

”MEMORIAL” – A WORLD GOOD

On 11th November we received information that the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Russian Federation filed a lawsuit for dissolution of the Historical Educational Charitable and Human Rights Society “Memorial” (International Memorial). The case will be heard in Moscow on 25th November of this year. This act of political aggression is one which touches us deeply. We know how groundbreaking the input of ”Memorial” was in work on remembrance and its contribution to the healing of Europe following the totalitarian experience of the 20th Century. We call upon world opinion to defend it.

“Memorial” – from the very start – came to be regarded by the world as the conscience of today’s Russia. Its work – the search of historical truth and defence of human rights – is of international dimension; we were personally involved in some of its work. “Memorial” was nominated several times to the Nobel Peace Prize.

For Poland, “Memorial’s” part in uncovering the truth about the “Polish Operation of the NKVD”, the Katyn crime and other mass repressions was fundamental. We remember all the great work carried out by dissidents, and this too contributed to the esteem and authority of the people of “Memorial”; including those who were most highly awarded by the Republic of Poland: Sergiej Kovalev, Arseny Roginsky, Jan Raczynski, Alexander Guryanov, Aleksei Pamiatnykh, Nikita Petrov. Arseny Roginsky for many years was the only member of the International Auschwitz Council from Russia; he is honoured in the Garden of the Righteous in Warsaw.

We want to express our deepest solidarity with all those who together form „Memorial” – as a universal value and a supranational community. Especially today, when the institutions of the Russian Federation proceed in such a way to express their thanks for over three decades of fruitful work. 33 years is a period of time when a whole new generation grew up under the wings of the greatest figures of “Memorial”. Through the moral choices they make, they shall carry on the memory of the attitudes and stand of dissidents. Maybe in the future this will bring redemption for Russia, Europe and for the world.

A common good is born not out of some dominating over others but from a dialogue which is what “Memorial” has always strived for. We trust that on the anniversary of the end of the First World War, the freedom to remember will conquer political design – in the name of world peace.

Warsaw, 15 November 2021

Bogdan Białek, President of the Jan Karski Society
prof. Wiesław Caban, Institute of History, Jan Kochanowski University, Kielce
dr Piotr M.A. Cywiński, President of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation, member of
the Moscow "Memorial"

Krzysztof Czyżewski, President of the „Pogranicze” Foundation
Anna Dzieńkiewicz, editor of the Russian Katyń series in „Memorial”
prof. Mirosław Filipowicz, Institute of History, Catholic University of Lublin
Zbigniew Gluza, President of KARTA, Chairperson of the Committee of the Garden of
the Righteous in Warsaw

Agnieszka Holland, film director, President of the European Film Academy
dr Łukasz Kamiński, former President of the Institute of National Remembrance,
working in cooperation with "Memorial"

Robert Kostro, Director of the Museum of Polish History
Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, former diplomat (incl. in Moscow), Chief of Eastern
Projects

prof. Piotr Mitzner, writer, member of "Memorial" from 1991
dr Marek Mutor, Chairperson of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience
dr Adam Pomorski, President of the Polish PEN Club
dr Marek Radziwon, Centre for East European Studies, University of Warsaw
Rafał Rogulski, Director of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity
prof. Adam Daniel Rotfeld, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and co-Chairperson of
the Polish-Russian Groups for Difficult Matters

Marian Turski, Chairperson of the International Auschwitz Committee (Auschwitz
number B9408)

Alicja Wancierz-Gluza, co-founder of KARTA, co-founder of the EUSTORY Network
prof. Mariusz Wołos, Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Pedagogic
University in Cracow

Krystyna Zachwatowicz-Wajda, in cooperation with „Memorial” since 1992

Catholic Intelligentsia Club in Warsaw

The Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding

Civic Network Watchdog Poland

College of Eastern Europe

Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Jan Karski Society

KARTA Centre

Magazine "Novaya Polsha"

Open Republic – Association against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia

Polish PEN Club
Stefan Batory Foundation
ZNAK Christian Culture Foundation