conditions and limits of acceptable impact of religion on human rights.

mgr Adrian Pachciarz

Dissertation in its intention also show that it is possible to peaceful coexistence of different beliefs. It is necessary to maintain tolerance and respect for the other person. Religion should never carry a crime of violence and war. It should bring love and hope and assistance to another person. And here it is visible its convergence with the message of human rights.

The doctoral thesis consists nine chapters, very diverse in its themes, which are designed to accurately show the conditions and limits of acceptable impact of religion on the human rights.

The first chapter is historical. I describe here the importance of religion in the lives of states, nations and people in the history of Polish, European and the world. I point out in this part of “the Christian roots of Europe”. It is also described here the spread of the religion and its relationship with state authority and modern achievements. It is then shown significant influence of the clergy on the cultural development of the Old Continent and the flowering of various religious communities. I also described the influence of the clergy on the development of education, including higher education, in spreading the Word of God, in the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the evolution of medicine and ecology and as well the impact on the development of sacred art. In the further part of this chapter is described the Papal States, the principle of cuius regio, eius religio and the Holy Alliance in the history of Europe. Next I penetrated deeply conversion to the faith in Europe and beyond especially on the example of the Teutonic Order and the so-called Conquesty. I present method of converting to the faith which are compatible with human rights in a spirit of respect the rights of non-belivers and criminal conversion to the faith by violence, as a perversion of the basic precepts of religion, which commands mercy. Because of patriotism and a very significant role in the history of freedom of religion I describe in detail the teaching of Paweł Włodkowic. Chapter has been ended the characteristics of the concept of peace and war in the teaching of the Church. It's worth pointing out, that the chapter is largely about the Christian religion, if we wanted to characterize the others religions, working range would be definitely exceeded.

The second chapter focuses on the analysis of religious duty of a person from prospect of the Holy Bible and the teaching of the Church. I will present the essential differences between the Old and the New Testament in relation with respect fundamental human rights. The mercy stemming from the teachings of Jesus Christ was groundbreaking in many issues and it was characterized by humanitarianism and respect for the needy. In turn, the religious duties from the perspective of the Church's teaching are at this point only signaled and they will be systematically portrayed in the following parts of the work.

The third chapter which is entitled: "Freedom of thought, conscience and religion as the law of the internationally protected" starts conclusions from earliest history right. Then describe in detail the
prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion as an integral component of the principle of equality and non-discrimination and as autonomous prohibition of intolerance and discrimination. Documents of protection of international human rights will be subjected analysis, in universal dimension (measurements) so as well as regional. I will present in detail the issue of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and I make a comparative study of the normative bases of the analyzed material. I will also describe the specificity of the limitation to use this freedom. The chapter ends with the presentation of documents belonging to international humanitarian law, which also includes freedom of religion and freedom this against the background of the Declaration of Principles of the Final Act of the CSCE.

The fourth chapter concerns the right to conscientious objection on religious grounds. At the outset, I analyze both: the concept of conscience and the right to its opposition. Then I present the right to refuse military service as a manifestation of conscientious objection, I describe further the issue of conscientious objection in medicine. This chapter ends with presentation of the issue of conscientious objection of pharmacists.

The fifth chapter is dedicated to clothes and religious symbols. I am presenting here the right to wear religious dresses and the right to put religious symbols in the public sphere. Shown are furthermore Strasbourg judgments which concern respect to religious costumes. I am subjecting criticism evaluation of the law and practice prevailing in France and I am describing the law and practice of Turkish in the light of the case law of the Strasbourg. The final part of this chapter illustrates the issue of religious symbols in public schools on the example of the judgments in the case of Lautsi v Italy.

The sixth chapter describes the freedom of religion in the interaction with the freedom of expression and respect for privacy. Considerations begins the analysis of materials of a religious nature in the context of the right to their protection. Interesting is also a problem of the right to silence in religious matters, including the issue of solemn vows with reference to God. Moreover, I will point out the essence of the mystery of confession and the consequences associated with it. The most comprehensive of this chapter is devoted to the artistic freedom to respect the religious feelings. Of course I have presented the case law of national courts and the Strasbourg and doctrine's opinions. A detailed analysis has been subjected offense of insult religious feelings.

The seventh chapter concerns the impact of religion on the exercise of the right to life. Chapter this starts discussion about the influence of religion on the right to life and the fundamental nature of the right and its interaction with other protected laws. Further presented are threats of the right to life in the context of Jehovah's Witnesses and practices associated with Islam. Large part of this chapter is devoted to controversial topics like abortion, euthanasia, persistent therapy and description of the doctrines of the major religions of the world to these issues. I characterize here the position of the Catholic Church, while the position of the other beliefs will be presented in the form of a comparative study.

In the eighth chapter I investigate the religion influence on the use of other human rights such as the right to liberty and personal safety and freedom of assembly and association. Moreover, in this chapter I present the religion influence on marriage and family life. The final part of the chapter presented is the position of religion against the right to education, including the issue of religious private schools in the light of the case law of the Strasbourg or grades for religion on school certificates.
Next, the ninth chapter is devoted to the enjoyment of human rights by the clergy. In this chapter I describe the right to choose the priesthood and the criteria for access to it with regard to human rights. Later I have described the use of human rights by the clergy. Moreover, in this chapter I discuss particular problems of religious life, of course - from the perspective of human rights.

In the tenth chapter I deal with the problem of sects and new religious movements. In the beginning I was doing a review of European standards, both soft-law Council of Europe and the work of the European Union concerning the raised issues. Later in this chapter I characterize the concept of sects and new religious movements in the light of the case law of the Strasbourg. Moreover, in the tenth chapter I am pointing to the conditions of formation and functioning of these movements. In the conclusion of the chapter I introduce the obligation to respect human rights as a fundamental criterion admissibility of the sects functioning and religious new movements.