

26 January 2022

Written Declaration N

Poland: The lack of respect for the rule of law and the crackdown on critical voices must stop


Resolutions 2316 and 2359 called on Poland to uphold the rule of law and human rights.

Unfortunately, we have to state that the government is trying to put critical voices under pressure. The ruling of the politicized Constitutional Court in October 2021 practically pulled Poland out of the legal order of the European Union. Likewise, Poland has brought it into conflict with the European Court of Human Rights.

Peaceful protests are harassed by the police, critical voices are put under pressure by the public prosecutor. Activists like Bartosz Kramek, Marta Lempart, Klementyna Suchanow are the subject of incomprehensible criminal investigations and arrests. Legal aid mechanisms are abused against Open Dialogue Foundation activists and entrepreneurs like Piotr Osiecki. The prosecutor's office, controlled by Minister Zbigniew Ziobro, is putting pressure on suspected political threats, including judges Igor Tuleya, Waldemar Żurek and Beata Morawiec, Senate speaker Tomasz Grodzki or persecuted executives Leszek Czarnecki and Jakub Karnowski.

At the same time, prosecutors refuse to investigate alleged government abuses and punish independent prosecutors like Ewa Wrzosek. We are concerned about reports that pressure is being put on Paweł Wojtunik, the former head of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau, and his family members.

In light of these developments, including the revelations of abuse of the Pegasus surveillance system, we call on the government to restore the rule of law and respect its human rights obligations.

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