



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

Ms. Juli-Joel Edelstein, Head 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 living Righteous, representing the Polish six thousand eight hundred fifty 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 Germans. Six million Polish citizens were killed, including three million Polish Jews. Despite the incredible losses, the Polish nation survived, but the Jewish community in Poland ceased to exist. During those horrible times, when those who helped the Jewish citizens faced the death penalty, many took up the challenge and chose to help anyway. Hundreds of Poles paid with their lives for their decision to show kindness and responsibility for their persecuted fellow citizens.

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. We were all victims, and we have all been carrying this burden 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. Still, they were Poles. And we too were afraid of them.

Adolf Hitler's murderous policy led to the creation—under the order of German occupiers—of concentration and death camps within the territory of German-occupied 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 1943 after the Ghetto Uprising, and later the whole city of Warsaw, Poland's capital, during the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, murdering ca. 180,000 Poles.

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

We, the Polish Righteous, who carry the burden of eye-witnessed 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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