



He who saves a single life, saves the entire world

To:

Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of the State of Israel

Mr. Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

Mr. Juli-Joel Edelstein, Speaker of the Knesset

Mr. Marek Kuchcinski, Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

**Appeal of the Polish Righteous Among the Nations, Honored by Yad Vashem,
the World Holocaust Remembrance Center,
to the Governments and Parliaments of Israel and Poland,
and to the Jewish and Polish Nations.**

We, the remaining living Righteous, representing the 6850 Polish Righteous Among the Nations appeal to the governments and parliaments of Israel and Poland to return to the path of dialogue and reconciliation.

During World War II, we witnessed the Holocaust of the Jews and the murder of Poles by the Germans. Six million Polish citizens were killed, of which three million Polish Jews. Despite such incredible losses, the Polish nation survived, but the Jewish community in Poland ceased to exist. During those horrible times in occupied Poland, when those who helped our Jewish citizens in any way faced the death penalty, many took up the challenge and still chose to help. Hundreds of Poles paid with their lives for their decision to show solidarity and in this way giving testimony to the highest love of their neighbors.

We ask you not to re-write history. The worst tragedy in the history of our nations was written once and for all during the darkest hour of the Nazi German occupation, of which we are all still victims to this day. There were also—as in every nation—ignoble Poles. They acted on their own behalf, not on behalf of the Polish state. But, they were Poles and we too were afraid of them.

It was Adolf Hitler's murderous policy that led to the creation—under the order of the German occupiers—of concentration and death camps within the territory of Germanoccupied Poland and the territory of the Third Reich, in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sobibor, Bełżec, Treblinka, Mauthausen-Gusen, Gross-Rosen, Ravensbrück, and many other places. It was the Germans who destroyed the Warsaw Ghetto in the spring of 1943, and then a year later the capital of Poland, during the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, murdering ca. 180,000 Poles there.

We do not consent to the escalation of the conflict between Jews and Poles that we are witnessing today. We appeal to our two nations, bonded by almost one thousand years of shared history, to continue to build an alliance and a future in Poland, Israel, Europe, and America, based on friendship, solidarity, and truth.

We, the Polish Righteous, who carry the burden of eye-witnessing the truth about the Holocaust along with the Jews, its victims, ask everybody for empathy, judiciousness, and thoughtfulness when creating laws, for responsible media coverage, and for honest and independent historical research. Only then can the issues that need to be explained, be explained. We ask for dialogue and kindness.

Warsaw, February 26, 2018

On behalf of the remaining living Polish Righteous:

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