

## AN APPEAL OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

regarding the attempts to use the police for a political party purposes

Warsaw, 2nd August 2018

### P R E S S R E L E A S E

We would like to announce the Appeal signed by three former Presidents of the Republic of Poland: Lech Wałęsa, Aleksander Kwaśniewski and Bronisław Komorowski, as well as many other people actively participating in the public affairs who, by speaking to police officers, remind that the Police is not owned by one political party.

The signatories of the Appeal would like to speak to this majority of the police officers who does not want to see the return of the practices from the time of MO (Citizens' Militia) and ZOMO (Motorized Reserves of the Citizens' Militia), with the special message: "we, the defenders of the state of law and democracy, are at the same time the defenders of the professional, non-party Police".

This Appeal is an open letter. We would like to encourage all who want Poland to be driven by the rule of law. The signatures for the Appeal of the Civil Society are being gathered since Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of August via special website: <http://apel-obywatelski.pl>

The content of the Appeal is available both in Polish and English.

### S I G N A T O R I E S

|             |             |   |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| Lech        | Wałęsa      | President of Poland (1990–1995)   |
| Aleksander  | Kwaśniewski | President of Poland (1995–2005)   |
| Bronisław   | Komorowski  | President of Poland (2010–2015)   |
| Leszek      | Balcerowicz | Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (1989–1991, 1997–2000),<br>President of the National Bank of Poland (2001–2007) |
| Bogdan      | Borusewicz  | member of the anti-communist opposition before 1989, Speaker of the Senat<br>(2005–2015)                                      |
| Jerzy       | Buzek       | Prime Minister (1997–2001), President of the European Parliament (2009–<br>2012)  |
| Włodzimierz | Cimoszewicz | lawyer, Speaker of the Sejm (2005), Prime Minister (1996–1997), Minister of<br>Justice (1993–1995)                            |
| Zbigniew    | Ćwiąkalski  | lawyer, Minister of Justice (2007–2009)   |
| Władysław   | Frasyniuk   | member of the anti-communist opposition before 1989, member of the Sejm<br>(1991–2001)  |
| Janusz      | Gajos       | actor   |
| Zbigniew    | Janas       | member of the anti-communist opposition before 1989, member of the Sejm<br>(1989–2001)  |
| Krystyna    | Janda       | actress   |
| Ryszard     | Kalisz      | lawyer, head of the the Chancellery of the President (1998–2000), Minister of<br>Internal Affairs (2004–2005)                 |
| Paweł       | Kasprzak    | Obywatele RP  |

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|           |               |  |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| Krzysztof | Król          | member of the anti-communist opposition before 1989, member of the Sejm (1991–1997)  |
| Bogdan    | Lis           | member of the anti-communist opposition before 1989, member of the Senat (1989–1991)                                       |
| Jan       | Lityński      | member of the anti-communist opposition before 1989, advisor to the President of Poland (2010–2015)                        |
| Katarzyna | Lubnauer      | Leader of Nowoczesna political party, member of Sejm   |
| Ewa       | Łętowska      | lawyer, Human Rights Commissioner – Ombudsman (1987–1992)  |
| Krzysztof | Łoziński      | leader of the Committee for Defence of Democracy (KOD)   |
| Olgierd   | Łukaszewicz   | actor, founder of Wojciech B. Jastrzębowski Foundation   |
| Kazimierz | Marcinkiewicz | Prime Minister (2005–2006)   |
| Marcin    | Matczak       | lawyer, University of Warsaw   |
| Jerzy     | Miller        | Minister of Internal Affairs (2009–2011)   |
| Barbara   | Nowacka       | Leader of Inicjatywa Polska  |
| Andrzej   | Olechowski    | Minister of Foreign Affairs (1993–1995), Minister of Finance (1992)  |
| Józef     | Pinior        | lawyer, member of the anti-communist opposition before 1989, member of the Senat (2011–2015)                               |
| Monika    | Płatek        | lawyer, University of Warsaw   |
| Danuta    | Przywara      | President of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  |
| Andrzej   | Rzepliński    | lawyer, University of Warsaw, President of the Constitutional Court (2010–2016)  |
| Wojciech  | Sadurski      | lawyer, University of Sydney and University of Warsaw  |
| Marek     | Safjan        | lawyer, judge of the Court of Justice of the EU, President of the Constitutional Court (1998–2006)                         |
| Grzegorz  | Schetyna      | Leader of Platforma Obywatelska political party, Speaker of the Sejm (2010–2011), Minister of Internal Affairs (2007–2009) |
| Andrzej   | Seweryn       | actor  |
| Radosław  | Sikorski      | Speaker of the Sejm (2014–2015), Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007–2014), Minister of National Defence (2005–2007)         |
| Jerzy     | Stępień       | lawyer, Vice-rector Łazarski University, President of the Constitutional Court (2006–2008)                                 |
| Adam      | Strzembosz    | lawyer, the First President of the Supreme Court and Chairman of State Tribunal (1990–1998)                                |
| Maciej    | Stuhr         | actor  |
| Jan       | Widacki       | lawyer, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs (1990–1992)  |
| Henryk    | Wujec         | member of the anti-communist opposition before 1989, advisor to the President RP (2010–2015)                               |

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### **A P P E A L**

We remember the gloomy days of the communist Polish People's Republic (PRL) era, with its repression apparatus including the Citizens' Militia (MO) and the Motorised Reserves of the Citizens' Militia (ZOMO). The fall of that dictatorship and replacing it with a democratic system governed by the rule of law was a landmark historical event for a vast majority of the Polish people. It involved the establishment of a professional, politically neutral police force. Therefore, to protect the rule of law and democracy in Poland, we appeal to the police officers, especially to their commanders, to remember that the police is not a property of one single political party. Moreover, that police officers, similarly to other citizens, are obliged to comply with the Constitution and with the laws which are in accordance with the Constitution.

We paid great attention to the statement of Rafał Jankowski, the President of the General Board of the Police Trade Union, regarding the use of the police in order to gain interim political advantage, the political neutrality of the police and the inadmissibility of involving the police in the political rhetoric.

We are convinced that most of the police officers would not wish for a return to the times of the Citizens' Militia. We turn to that vast majority with an appeal: we, defenders of the rule of law and of democracy, are at the same time defenders of a professional, politically neutral police.

Meanwhile, we believe that unlawful actions of some police officers towards demonstrating citizens must be explained. It is necessary for the existence of the rule of law.

We understand and share the motivation of the people protesting on the streets, therefore, we appeal that they do not provide excuses to those few police officers who are ready to respond with aggression and violate civil rights.

**We encourage you to sign the Appeal via <https://apel-obywatelski.pl/en>**